

A Publication by Department of Mass Communication & Media Studies and the Diplomatic Academy

## Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

### Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2021 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

### DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan was placed at the 104th spot among 167 states on the global Democracy Index 2021, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 161 out of 192 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 2022 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

### PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan's press freedom rank dropped to 145 out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index, An annual ranking of countries published by Reporters Without Borders (RWB), an international non-governmental organization dedicated to safeguard the right to freedom of information.

Compiled based on indicators covering: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and infrastructure.

### TERRORISM INDEX

Terrorism Index in Pakistan decreased to 7.83 in 2021 from 7.92 in 2020.

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering : Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

### ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

In 2021, index of economic freedom for Pakistan was 51.7 score. Though Pakistan index of economic freedom fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through 2002 - 2021 period ending at 51.7 score in 2021.

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic & Political outcomes

### June 2025

**8 June, 1962:** Constitution is promulgated. National Assembly elected. Ayub Khan takes oath of first President of Pakistan under new constitution.

**1 June, 1964 :** Pakistan acquires from the United States its first submarine, the PNS Ghazi

**19 June, 1995:** Malakand insurrection (1994-1995) ends after implementation of Sharia law in Malakand Division.

**20 June, 2001:** General Pervez Musharraf dismissed the president and named himself to the post.

**24 June, 2003 :** President Pervez Musharraf meets US President G.W. Bush in Camp David. US announces \$3-billion five-year economic assistance package for Pakistan.

**26 June, 2004 :** Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali steps down and nominates Ch. Shujaat Hussain as his interim successor.

**28 June, 2008 :** Pakistan launched Operation Sirat-e-Mustaqeem

**14 June, 2009 :** Operation Black Thunderstorm ends in a Pakistani victory.

**6 June, 2010:** Cyclone Phet makes land-fall near Karachi before wreaking havoc in coastal Balochistan province.

**22 June, 2012 :** Raja Pervaiz Ashraf is elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan, following the disqualification of Yousaf Raza Gillani over a contempt of court conviction by the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

**5 June, 2013:** Nawaz Sharif is elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, following the Pakistan Muslim League (N)'s victory in the 2013 general elections for the 3rd time.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic and Political outcomes



## Pakistan 'safe' as US looks to add 36 nations to travel ban list

The administration of US President Donald Trump is considering significantly expanding its travel restrictions by potentially banning citizens of 36 additional countries from entering the United States, according to an internal State Department cable.

According to the list published by Reuters, Pakistan is not among these 36 nations.

During his first in office, Trump announced a ban on travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations, a policy that went through several iterations before it was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Earlier this month, the Republican president signed a proclamation that banned the entry of citizens from 12 countries, saying the move was needed to protect the US against "foreign terrorists" and other national security threats.

The directive was part of an immigration crackdown Trump launched this year at the start of his second term, which has included the deportation to El Salvador of hundreds of Venezuelans suspected of being gang members, as well as efforts to deny enrollments



of some foreign students from US universities and deport others.

In an internal diplomatic cable signed by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the State Department outlined a dozen concerns about the countries in question and sought corrective action. The cable was first reported by the Washington Post.

"The Department has identified 36 countries of concern that might be recommended for full or partial suspension of entry if they do not meet established benchmarks and requirements within 60 days," the cable sent out over the weekend said.

The countries that could face a full or a partial ban if they do not address these concerns within the

next 60 days are: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

That would be a significant expansion of the ban that came into effect earlier this month. The countries affected were Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The entry of people from seven other countries Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela has also been partially restricted.

Among the concerns the State Department raised was the lack of a competent or cooperative government by some of the countries mentioned to produce reliable identity documents, the cable said. Another was "questionable security" of that country's passport.

Some countries, the cable said, were not cooperative in facilitating the removal of its nationals from the United States who were ordered to be removed. Some countries were overstaying the US visas their citizens were being granted.

Other reasons for concern were the nationals of the country were involved in acts of terrorism in the United States, or antisemitic and anti-American activity.

The cable noted that not all of these concerns pertained to every country listed. The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## \$4.5bn loan deal signed to ease power sector debt

Pakistan has signed term sheets with 18 commercial banks for a Rs1.275 trillion (\$4.50 billion) Islamic finance facility to help pay down mounting debt in its power sector, government officials said.

The government, which owns or controls much of the power infrastructure, is grappling with ballooning circular debt, unpaid bills and subsidies, that has choked the sector and weighed on the economy.

The liquidity crunch has disrupted supply, discouraged investment and added to fiscal pressure, making it a key focus under Pakistan's \$7bn IMF programme.

Finding funds to plug the gap has been a persistent challenge, with limited fiscal space and high-cost legacy debt making resolution



efforts more difficult.

Eighteen commercial banks will provide the loans through Islamic financing, Khurram Schehzad, adviser to the finance minister, told Reuters.

The facility, structured under Islamic principles, is secured at a

concessional rate of three-month KIBOR, the benchmark rate banks use to price loans, minus 0.9pc, a formula agreed on by the IMF.

"It will be repaid in 24 quarterly instalments over six years," and will not add to public debt, Power Minister Awais Leghari said.

Existing liabilities carry higher costs, including late payment surcharges on independent power producers of up to KIBOR plus 4.5pc, and older loans ranging slightly above benchmark rates.

Meezan Bank, HBL, National Bank of Pakistan and UBL were among the banks participating in the deal.

The government expects to allocate Rs323bn annually to repay the loan, capped at Rs1.938tr over six years.

The agreement also aligns with Pakistan's target of eliminating interest-based banking by 2028, with Islamic finance now comprising about a quarter of total banking assets.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## High-powered delegation in US to argue Pakistan's case

Pakistan has launched a broad-based engagement campaign in the United States to present its perspective on the recent spike in tensions with India, and counter New Delhi's growing lobbying presence here.

A high-level Pakistani delegation consisting of two former foreign ministers, two former foreign secretaries, two former ambassadors to the US, and a serving federal minister arrived in New York on Sunday for consultations at the United Nations.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Hina Rabbani Khar, Senator Sherry Rehman, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Tehmina Janjua, Mussadik Malik, Khurram Dastgir, Bushra Anjum Butt and Faisal Sabzwari comprise the delegation.

The group is scheduled to meet UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the president of the UN General Assembly, ambassadors of all five permanent members of the Security Council, and will address a joint session of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) envoys.

The delegation will kick off its engagements on June 3, with planned meetings with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, senior administration officials, lawmakers, think-tank analysts, and leading media organisations. Their focus will be on conveying



Pakistan's concerns about regional security and responding to what it calls India's "escalatory moves".

This outreach is part of a dual-track strategy involving both official and informal engagements.

Another formal delegation from Islamabad expected to be led by Commerce Minister Jam Kamal is also due soon for trade-related discussions with US officials.

On the Indian side, a parallel delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is also due in Washington on June 3, while Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri concluded a three-day official visit this past week.

"This is no longer just about border skirmishes," a senior Pakistani diplomat said. "This is about shaping the international narrative to reflect ground realities."

In Islamabad, there is growing concern that New Delhi has moved swiftly to frame the conflict in a way that revives scrutiny of Pakistan in multilateral bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the UN. Pakistan's counteroffensive seeks to prevent what it sees as an Indian effort to turn the recent crisis into a long-term diplomatic liability for Islamabad.

"This is a political campaign masquerading as financial oversight," said one Pakistani official, referring to India's push to revisit Pakistan's FATF status. "We exited the grey list in 2022 after implementing a comprehensive reform programme. There is no technical basis for reopening that file."

Former diplomats in the delegation stress that Pakistan's approach centres on transparency, restraint and reform. "We responded with maturity when provoked. That's the story we

are telling here with facts, not slogans," said one member.

Senator Sherry Rehman, who is also part of the visiting delegation, emphasised that Pakistan is advancing its own priorities while actively responding to Indian narratives.

"We have our own agenda to advance, but yes, when Indian allegations are brought up, make no mistake we will use forensic chapter and factual verse. Myth will not be allowed to become the message on Pakistan this time," she said.

### Dar-Lammy call

Separately, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy agreed to strengthen cooperation in multilateral forums, particularly at the United Nations Security Council.

The understanding came during a conversation between the two diplomats, following Lammy's recent visit to Pakistan his first official trip during which he met senior officials amid heightened tensions with neighbouring India.

The two sides also agreed to remain in contact and meet again on the sidelines of high-level UN events scheduled in New York later this month.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistan to consider extending deadline for Afghan refugees facing mass deportation to leave

Pakistan will consider extending the deadline for 1.4 million Afghan refugees living legally in the country to return home, officials said.

Any extension approved by the government would be a relief for those who were previously ordered to return to Afghanistan by 30 June, according to government and security officials.

A decision could come on when the Cabinet is due to meet.

In 2023, Pakistan launched a controversial crackdown on foreigners it said were in the country



illegally, mostly Afghan nationals. Millions of Afghans have fled their homeland over the decades

to escape war or poverty.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorised to discuss the matter, said the proposed extension was to allow the refugees more time to settle their personal affairs in Pakistan, such as selling property or wrapping up business activities, before returning to Afghanistan in an orderly and dignified way.

A senior ministry official said the decision to submit the extension proposal was made last week. A summary regarding the fate of the Afghan refugees has been forwarded for inclusion in the Cabinet agenda.

*Courtesy: msn.com*



## Centre, provinces to draw up water storage plans

As India's move to place the Indus Waters Treaty into abeyance puts Pakistan's water security in peril, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif asked authorities to speed up construction of the Bhasha Dam, while also hinting at inter-provincial consultations to increase the country's storage capacity.

The premier made these remarks while addressing a jirga at the Corps Headquarters Peshawar, in which he stressed the need for tough decisions for the development and prosperity of the country.

PM Shehbaz, while talking about the hostile measures taken by the Modi government, said that under the Indus Waters Treaty, every drop of water was the right of the Pakistani people. He said that India had tasted its own medicine after attacking Pakistan and would be taught a lesson if it attacked again.

However, the country needs to make a decision on water, he said, adding, "We will invite provinces to discuss how to increase the country's water storage capacity to defeat India's nefarious designs." The PM said Pakistan was building Diamer-Bhasha Dam and other reservoirs to store water, adding that there was a need to take well-considered decisions soon in this regard.

The premier said that KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, in his speech, took up the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award issue, saying the last award was announced in 2010. The premier said that when this issue was taken up in a meeting in Islamabad some time ago, he had formed a committee in this regard. "I have been told this that the provinces have given their names to represent them and the NFC meeting would be convened in August," the premier said.

He said that under the 1 per cent of the divisible pool, which KP is getting for fighting the war against terrorism, Rs700 billion has been provided to the province to boost its law enforcement capacity, set up a Counter-Terrorism Department, and the safe city projects. He said that KP would continue



to receive this fund till the elimination of terrorism.

The premier said that he would form another committee, which would meet the tribal elders, the KP governor, and the chief minister to discuss the issues raised by CM Gandapur to draft recommendations. He said that the federal government would also take the same to parliament.

### 'Don't tax ex-Fata'

A statement issued from the KP Chief Minister's House said that the CM urged the federal government not to impose taxes on the erstwhile Fata and Pata regions, arguing that the local population was not financially capable of bearing such burdens. "These areas have been severely affected by the war on terror and require significant investment," he stressed.

The CM asked the federal government to fulfil all promises made to the ex-Fata people. He demanded immediate release of compensation funds for displaced persons from these regions and called for an end to drone strikes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, citing civilian casualties.

He also demanded the immediate inclusion of the merged districts' share in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award. "We are not asking for another province's share we're demanding our rightful due," he said.

The CM also urged the federal government to release all pending dues owed to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including net hydel profits and the province's full share in the tobacco cess.

In his address, the CM urged the reinstatement of the traditional jirga system to sustainably resolve disputes in the merged districts.

He also demanded KP's inclusion in peace talks with neighbouring Afghanistan, warning that excluding the province would render the negotiations incomplete.

### Bhasha dam meeting

In a separate meeting on the Bhasha dam, the PM asked the authorities to remove hurdles in the completion of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam, saying that the country's self-reliance was linked to affordable electricity and agriculture. "The country's self-dependence is linked with affordable electricity and agriculture, which requires increased water storage and efficient water usage," the PM was quoted as saying in a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The prime minister directed prioritising the completion of projects like Diamer-Bhasha Dam to establish an effective system for energy production and abundant water storage.

It may be noted that the energy and the water sectors will face significant cuts in the development budget, after the government planned to reduce the energy sector's allocations to Rs144bn from Rs169bn this year, while slashing the water sector allocation to Rs109bn from Rs135bn this year.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal had said that until 2018, the estimated construction cost of the dam was Rs479bn, and Rs120bn had already been spent on land acquisition. However, the project cost increased significantly due to delays and unnecessary postponements during the previous government.

He suggested the dam and power projects be separated and the financing of the power project be obtained from the private sector. He further said that even after

six years, the revised PC-1 of the project still had not been prepared. He also said the future projects would be completed under the public-private partnership model to avoid delays in funding and completion. Diamer-Bhasha Dam will provide storage of 6.4 million acre-feet of water.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistani martial artist Irfan breaks Norway's Guinness World Record

Pakistani martial artist Irfan Mehsood has broken Norway's Sever Dyson's Guinness World Record of 27 push-ups in one minute by doing 39 push-ups with his fingers while holding a weight of 100 pounds. Irfan is the first Pakistani to set 156 Guinness World Records and has set the most world records in the push-ups category, with 70 records set at the world level.



I have set 41 Guinness World Records while holding a weight of 100 pounds and has set the most world records with 100 pounds, 80 pounds, 60 pounds and 40 pounds so far, he told mediapersons. Irfan, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in 2023, can perform push-ups, squats, jumping jacks, step-ups, knee strikes, elbow strikes, side jumps, high World records have been set for Jumps, Star Champs, etc. I have so far broken world records in 20 countries including the United States, Britain, India, China, Norway, Germany, France, Finland, Philippines, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, he said. It may be mentioned that 20 of Irfan's students have also set Guinness World Records.

*Courtesy: The Nation*

## Pakistan delegation kicks off diplomatic offensive with UNSC meetings

The Pakistani political delegation, which kicked off its diplomatic outreach in the wake of conflict with India, has urged global powers to reject New Delhi's dangerous "new normal" of aggression.

The nine-member Pakistani delegation, led by PPP Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, held a series of meetings at the UN Headquarters in New York. They engaged with envoys of the Security Council's permanent members, beginning with China's Ambassador Fu Cong.

While talking to reporters after the meeting, Mr Bhutto-Zardari said the delegation "reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the ceasefire, regional stability, and a peaceful resolution in accordance with the UN Charter".

He said the international community must reject India's dangerous "new normal" of aggression.

The term refers to India's increasingly assertive military posture and unilateral actions, which Pakistan views as destabilising and in violation of international diplomatic norms.

In its meeting with China's envoy, the Pakistani delegation thanked Beijing for its "unequivocal support" in the face of Indian provocation.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari briefed Ambassador Fu on the developments



following the April 22 Pahalgam attack and Pakistan's "responsible and restrained conduct" in response to India's "belligerent posture."

He noted that Pakistan's offer of "credible, impartial and independent investigations" into the attack was regrettably rejected by India.

The Pakistani side also shared details of what it called "India's arbitrary attacks on Pakistani territory," its targeting of civilians and New Delhi's alleged support for terrorism within Pakistan.

The delegation also criticised India's move to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, calling it "a weaponisation of water and a violation of international law."

"I condemned India's reckless actions, including its weaponisation of water, and reaffirmed that Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kash-

mir remains an unresolved dispute and a fault line for regional peace," Mr Bhutto-Zardari told reporters. In a separate statement, the former foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace through dialogue.

"Pakistan seeks peace with dignity, dialogue with purpose, and partnerships built on justice." He warned the unresolved Kashmir dispute "continues to threaten regional peace" and voiced concern over water security, stating that "any aggression over shared water resources challenges not just Pakistan's sovereignty, but global stability".

He also reiterated Pakistan's position on terrorism. "We reject terrorism in all forms, yet oppose its misuse as a political tool to target Pakistan." Emphasising economic cooperation, he noted that "trade must become a bridge, not a battleground."

According to the statement, Pakistan and China agreed "aggressive posturing and unilateral actions threaten peace in the region and must be firmly opposed".

The two sides reiterated their shared commitment to peaceful dispute resolution, multilateral cooperation, upholding the UN Charter, and preserving the sanctity of treaties and international law. Later, the delegation met with US envoy to the UN, Ambassador Dorothy Shea, and expressed concern over India's accusation against Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack.

They described the allegation as premature and lacking without any credible investigation.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari urged the US to encourage a comprehensive dialogue between the two neighbours. He also called for the resumption of talks on the Indus Waters Treaty.

The Pakistani delegation is scheduled to arrive in Washington today, where it plans to engage with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, other senior officials, lawmakers, and think tanks till June 6.

The visit coincides with the arrival of an Indian delegation in Washington on June 3, led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Painting, calligraphy exhibition held at Afzal Art Gallery

In collaboration with Punjab Council of the Arts Rawalpindi and Afzal Art Gallery, an exhibition of calligraphy and painting works by young artists was organized at the Art Gallery of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi. In which 80 works of art were displayed.

This beautiful and colorful exhibition was inaugurated by the special guest Dr. Mehdi Taheri, Director General Khana Farhang Iran. He was accompanied by former Director Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Director Public Relations Rawalpindi Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Shah, Director Punjab Arts Council

Rawalpindi Mr. Sajjad Hussain, and CEO and Director Afzal Art Gallery Lahore Mian Afzal.

At the end of the exhibition, the special guest Dr. Mehdi Taheri, Director General of Khana Farhang Eren, said that young artists love their culture, so they present their creative thinking in the form of beautiful works of art with hard work and dedication, which shows their love for their culture and expertise in their work. These artists need to be encouraged as much as possible. Waqar Ahmed said in his address that there is no shortage of talent in our country, only that there is a need to further develop them and provide them with op-



portunities. The Arts Council is working in this regard from the beginning. Iftikhar Hussain Shah said that the Punjab government is paying special attention to promoting young talent. The artists have expressed their full potential in this exhibition, which is commendable. Sajjad Hussain, Director of the Arts Council, said that

the Rawalpindi Arts Council is providing equal opportunities to all artists without discrimination so that along with the promotion of art, the youth are also encouraged. Mian Afzal said that all the participating artists made this exhibition a success, for which I congratulate them.

*Courtesy: The Nation*



## Jahan Aur Bhi Hain': Pakistan's first space telefilm blasts off with a climate warning

As the world grapples with record-breaking heatwaves, vanishing glaciers, and devastating floods, the climate crisis no longer feels like a distant threat, but it's here, it's now, and it's deeply personal. In a world overwhelmed by statistics and warnings, 'Jahan Aur Bhi Hain-Beyond the Blue' chooses a different path, one that speaks to the heart before the headlines. Premiered on Pakistan Television (PTV) to mark World Environment Day on Thursday, Jahan Aur Bhi Hain is not a typical science fiction. It's Pakistan's first space-driven climate telefilm- a blend of cinematic drama, scientific foresight, and emotional storytelling that tackles some of the nation's most urgent questions through the lens of one woman's race to stop a disaster. At the heart of the story is Dr Zainab, a brilliant climate scientist at a leading space technology university in Pakistan. When she and her students identify atmospheric signals suggesting an imminent cloudburst, a rare, violent rainstorm capable of flooding entire regions, she raises the alarm. Considering bureaucracy as a slow machine and her university's leadership dismissed her urgency, insisting it's a "government matter." Time, however, doesn't wait for com-

mittees. Driven by science and bound by memory, Dr Zainab sets out on her own. The coordinates of the storm's impact zone point to a place she knows too well-her ancestral village, where she once walked away from tradition to pursue education, freedom, and her dreams. Estranged from her father-a proud elder who felt betrayed by his daughter's "escape"-Dr Zainab returns home not just to warn, but to protect. Her mission is not only to evacuate the village and save lives using the latest in space-based geospatial technology and satellite data, but to confront the emotional ruptures left behind. By her side is her husband, an artist, not a scientist, whose quiet strength and unwavering support provide the film with one of its most tender emotional cores. "This is the kind of role that asks you to carry science in one hand and emotion in the other," says Amna Ilyas, who plays Dr Zainab. "What moved me most was how close this character felt a girl who dared to dream, who left everything behind to pursue knowledge, and who returns not as a stranger, but as a force of hope. It's rare to see women scientists portrayed with this much agency and emotional complexity. That made it not just a

performance, but a privilege." The film's visual scope is both intimate and vast. Directed by Sarmad Cheema and produced by Ahmed Baig Barlas, it weaves together moments of familial tension, technological urgency, and rural vulnerability, all set against the ever-looming threat of climate devastation. The screenplay, penned by Salina Khan, flows with lyrical intensity, delivering moments of quiet grief and sweeping grandeur in equal measure. "We didn't want to make a film about data, we wanted to make a film about decisions," says Sarmad Cheema, the film's director. "This project marks a turning point in how we imagine science communication in Pakistan," added Prof. Dr. Najam Abbas Naqvi, Chairman of NCGSA.

"We sought to humanize science, to make space technology part of everyday conversation. And through this film, we hope to spark not just interest, but action." Shoaib Sultan, Executive Producer of the film, reflected on the broader vision:

"This initiative from NCGSA wasn't just about making a film but about starting a conversation. From the very beginning, we knew this story had to carry the weight of science, the urgency of climate reality, and the human pulse of those it affects. This project proves that cinema in Pakistan can do more than entertain; it can educate, inspire, and lead national discourse on the most pressing issues of our time. I believe this is just the beginning of what meaningful, purpose-driven storytelling can look like in our industry."

In recent weeks, Pakistan has witnessed devastating climate events: a cloudburst in Muzaffarabad's Bhalgran area claimed three lives and destroyed numerous homes; severe storms across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries.

British High Commission empowers Pakistani journalists to tackle climate crisis

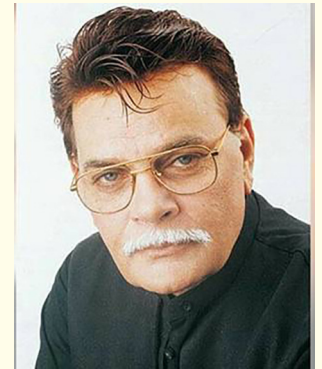
These incidents highlight the escalating threat of climate-induced disasters. Jahan Aur Bhi

Hain serves as a poignant reminder that the true power of science lies not just in discovery but in preparedness, connection, and collective action.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

### Actor Shakeel remembered on second death anniversary

Tributes poured in for Yousuf Kamal, the veteran actor popularly known as Shakeel, as the media fraternity commemorated the second anniversary of his passing, paying homage to his enduring legacy and outstanding contributions to the industry. Yousuf Kamal, popularly known as Shakeel, was born on



May 29, 1945, in Bhopal, India. After migrating to Pakistan with his family in 1952, he embarked on a successful acting career, media channels reported. He was the first chocolate hero of PTV during 70s. He also worked in Lollywood as a hero and villain. Aangan Tera was his best play written by Anwar Maqsood. Shakeel's film debut was in the 1966 movie Honehar, alongside Waheed Murad.

However, it was on television that he truly shone, starring in iconic PTV serials such as Uncle Urfi (1972), Ankahi (1982), and Aangan Terha (1984). Notably, he portrayed Liaqat Ali Khan in the British biographical film Jinnah (1998), which also starred Christopher Lee. Shakeel also appeared in the BBC Channel 4 series Traffic. Beyond his acting career, he was recognized for his philanthropic work.

*Courtesy: The Nation*



## PM thanks MBS for role in reducing India tensions

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has thanked the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman, for his role in ending the conflict between Pakistan and India last month.

The prime minister, accompanied by his delegation, including the army chief, deputy PM and federal ministers, also performed Umrah on Friday when pilgrims performed the last major ritual of Haj the "stoning of the devil".

The PM, who is on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, met the Saudi crown prince in Makkah, according to an official press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

"The prime minister expressed appreciation for the kingdom's proactive role during recent tensions between Pakistan and India, and its steadfast commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond."

Performs Umrah alongside army chief; Haj winds down with pilgrims 'stoning the devil' in Mina PM Shehbaz also underscored Pakistan's policy of responsible restraint in the face of Indian aggression, emphasising that "sustainable peace in South Asia is achievable only through dialogue".

The meeting reaffirmed the

deep-rooted, strategic, and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The PM was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar.

The PM also extended Eidul Azha greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the crown prince on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan.

He commended the kingdom's hospitality and service to the pilgrims from around the world who are in Saudi Arabia to perform Haj.

### Situation in Gaza

The two leaders also discussed the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

They urged the international community to fulfil its moral and legal obligations to help the people of Palestine.

They reiterated support for a just and durable resolution to the Palestinian issue in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed satisfaction with the bilat-



eral political, economic and security cooperation.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister invited the crown prince to visit Pakistan, which he accepted.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz, accompanied by the army chief and his delegation, performed Umrah.

The delegation offered prayers inside the Holy Kaaba, said the press release.

Nawaz offers Eid prayers Meanwhile, former prime minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif offered Eid prayer at the Regents Park mosque in London. According to media reports, he prayed for the country's development and prosperity.

He also urged the United Nations

to play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue.

### Last Haj rite

More than 1.6 million pilgrims performing Haj 'stoned the devil' on Friday, as Muslims around the globe celebrated Eidul Azha.

Starting at dawn, the pilgrims threw seven stones at each of three concrete walls symbolising the devil in the Mina valley, on the outskirts of Makkah.

This year's Haj saw noticeably thinner crowds as authorities implemented a wide-ranging crackdown on illicit pilgrims with a heavy security presence at holy sites in Makkah and surrounding areas.

The measures, including heat mitigation efforts, were aimed at preventing a repeat of last year's Haj that saw 1,301 people die in temperatures that hit 51.8 degrees Celsius.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Punjab braces for heavy pre-monsoon rains starting today

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has issued a weather alert as pre-monsoon rains are set to begin across the province today, with significantly above-average rainfall expected in several districts.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), pre-monsoon showers accompanied by gusty winds will continue from June 20 to 23 across the country. This year's monsoon season is forecast to bring 25% more rainfall than usual nationwide, with particularly heavy precipitation anticipated in parts of Punjab.

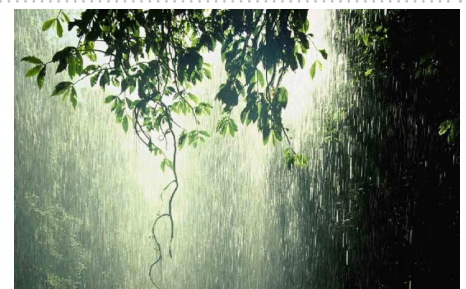
Districts including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat, and Islamabad may receive 40% to 60% more rainfall than normal, increasing the risk of urban flooding and water accumulation in low-lying areas, meteorologists warn.

In response, PDMA Punjab has launched a province-wide awareness campaign and issued directives to all Commissioners and District Administrations to prepare for possible flood scenarios. PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia emphasized the importance of early warnings and proactive public engagement to minimize risk.

PM Shehbaz vows inclusive economic growth through private sector dialogue

Pamphlets, streamers, banners, and mosque announcements will be used in flood-prone areas near rivers and nullahs to disseminate safety messages. District Information Officers have also been tasked with running awareness campaigns through print, electronic, and social media.

The Chief Minister's message will be shared with the public, reassuring citizens that the



government has completed all necessary preparations to manage potential flooding and safeguard both people and livestock.

The PDMA urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any emergencies by contacting its helpline at 1129.

Pre-monsoon rains, which precede the formal monsoon onset, are known to raise humidity levels while offering relief from extreme heat. This year, however, their intensity may pose challenges for urban infrastructure and drainage systems if not managed effectively.

*Courtesy: The Nation*



## Sindh Theatre Festival 2025 concludes sixth play in Larkana

The Arts Council of Pakistan, Larkana, in collaboration with the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, successfully staged the sixth play of the Sindh Theatre Festival 2025. The play, "Bhalari Bhag Tunhja" (Blessed Be Your Fate), was written and directed by Ayub Gad. The play featured a talented cast, including Haider Qadri, Amjad Gul, Sindhiya, Ali Muazzam, and Saeed Tunio. The story revolves around a young woman's struggle to choose her life partner, navigating the complexities of family expectations and social

norms. The play's narrative takes an interesting turn as the protagonist, played by Sindhiya, devises a plan to choose between her suitors - the family servant, Piro, and her cousin. The play's climax reveals her clever strategy and ultimate decision. Prior to the play, esteemed guests were honored with traditional Sindhi Ajrak scarves. The guests included Dr. Ehsan Danish, Director of the Sindh Language Authority; Dr. Bashir Ahmed Shaad, a renowned writer; Professor Rizwan Gul, a prominent writer, poet, and intel-



lectual; and Niaz Hussain Abro, Chairman of the Larkana City Alliance. The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Sindh and highlighted the talents of lo-

cal artists. The Sindh Theatre Festival 2025 continues to promote and celebrate the region's vibrant theatrical traditions.

*Courtesy: The Nation*

## Pakistani-Australian singer Tariq Naveed pays tribute to Pak-China Friendship



Pakistani-origin Australian singer and renowned artist Tariq Naveed has paid a heartfelt tribute to Pakistan-China friendship through a beautifully composed song titled "Mil Bethay."

What makes this tribute unique is that the song has been filmed at two iconic locations — the Great Wall of China and the historic Lahore Fort in Pakistan. This symbolic representation of the two nations reflects their deep-rooted ties and shared cultural values.

Tariq Naveed, who previously rose to fame during the ICC T20 World Cup 2022 with his popular

anthem, has now become the first singer since Justin Bieber to shoot a music video on the Great Wall of China.

His latest musical endeavor is being seen as a symbol of the enduring friendship and mutual respect between the people of Pakistan and China. The song not only highlights the diplomatic bond but also promotes cultural harmony between the two nations.

Social media users have widely appreciated this creative tribute, praising it as a powerful and artistic expression of unity and goodwill.

*Courtesy: The Nation*

## Stage play 'Faiz Ka Faiz' concludes at Lahore Arts Council



The Lahore Arts Council proudly concluded its three-day theatrical production, "Faiz Ka Faiz", a compelling stage play that celebrates the life and legacy of the globally renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Presented in collaboration with Aks Theatre under the direction of Afzal Nabi, the play became a cultural highlight at Alhamra Hall, drawing large and appreciative audiences. 'Faiz Ka Faiz' masterfully portrayed the emotional, political, and poetic dimensions of Faiz's life, resonating deeply with viewers and reaffirming theatre's power as a medium of intellectual and artistic expression. The cast featured powerful performances by Syed Zeeshan Haider, Erum

Naveed, Zoya Qazi, Zaheer Taj, Aman Iqbal, Jahanzeb Mustafa, Mazhar Khalid, Tanveer Khalid, Sundus Mehmood, Umar Khalid, Muneeb Mani, Ali Raza, Jamshed Anjum, Usama Ameer, Yaseen Mehmood, and Zain Ali. Alhamra Chairman Razi Ahmed said, "This production aimed to provide theatre lovers with a meaningful, high-quality play rooted in literary depth and cultural consciousness." Alhamra Executive Director Syed Touqeer Haider Kazmi said, "Through such efforts, Alhamra is reviving true essence of stage drama, bridging classical tradition with contemporary relevance."

*Courtesy: The Nation*

### Patron

Ms Seema Mughal  
Vice Chancellor

### Editor

Dr Sabir Ahmed  
Assistant Professor

### Graphics & Layout

Shazia Anwar  
Senior Graphic Designer

Greenwichians! Interested  
in contributions!

Send an email to the editor  
with your name, roll number,  
and your work at  
drsabir@greenwich.edu.pk.



Greenwich University, DK-10, 38th, Street,  
Darakshan, Phase VI, Defence Housing Authority,  
Karachi-75500, Pakistan

UAN: (021) 111-202-303; Tel: (021) 35840397-98  
Email:gu@greenwich.edu.pk; URL: www.greenwich.edu.pk