

# Positive Post

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



Greenwich University  
Pakistan - Mauritius

## July in History

**July 8, 1947:** Constituent Assembly of Pakistan approves the design of Pakistan.

**July 9, 1948:** Pakistan's first postage stamp is issued.

**July 11, 1950:** Pakistan joins the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

**July 14, 1953:** Wazir Mansion Karachi, the birthplace of Quaid-e-Azam, is declared protected national monument.

**July 17, 1958:** First Nigar Film Awards held.

**July 12, 1959:** Shukriya Niaz Ali becomes first woman pilot of Pakistan.

**July 31, 1690:** Foundation stone of Mazar-i-Quaid (Mausoleum of M.A. Jinnah) is laid.

**July 15, 1961:** Jasmine is chosen as the national flower of Pakistan.

**July 31, 1964:** Pakistan, Iran and Turkey agree to establish RCD

**July 2, 1972:** Simla Agreement is signed between President Bhutto and Prime Minister Indra Gandhi.

**July 24, 1976:** Lahore-Amritsar train service, Samjhota Express starts.

**July 31, 1976:** A.Q. Khan research laboratories established.

**July 8, 1986:** Peshawar Dry Port is inaugurated.

**July 17, 1991:** Pakistan unveils first battle tank Al-Khalid manufactured jointly by Pakistan and China.

**July 15, 2001:** Agra Summit starts. President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee holds talks over long-standing issues.

**July 11, 2003:** Lahore-Delhi bus service resumed after suspension of 18 months.

**July 14, 2005:** NWFP Assembly passes the Hasba bill with a majority vote.

## Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

### Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2018 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 ranked 112th out of 167 countries in the Democracy Index scoring 4.17 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 4.26 in 2017.

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 150th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 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 ranked 139th out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index scoring 43.24 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 43.55 in 2017.

Index from 0 (most press freedom) to 100 (least press freedom)

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

### TERRORISM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 5th out of 163 countries in the Terrorism Index scoring 8.18 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 8.40 in 2017.

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

Pakistan ranked 131st out of 180 countries in the Economic Freedom Index scoring 54.4 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 52.8 out of 100 in 2017.

Index from 0 (repressed) to 100 (free)

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 and Political outcomes.

## Karachi Research Chair (KRC), Greenwich University represents Asia-Pacific at the Ministerial Declaration negotiations of the High Level Political Forum 2020

Karachi Research Chair (KRC) delegate Mr. Ali Jillani represented Asia-Pacific at the Ministerial Declaration negotiations of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020. Over 150 Member States' permanent ambassadors to

the UN participated in the closed-meeting to negotiate the most pressing challenges concerning Sustainable Development, also reckoning the deceleration caused by the COVID 19, at the global as well as national levels. The



negotiations will formulate a joint declaration to be adopted at the UN General Assembly on July 14-16, 2020, to help national governments with the implementation.

Asia-Pacific's review of the declaration and contributed to several aspects of the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCSEM) position on the issues.

Mr. Jillani was also part of the



### WHO glad Pakistan's coronavirus cases dropping

Paramedics are being trained in nursing and ventilator use at Lahore's Expo Centre.

were 160,118 cases in the country. Around that time, between 4,000 to 5,000 cases were being reported daily.

The World Health Organisation has appreciated Pakistan's effort to control the spread of coronavirus.

As of July 6, the COVID-19 tally stands at 234,509 and close to 3,000 new cases are being reported on a daily basis. On June 6, 2,691 new cases were recorded.

"WHO is glad to see that cases in Pakistan have been in decline since early June & we appreciate your strong surveillance efforts to fight the pandemic," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus in a Twitter post.

Due to country's current situation, the UK and European Union have not allowed Pakistanis to enter. Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked the WHO to look into travel restrictions for Pakistan and other low-income countries.

Pakistan's smart lockdown was imposed on June 17, when there

### Pakistan tackles high rates of hepatitis from many angles



On World Hepatitis Day, WHO is calling on countries to step up efforts to eliminate hepatitis by 2030. With one of the world's highest rates of hepatitis C, Pakistan is tackling this serious health issue from many angles to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

(PKLI) in Lahore, Pakistan. When he was told that medicines were available that could cure his disease, he started to cry. He just couldn't believe it.

"I know how I got infected," says Ali, who recalls that his local barber used unhygienic instruments that were the likely source of the virus that infected him and his siblings.

When 48-year old Ali\* arrived at the clinic after travelling 350kms to the city of Lahore, he was almost certain that he would die. He was very sick with hepatitis C and had seen four of his siblings die from the same disease.

Pakistan has the world's second highest prevalence of hepatitis C, second only to Egypt. A survey done in 2007 found that close to 7% of people in the province of Punjab had hepatitis C, while around 5% of people were infected in the entire country.

Ali was lucky. He had come to the recently opened hepatitis clinic of the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Center



## Exports from Pakistan increase by 18.1% MoM in June



July 17, 2020: Exports from Pakistan during the month of June, 2020 amounted to Rs. 263,988 million as against Rs. 223,536 million in May, 2020 and Rs. 264,345 million during June, 2019, showing an increase of 18.10% over May, 2020 but a decrease of 0.14% over June, 2019.

According to the provisional figures compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, in terms of US dollars, the exports in June, 2020 were \$1,599 million as compared to \$1,396 million in May, 2020, showing an increase of 14.54% but a decline of 6.11% as compared to \$1,703 million in June 2019.

Exports during July – June, 2019 – 2020 totaled Rs. 3,369,809 million as against Rs. 3,128,230 million during the corresponding period of last year,

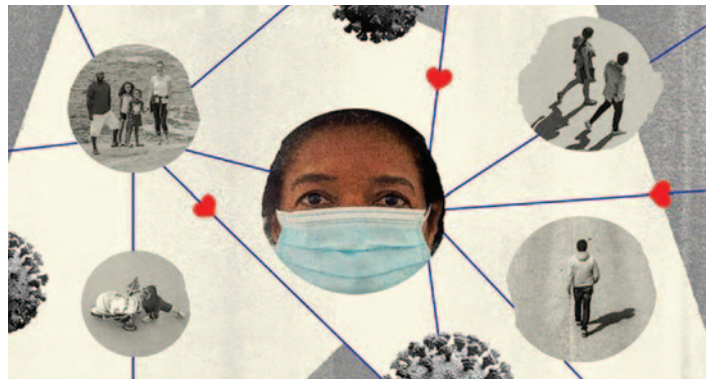
showing an increase of 7.72%.

In terms of US dollars, the exports during July – June, 2019 – 2020 totaled \$21,394 million against \$22,958 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing a decrease of 6.81%.

Main commodities of exports during June, 2020 were Knitwear (Rs. 36,549 million), Readymade garments (Rs. 30,542 million), Bed wear (Rs. 27,462 million), Cotton cloth (Rs. 21,495 million), Rice others (Rs. 17,043 million), Cotton Yarn (Rs. 12,271 million), Towels (Rs. 9,727 million), Basmati rice (Rs. 7,887 million), Madeup articles (excl. towels & bedwear) (Rs. 7,018 million) and Fruits (Rs. 5,498 million).

*Courtesy: The News*

## There Is So Much More Than the Nuclear Family, Even Now



The narrative of family as the most legitimate form of care during the pandemic can make it hard to see all the creative ways people are showing up for one another.

It's easy to get the impression that the majority of Americans are spending their days at home, isolated with their nuclear family. The idea of the family as the main source of care and refuge has dominated both media coverage and public-health messaging since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

If doctors, politicians, and reporters think of the family as the default source of care in our lives, that's likely because Americans have idealized the two-parents-plus-kids household since the mid-20th century. But this fixation on the nuclear family overlooks the diversity of U.S. living arrangements, as David Brooks pointed out in a recent cover story for

The Atlantic. In fact, as of 2017, only 20 percent of American households were composed of two parents with children. The rest were single parents living with their children (7 percent), childless cohabiting couples (25 percent), adult roommates (20 percent), and people who live alone (28 percent).

Disasters have a way of illuminating our human capacity for care and connection, but a pandemic is a cruel messenger: It reminds us of our essential interdependence while amplifying the isolation of our modern lives. Even as some states have relaxed restrictions, and then tightened them again as infections rise, the best public-health advice has always been for people to stay as close to home as possible. Hugs and handshakes are discouraged; so is travel. Important rituals graduations, baby showers, even weddings and funerals are happening through our screens.

## Afridi names Stokes as his favourite all-rounder at the moment

Prolific Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi has named England's Ben Stokes as his favourite all-rounder at the moment.

The talismanic Pakistan all-rounder made the statement during an interactive session on Twitter.

The all-rounder picked skipper Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as his favourite batsmen from India. He believes MS Dhoni was a better captain than Australia's Ricky Ponting as "he developed a new team full of youngsters".

Boom Boom added that West Indies batting legend Sir Vivian Richards is his favourite batsman of all time. He



added that former teammate Saeed Anwar was his favourite partner at the crease.

He named South Africa's AB de Vil-

liers and West Indies great Brian Lara were the favourite batsmen he ever bowled to.

Afridi picked Australians Glenn

Maxwell and Aaron Finch as his favourite hitters in the game. He named Pat Cummins as his favourite bowler.

The all-rounder believes that compatriot Junaid Khan should have been given more chances in the team. He also said that Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah are capable of becoming world-class bowlers if they continue to work hard.

Calling Haider Ali a "talented individual", Afridi said that his hard work will determine the batsman's success.

*Courtesy: Saama*

## Overseas Pakistanis sent home record \$2.5 billion in June



Pakistanis working in other countries have sent home highest-ever amount of dollars in a single month, the State Bank revealed on Monday.

Remittances from overseas Pakistanis were recorded to be \$2.5 billion in June, up by 51% compared to the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year.

This past month, the surge in remittances also pushed the annual amount to a historic high of \$23.12 billion or 6.4% more than that of the fiscal year 2019. It was more than our total exports, which were \$21.3 billion.

The increase in remittances during June is against the expectations as it was predicted that remittances may fall during the pandemic. Many countries eased lockdown in June and overseas Pakistanis were able to transfer accumulative funds, which they were unable to send earlier. It is also believed that they sent remittances to support extended families and friends due to Covid-19.

An earlier version of the story said the figure was Rs2.5 billion in the headline. It has been corrected to \$2.5 billion now.

## Pakistan's third area control centre inaugurated at Islamabad airport



A newly-constructed Area Control Centre was inaugurated at the Islamabad airport.

This is Pakistan's third area control centre a facility responsible for controlling aircraft flying in a particular volume of airspace at high altitudes between airport approaches and departures. Only Karachi and Lahore had such centres previously.

The centre is a nine-storey building. Civil Aviation Authority Director-

General Hassan Nasir Jamy, who is also the aviation secretary, inaugurated it.

Jamy said this facility will help increase airspace safety and security. "It will allow CAA to meet ICAO obligations but also develop a world class ANS infrastructure sufficient to fulfill present and future operational requirements," the aviation division said in a tweet posted on its official twitter account.

## Pakistan gets 100 more ventilators, training packages from the US



The US donated 100 ventilators to Pakistan to support its fight against the coronavirus, reported APP on Thursday.

A package for training doctors and paramedics was also included.

These were handed over to NDMA Chairman Lt General Muhammad Afzal by US Ambassador to Pakistan Paul W Johns.

This is the second tranche of ventilators the US has donated to the country during the pandemic. The previous batch was donated last month in Karachi.

The combined worth of the 200 ventilators is \$3 million, said the NDMA chairman. The ventilators sent earlier had been distributed among hospitals across the country which did not have the facility.

The US is also helping to upgrade provincial emergency operation

centres.

"We have increased bed capacity, including beds with oxygen facilities, and ventilators across the country, besides establishing quarantine and isolation facilities for COVID patients," said Lt General Afzal.

He added that Pakistan had increased its coronavirus testing capacity to 100,000 tests per day and upgraded 148 laboratories to conduct PCR tests. The NDMA was upgrading the country's health system to handle future case loads of coronavirus patients.

The authority had supported the government to manufacture medical equipment locally, said the NDMA chairman.

A 250-bed hospital for infectious diseases is also being built in Islamabad with the NDMA's help and will be operational soon.

## Exclusive: SAMAA reporter survives Coronavirus returns to show ward



SAMAA TV has become one of the first channels to be able to go inside a coronavirus ward to bring you exclusive footage of what it is like.

This was made possible ironically, by the fact that reporter Fayaz Ahmed and cameraperson Kamran Khan

both contracted coronavirus and survived it. This gave them the clearance from the health authorities in Peshawar to visit Lady Reading Hospital.

LRH has 205 beds but they are planning to ramp it up to 500. The team spoke to the doctors on call and the patient attendants or their relatives. In order to protect patient identity we have removed footage of their faces or blurred it. If their relatives spoke it was with their masks on, so they cannot be identified

## Pakistan's economy may return to positive trajectory this month'

The six-month-long cycle of economic contraction may end soon, as the Ministry of Finance has predicted positive economic growth in July and also sees an uptick in inflation due to the hike in petroleum product prices.

In its two separate monthly publications, the Economic Update and Economic Outlook July, the Q Block on Monday gave a round-up of the last fiscal year and also made a forecast of the new 2020-21 fiscal year, which began this month.

Based on the Monthly Economic Indicator (MEI), "We expect positive growth in July 2020, indicating a restart of economic activities", according to the Finance Ministry. If the prevalence of Covid-19 cases slows down further, economic activities will come to a normal level, stated the Finance Ministry. However, risk is associated with the level of public conformity with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are intended to prevent the pandemic's spread, it added.

The MEI is based on a combination of the monthly data of three variables (large scale manufacturing (LSM) year-on-year growth, money supply (M2) growth adjusted for inflation, and the weighted average Composite Leading Indicator (CLI) in the main trading areas.

Pakistan does not report economic growth figures on a quarterly basis, unlike other countries. Its assessment of a positive growth rate is based on the three monthly indicators.

A new Ipsos survey for the month of June showed that unemployment remained the most worrisome issue for 86% of the respondents and only 3% of them saw the economy heading in the right direction.

The Finance Ministry said that, in the previous fiscal year, there was small but positive growth of about 1% in the first quarter. The economic growth accelerated in the second quarter to 2.58%. But it turned negative in the third quarter



of the last fiscal year by 0.19% following the COVID-19 pandemic. In the fourth quarter, the economy contracted 4.9%.

Over the complete FY 2019-20, the MEI showed average growth of a negative 0.4%, which coincides with the provisional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth published by PBS, it added.

The Ministry of Finance has also said that it was expected that exports would further recover in July and may find themselves within a broad margin around \$2 billion to \$2.1 billion. Similarly, it was expected that imports would recover in June and July and may find themselves within a broad margin around \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion.

For July 2020, due to Eid and revival of economic activities, it is expected that workers' remittances may remain within the range of \$1.8 to \$2 billion.

The ministry said that domestic economic activities had also accelerated with many businesses beginning operations in accordance with the SOPs issued by the government, and that restaurants and educational institutions were expected to soon follow suit.

The ministry has also highlighted the impact of locust attacks on crops, saying the peak period of the attacks was not yet behind us.

According to the QBlock, in addition to COVID-19, the desert locust situation has worsened and is likely to be at its peak between July 15 and September 15, which will

cause crops to suffer.

For this fiscal year, the agriculture sector's growth is targeted at 2.8% on the basis of better growth in crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. A meeting of the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA), held on July 8, 2020, reviewed inputs' availability for the 2020 Kharif Crop. It was informed that weather patterns and the availability of water, seed, fertilizers and machinery would be better as compared to last year.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate was recorded at 8.6 year-on-year in June, 2020. Petroleum prices, which had fallen sharply during the last couple of months, again increased during the last week of June, which will have an impact on next month's CPI, said the Finance Ministry.

The deflationary effect of the decline in oil prices was compensated by a depreciation of the USD/PKR exchange rate. Historically, a combined increase of commodity prices and exchange rate depreciation of 1% increases the CPI level by around 0.9% in the long run, said the Finance Ministry.

However, the money supply was increasing in the economy. In the last fiscal year, the M2 increased by Rs3.1 trillion as compared to Rs 1.8 trillion, showing growth of 11.3%. Net Foreign Assets (NFA) of the banking sector also increased by Rs 992.2 billion against the contraction of Rs1.3 trillion in preceding year. Net Domestic Assets (NDA) increased by Rs2.1 trillion, showing growth of 11%.

The Finance Ministry said that the growth rate of M2 was still above pre-corona levels. This is mainly due to increased pace of government borrowing for budget support, as the government was supporting economic activity to curb deflation due to COVID-19. Also, in June, the growth rate of government borrowing remained above pre-crises levels. Historically, an increase of M2 by 1% tends to increase the CPI level by around 0.35% in the long run.

*Courtesy: Express Tribune*

### A rooster was released on Thursday from jail in Ghotki after eight months, confirmed the police.



A rooster was released on Thursday from jail in Ghotki after eight months, confirmed the police.

A Mirpur Mathelo court approved the rooster's bail after which he was released.

Five roosters were taken into police custody during a raid at a gambling den a few months ago, said a policeman deployed at the Jarwar police station. Suspects were arrested on charges of betting on cockfighting. Cockfighting is a blood sport in which two roosters are placed in a small ring and made to fight to death. It is illegal in many places but there are small communities that still hold these fights regularly.

The suspected gamblers were released on bail earlier but one of the roosters remained in police custody. The officers used to feed him and offered him protection from other animals.

## New Zealand provide positive update on Pakistan series



New Zealand Cricket (NZC) provided a positive update on their series against Pakistan later this year as they expect it to go ahead as planned.

This comes after earlier reports suggested that New Zealand were considering postponing their home series against Pakistan in favour of more lucrative series against Australia and England.

But, NZC chief executive David White has now stated that New Zealand's series against the West Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Australia are set to take place despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm very confident we're going to have a full season of international cricket. We are in limbo until then, but we are very advanced in terms of talking to the countries that are scheduled to come here: West Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Australia," White was quoted as saying by Cricket Pakistan.

Pakistan are currently in England, where they will play three Tests and three T20 Internationals.

The Test series will begin on August 5 in Manchester, while the T20 series will get underway on August 28 at the same venue.

*Courtesy: ESPN-Sports*

## Diana Baig plans to help female athletes of Gilgit-Baltistan



Pakistan cricketer Diana Baig says she plans to help female sports stars of Gilgit-Baltistan in terms of their future.

"I started at the age of 15 to 16 years and I had to struggle a bit," the fast-bowler said while speaking on a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) podcast. "I faced difficulties in finding grounds to train. Then I shifted to Islamabad for that."

"I don't want the girls from Gilgit to face the problems that I went through. My plan is to help them secure their future."

She added that she has been staying indoors for the first time in six years. "There I came to realise that I have been facing the same problems today that I did a decade earlier regarding practicing."

Diana added that she then decided that something had to be done. "Women sports stars who have participated in national and international events came up with a plan to send a proposal to the government of Gilgit-Baltistan on how a secure environment could be provided for female athletes for their sporting activities."

*Courtesy: SAMAA NEWS*

## TECNO is offering amazing discounts as part of its Independence Day celebrations

TECNO, a renowned Chinese smartphone brand, has introduced its Independence Day campaign to enhance the festivities of the Independence Day. The campaign starts on July 27 and will go on till August 14.

The brand has added-on prizes such as Suzuki car, motorbikes, TV, fans, power banks and much more.

With the upcoming promotional campaign, TECNO fans will be able to win these huge prizes and get their hands on premium TECNO handsets including its latest phones: Camon 15, Pouvoir 4, Spark 5 Pro and Spark 4 variants on discounted prices.

The promotional week would bring the biggest promotion offers of the year for the fans.

On this occasion, Creek Ma, the general manager of the brand said, "Our brand has a history of broad-



casting recreative campaigns adding more to its growing popularity. In coherence with our values of diversity and inclusion, TECNO has once again dedicated a whole week to its customers, for the celebration of the Independence Day of Pakistan. We believe that this campaign would be deemed successful by igniting the patriotism of our customers."

To participate in this campaign, follow these simple steps:

1. Customers who buy TECNO

handset can join online lucky draw immediately;

2. POSM will guide customer, how to check TECNO Facebook TOP Post. Top post will guide customer to open [www.tecnoluckydraw.com](http://www.tecnoluckydraw.com) and Enter their input i.e. IMEI, name and phone number to register into the lucky draw;

3. Spin the wheel on the website and get a chance to win HUGE prizes

4. 1 IMEI means only one chance. Winner information will be verified by TECNO MKT within 24 hours.

5. TECNO MKT will verify winner by video call and deliver gift.

6. NOTE: TECNO will check either the IMEI is active or not. If TECNO MKT finds IMEI non-active, then that unique number would be added back to IMEI pool of lucky draw and ASM would generate a warning related to MD;

7. Further, the participant would get a customers' service phone call as per listed on web page.

Be it any national festival, TECNO has always been on the forefront of initiating creative campaigns which are much applauded by the fans nationwide. To get further updates, Stay Tuned with TECNO's official Facebook page and [www.tecnoluckydraw.com](http://www.tecnoluckydraw.com) website link.

## Similarities between Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh: Two Countries, Same Issues.

Surprisingly there are more similarities between Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh than distinctions. These two conflicts brought Pakistan-Azerbaijan closer to each other and Armenia-Pakistan to an estrangement. Similarly, Armenia supports India to counter Pakistan as the common saying is; the enemy of your enemy is your friend.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan relations are beyond merely a support to each other over the conflict regions. They are brothers from different mothers.

Upon the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, the Armenian army and ethnic Armenian terror groups wildly and barbarically attacked and invaded the internationally recognized Azerbaijani land in 1992. It is also known as the 1992 war between Azerbaijan and the aggressor Armenia. The Armenian invasion of Azeri Land resulted in the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the other seven surrounding Azerbaijani districts.

The Armenian army massacred hundreds of Azeri Muslims and more the 700,000 become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). On February 26, 1992, the Armenian army and ethnic Armenian terror groups committed genocide of Azeri Muslims in Khojaly, also known as the Khojaly genocide.

More than 613 Azeri Muslims lost their lives including 106 women and 63 civilians. The United Nations resolutions (822, 853, 874 and 884) called for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied land and fully recognized Azerbaijani sovereignty over the conflict region.

According to the then Pakistani Ambassador in Baku Abdul Hamid "When Armenia approached us asking 'what problems do we have between us and why have you not recognized us as a country?' we specifically said that we have just one problem, and that's the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Resolve it, and we will recognize you." In turn, Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's stance



over the Kashmir conflict with India.

After the withdrawal of imperial Britain from south Asia, India occupied the Jammu & Kashmir region by force. Nearly a million Indian soldiers are deployed in the Jammu & Kashmir region. Since then, the international human rights bodies reported massive human rights violations by the Indian army in the valley.

These human rights atrocities include mass rapes, torture, detentions, extrajudicial kills, et cetera. The United Nations resolutions called for a plebiscite in Kashmir to peacefully resolve the issue but unfortunately, it did not materialize to date. In 2019, India abrogated article 370 of the Indian constitution to nullify the autonomous status of J&K and merge it with the Indian state. Moreover, Armenia supports India's stance over Kashmir. Both aggressors support each other over the conflict regions. The following are some similarities between Kashmir and Nagorno-

Karabakh regions.

1. Both regions, Kashmir and Nagorno - Karabakh, are occupied by the Armenia and Indian forces by force.
2. Both issues, Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh, have United Nations resolutions calling for peaceful resolutions of the conflicts.
3. Muslims are being massacred in both regions by the Indian and Armenian forces.
4. Both the disputes, Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh, resulted in several Indo-Pak and Azerbaijani-Armenian wars.
5. Both disputes, Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh, are the flashpoints of both regions, south Asia and the Caucasus.
6. In both cases, the world and the United Nations failed to peacefully resolve the issues.
7. Pakistan and Azerbaijan sup-

port each other's stance over Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh's conflicts.

8. Armenia and India support each other's stance over Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh's conflicts.
9. Both Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh's conflicts compelled Pakistan and Azerbaijan to massively armed and prepare themselves for any possible invasion from their neighbors.
10. Both Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh's conflicts are called "frozen conflicts" but the 2016 skirmishes between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the 2019 mini-war between India and Pakistan negates the often carelessly used term the "frozen conflicts".
11. In both conflict areas, the borders are known as LoC (Line of Control in Kashmir, and Line of Contact in Nagorno-Karabakh).
12. Both Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh are the legacies of two expansionists' empires, the imperial British Empire and the communist Soviet Empire.
13. In both conflicts, millions of people have been forced out of their homes by the Indian and Armenian forces and become refugees.
14. In both regions, Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh, Indian and Armenia forces often violate the ceasefire over LoC.
15. Pakistan and Azerbaijan support each other in the UN over the Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh.
16. India and Armenia support each other in the UN over the Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh.
17. Both conflicts can flare-up both the regions and can result in full-scale war any minute.

Courtesy: Daily Times



## Pakistan ready for second virtual fashion show on Eid

Pakistan is all set to host its second virtual fashion show in August on Eidul Azha.

It is being organised after the huge success of the first “Catwalk Cares,” the brainchild of Catwalk Event’s CEO Frieha Altaf last month.

The three-night affair was released on Catwalk’s digital platforms as well as their partner Geo Entertainment’s YouTube channel and played on the TV channel in the evening. The industry’s top models walked in designer wear from the safety of their homes, keeping in mind social distancing, as Pakistan continues to grapple with COVID-19.

This time around the idea is to create ‘fashion sustainability’ for the Pakistani textile and fashion industries – from design houses and textile firms to daily wage artisans and retail stores facing uncertainty.



A press statement by Catwalk says season two aims to raise funds for scholarships at Pakistan’s leading fashion institutes and schools. Another objective is to keep the fashion industry united and thriving with the creation of online content that encourages the busi-

ness of fashion and creates fresh opportunities within the industry.

The show will include webinar sessions with the designers to discuss upcoming fashion trends and interviews with consumers, franchises, retailers, e-commerce

specialists and fashion design students. A ‘Designer Diary’ session will also be held which will have intimate behind-the-scenes interviews with the teams of the designers.

Around 15 design houses are expected to participate. This includes AIFD’s graduated class of 2020 in fashion designing, Nilofer Shahid, Zainab Chottani, YBQ Sadaf Malaterre, Shamsha Hashwani, Umar Sayeed and Rozina Munib, to name a few.

Altaf says its all about unity for her. “The fashion industry employ people in the thousands. We need to sustain jobs. We need to provide scholarships to needy fashion students to showcase design and excellence,” she said.

She said a united front is about inclusivity. “I feel that change is inevitable, and history is being made,” she said.



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