

# Positive Post



Greenwich University  
1987

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

## May in History

**May 18, 1950:**

*The Peshawar University comes into being.*

**May 11, 1951:**

*University of Karachi is established.*

**May 1, 1972:**

*Labour Day is celebrated for the first time in Pakistan.*

**May 26, 1980:**

*Establishment of Federal Shariat Court is announced.*

**May 16, 1991:**

*National Assembly adopts Shariat Bill.*

**May 21, 1997:**

*Saeed Anwar slams world record score of 194 runs against India.*

**May 12, 2000:**

*Supreme Court validated the October 1999 coup and granted General Pervez Musharraf executive and legislative authority for three years.*

**May 22, 2004:**

*Pakistan readmitted to Commonwealth.*

**May 14, 2006:**

*Charter of democracy (CoD) is signed by two former prime ministers of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto in London.*

**23 May-15 July 2009:**

*Pakistan Army launched Operation Rab-e-Rast and cleared Swat Valley of all Taliban elements. It is regarded as one of the most successful counter-insurgency operation in modern age.*

**May 19, 2015:**

*Zimbabwe cricket team toured Pakistan to play International Cricket Series for the first time since 2009 attack on the Sri Lanka national cricket team.*

## 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.

## PM, Saudi prince 'talk shop' in Jeddah

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah on Saturday and discussed ways to strengthen economic, investment and trade ties between the two countries.

During the meeting at the Royal Palace, the two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest, along with global and regional issues.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, upon arrival at the Royal Palace, the prime minister and his delegation received a guard of honour.

The premier was in Saudi Arabia on a three day visit his first since he assumed office along with a delegation including Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Miftah Ismail, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Khawaja Asif, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Mohsin Dawar and Maulana Tahir Ashrafi.

In a tweet, PM Shehbaz thanked the Saudi prince for "a warm welcome and for always standing with Pakistan" and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to taking bilateral ties "to a new and higher level".

### PM performs Umrah

The premier performed Umrah with his delegation and prayed for the se-

curity of the country, nation and Muslim Ummah and for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, according to a statement issued by Prime Minister Office.

The prime minister landed in the holy city of Madina on Thursday, where he visited Masjid-i-Nabwi and offered his prayers. After spending two days in Madina and Jeddah, he arrived in Makkah on Saturday. During his visit to the holy mosque, the doors of the sacred Kaaba were opened exclusively for PM Sharif and the federal ministers.

### Meeting with OIC head

Separately, Prime Minister Sharif also met the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Hissein Brahim Taha, in Makkah on Saturday.

During the meeting, the premier affirmed his government's commitment to promoting the interests of the Muslim Ummah as a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, a statement by Prime Minister Office said.

The prime minister thanked Mr Taha for consistent and unequivocal support from the OIC to the Kashmir cause.

He urged the organisation to lead the diplomatic endeavours towards facilitating a peaceful and lasting so-



lution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Mr Sharif said that as the chair of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan looked forward to playing a proactive role in matters of interest and concern to the OIC member states.

He also urged the OIC to launch a concerted effort to stop the ongoing Israeli aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque and other occupied Palestinian territories.

He stressed that Israel must not be allowed to divide the blessed mosque, temporally and spatially, between the peoples of different faiths. The prime minister maintained that Pakistan, as the current Chair of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, was looking forward to playing a proactive role with regard to the matters of interest and concern to

the OIC member states.

The prime minister underscored the need for the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and emphasised that the OIC should step up its efforts to counter growing Islamophobia at the international level.

The OIC secretary general accepted Mr Sharif's invitation to pay a visit to Pakistan.

### Shehbaz heads to UAE

After wrapping up his trip to Saudi Arabia, the premier headed to the United Arab Emirates later on Saturday, where he met Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Earlier, PM Office said in a statement that both sides would discuss bilateral ties and other issues of mutual interest.

*Courtesy:*

## Water inflows show 37pc improvement

Water inflows into major reservoirs are improving due to snow melting on mountains following increase in temperatures.

The Indus River System Authority's fresh data shows 37 per cent increase in inflows within the last week, as the system received 158,347 cusecs of water on May 7 in all its rivers against 98,852 cusecs a week ago.

Tarbela Dam, the largest water reservoir in the country which hit a dead level of 1,392 feet on Feb 22, showed an improvement of 16 feet as water level was 1,408 feet on May 7. On Saturday, the inflow into Tarbela was 62,400 cusecs and outflow 51,000 cusecs.

The situation at Mangla Dam im-

proved further as its water level was 1,081 feet on May 7 against 1,074 feet a week ago. This reservoir too had almost hit the dead level of 1,050 feet three weeks ago. Data puts average water inflow at 30,890 cusecs and outflow at 33,315 cusecs at the weekend.

Water inflow into Chenab at Marala also improved from 13,174 cusecs on April 30 to 21,057 on May 7.

The delay in the snow melting process, despite an early onset of summer in mid-March, has put pressure on the national water supplies, which dipped substantially below the average of the last five years or so. The Kharif season started with a 40pc shortage 30pc in the Indus and 10pc in the Jhelum arm



which rose to 52pc by April-end.

The situation was more precarious in Mangla largely because the dam is mainly rain-fed and there has virtually been no rain during March and April. The Met office had predicted five spells of rain in March, but only one occurred.

There was also a phenomenal drop in the snowfall in the mountainous

region of the country this season, as against a yearly average of 50 inches, only 37 inches of snowfall was recorded this year. This snow too has fallen on higher altitudes, where the temperature needs to be more than 23 degrees Celsius to melt it.

Badly hit by the water shortage, farmers in Sindh and Balochistan

*Courtesy:*

## Pakistan ready for on-site visit of FATF team

Pakistan has expressed its readiness to receive the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) assessment team for completing the procedural requirements for its exit from the international watchdog's 'grey list' of countries under enhanced monitoring.

"We are working closely with the FATF to arrange the on-site visit at mutually convenient dates with a view to conclude the entire process at the earliest and before the next FATF plenary in October 2022," said Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar at a press conference on Saturday after returning from Berlin, where she led the delegation at the FATF plenary meeting.

The FATF, after its four-day plenary meeting, had acknowledged that Pakistan had fully complied with the 2018 and 2021 action plans on anti-money laundering and combating terror financing. However, Pakistan's exit from the grey list was linked to the outcome of an on-site visit by a technical team for the verification of the implemented reforms.

"I am sure that we will be fully prepared during the on-site visit and will exit the grey list at the earliest. Insha Allah!" Ms Khar said. FATF's acknowledgement of the progress made by Pakistan meant that the country was just "a step away from exiting" the grey list, she added.

State minister calls visit 'beginning

of the end-process' that will culminate in country's exit from grey list. The on-site visit, she explained, was "a procedural requirement" that marks the "beginning of the end-process" culminating in exit from the grey list.

The minister said Pakistan submitted 11 reports on the 2018 action plan and three on the 2021 action plan. "The 2018 Action Plan has been closed with no pendency of action on part of Pakistan," she said, adding that the entire seven-point 2021 action plan had been completed a year ahead of the prescribed timelines.

While recalling the country's high-level political commitment, national consensus, and institutional harmony and synergy that enabled the attainment of the milestone, she said: "This swift pace and progress is indicative of the comprehensive reforms and actions that have been carried out by Pakistan in the AML/CFT domain and sustained momentum of our efforts."

"I want to take this opportunity to stress once again that Pakistan's cooperation with the FATF and the international community is grounded in our strategic objective of strengthening our economy and further improve its integration with the international financial system," Ms Khar said.

Pakistan's exit would restore investors' confidence and would im-



prove investment climate that would ultimately boost the economy, she said.

On the issue of who's to be credited with this success, she said it was result of "a whole of country response" involving multiple ministries, departments and agencies, at all levels of the government. She also thanked "international partners and friends" for their support during the process.

Looking confident that the progress made by Pakistan would be sustainable, she said: "Pakistan is in a position that not only can sustain its trajectory of reforms well into the future, but can also provide guidance and technical support to other countries in this area."

Replying to a question, she said all the political parties, the present and the previous governments deserved credit for making progress over the objective, as it was a national cause and a win-win situation for Pakistan, adds APP.

The minister said taking all drastic measures with national consensus

were in Pakistan's interests to show to the world that it was a responsible country. While appreciating the tireless efforts of all the teams to achieve the objective, she said it was indeed a whole of country response. "It also demonstrates that when we work together with a sense of purpose, we can achieve remarkable things," she added.

She also expressed gratitude to the friendly countries and international partners for their understanding, support and cooperation.

Asked about boycott of the FATF legislation by the opposition parties during the PTT's tenure, she maintained that they had adopted the legislation in the parliamentary committees. They only opposed the legislation process in the parliament, because the previous ruling party was bulldozing the set procedures, she added.

Responding to a question regarding India's attempts to leak FATF proceedings, she said the body had been very strict to the confidentiality of its reports.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## S. Arabia finalising extension of \$3bn deposit to Pakistan

Saudi Arabia is finalising the extension of the kingdom's \$3 billion deposit to Pakistan, Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed al-Jadaan told Reuters.

"We are currently finalising extending the \$3 billion deposit to Pakistan," he said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Last year, Saudi Arabia deposited \$3 billion in Pakistan's central bank to help support its foreign reserves. Jadaan did not offer further details, but on May 1 the two countries said in a joint statement that they



would discuss the possibility of supporting the deposit by extending its term "or through other options".

Pakistan is in dire need of external finances, hurt by high inflation, reserves declining to as low as less than two months' of imports, and a

fast-weakening currency.

Jadaan said Pakistan was an important ally and the kingdom would stand behind the South Asian nation.

Uncertainty over the revival of an International Monetary Fund programme has compounded volatility in the economy and markets amid a political crisis since a new government took over last month from ousted prime minister Imran Khan. The IMF is likely to conclude ongoing talks over a 7th review in Doha.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## S. Arabia agrees to discuss extending term of \$3bn loan

Saudi Arabia on Sunday agreed to discuss extending the term of a \$3 billion loan to help Pakistan's new government tide over the prevailing economic crisis.

Saudi Arabia affirmed its continuous support to Pakistan and its economy, including discussion of augmenting \$3bn deposit with the central bank through term extension or otherwise, and exploring options to further enhance the financing of petroleum products and supporting the economic structural reforms for the benefit of Pakistan and its people.

In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of three-day official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the kingdom, Islamabad and Riyadh said both sides supported the unity and independence of the countries of the region and their territorial integrity, as well as to give priority to political solutions that bring prosperity and progress to the region and its people.

"Pakistan greatly appreciates the continued strong support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan," the statement said.

In the political context, the two sides exchanged views on issues of mutual concern in the regional and international levels, and agreed to continue coordinating their positions in a way that serves their interests, the joint statement said.

Kingdom welcomes Pakistan's keenness to find solution to all disputes with India; PM Sharif, Abu Dhabi crown prince discuss cooperation on various fronts

The prime minister along with a delegation visited the kingdom at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The two sides agreed to continue exchanging support and coordination in international organisations and forums and stressed the importance of all countries' commitment to the United Nations' charter and the principles of international law, adherence to the principles of good



neighborliness, respect for the unity and sovereignty of states, non-interference in internal affairs, and striving to resolve disputes by peaceful means.

Saudi Arabia welcomed the statements of Pakistan mentioning keenness to find a solution to all disputes with India, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The two sides stressed the importance of dialogue between Pakistan and India in order to resolve the issues between the two countries, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, to ensure peace and stability in the region.

During an official meeting between the prime minister and the Saudi crown prince, they reviewed the historical relations between the two countries and the close cooperation in various fields, as well as discussed ways to strengthen relations in all areas.

In the bilateral context, the two sides stressed the importance of strengthening work through the Saudi-Pakistani Supreme Coordination Council, diversifying trade exchange between the two brotherly countries and intensifying communication between the private sector in the two countries in order to discuss trade and investment opportunities and turn them into tangible partnerships.

The two sides also agreed to deepen the investment cooperation between the two countries, stimulate

partnerships and enable investment integration opportunities between the private sectors of the two countries. They also agreed to join efforts to develop the investment environment in the two countries and support a number of investment sectors of common interest.

The two sides expressed their intention to hold investment forums in order to introduce the available opportunities to the business sectors of both sides, urge them to establish partnerships in various investment fields, and work jointly to address the challenges faced by the investors through meetings of the Saudi-Pakistani Business Council.

The two sides welcomed the entry of the private sector of both countries into investment partnerships in the agricultural and food industries fields.

They expressed the hope that Russian and Ukrainian sides would reach a political solution that would end the crisis, achieve security and stability, and limit negative repercussions at the regional and international levels.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and agreed on the need to achieve security and stability, and to prevent the use of Afghan lands as a shelter for terrorist groups.

They also stressed the importance of respecting the rights guaranteed by the tolerant Islamic Sharia, in

order to achieve security and peace for Afghanistan, and the continuation of concerted international efforts to provide aid to the Afghan people.

However, some government sources on condition of anonymity claimed that Saudi Arabia had agreed to increase the existing over \$4bn assistance package to Pakistan to over \$7 billion.

Under the package Saudi Arabia will extend \$3bn safe deposit for another one year and extend oil supplies on deferred payments to \$2.4bn per year. It has also been learnt that Pakistan will issue Sukuk Bonds worth over \$2bn which will be bought by the Saudi government.

### PM's visit to UAE

During his visit to the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. They discussed advancing the longstanding relations between the two nations, and the prospects of propelling cooperation on various fronts.

The two sides reviewed a number of regional and international issues of common concern, according to the Emirates News Agency (WAM).

The meeting took place at Qasr Al Shati Palace where the Abu Dhabi crown prince wished PM Sharif success in leading Pakistan towards further progress and prosperity over the coming period.

Sheikh Mohammed emphasised the importance of historical relations between the two nations and the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the UAE to the country's successful development drive.

He wished for permanent stability to prevail for the benefit of the region, stressing UAE's support for all steps conducive to achieving peace and cooperation in the region and elsewhere.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## In GB, hope evaporates as glaciers melt faster and faster

With glaciers melting faster than before, Gilgit-Baltistan residents in some areas live under the constant threat of a natural disaster.

Those living in downstream areas and near lakes and rivers are most vulnerable, particularly those near Shisper and Hoper glaciers.

Glaciers in the Himalaya, Hindu Kush and Karakoram mountain ranges have melted rapidly, creating thousands of glacial lakes in the country's northern areas.

Around 30 of these lakes are at risk of sudden hazardous flooding, known as glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), the climate change ministry said earlier this week, adding that around seven million people were vulnerable.

In the Hassanabad village of Hunza Valley, the vast Shisper glacier dominates the landscape, heading towards villagers at an estimated speed of around four metres per day.

Climate change is causing most glaciers worldwide to shrink, but due to a meteorological anomaly, this is one of a few in the Karakoram mountain range that are surging.

This means hundreds of tonnes of ice and debris are pushing down the valley at ten times the normal rate or more, threatening the safety of the people and homes below.

According to an assessment report of the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), the Shisper glacier started to surge in May 2018.

The unusual surge blocked water flow from a stream originating in the nearby Muchuhur glacier, which normally falls into Hunza River at Hassanabad, thus forming an artificial lake.

According to the GBDMA assessment, the possible lake burst could submerge a portion of Karakoram Highway, a bridge, over 37 houses in Hassanabad, two powerhouses, a Frontier Works Organisation camp office and vast fertile lands. It may also block the flow of Hunza River, triggering an Attabad-like disaster. The water discharge from the dammed lake increases in summer



when glacier melting starts.

### 'Govt indifferent'

Tariq Jamil, a resident of Hassanabad valley, told Dawn that hundreds of kanals of fertile land, trees, homes, a powerhouse and water channels along with Hassanabad nullah were damaged by high water flow last summer.

"Three families were displaced when their homes located near the nullah were damaged last year when water eroded land," he said. "The government has failed to provide alternative arrangements to people living in the red zone."

In summer, residents live in constant fear as water discharge increases, he said, adding that this time around, water discharge had increased even before the season started.

Another resident, Amjad Ali, said the people of Hassanabad were at risk of dammed glacier lake outbursts.

He agreed that water discharge from the dammed lake was high this season. "If heatwaves continue in the next months, an outburst of the dammed lake or high water flows are feared, resulting in floods," he said, adding that he was unsatisfied with the arrangements to protect the lives and property of local people.

According to the local administration, a contingency plan had been prepared to cope with an emergency.

Officials said work was under way to channelise the nullah and construct protective walls to control the excessive flow of water.

Besides, the administration was

monitoring the daily movement of the glacier and has set up an automatic weather station and rebuilt irrigation channels.

### Hoper glacier

Likewise, the unusual surge of an 18km-long Hoper glacier in Nagar district also gives residents nightmares.

Ahmed Hussain, a resident, told Dawn that the speed of Hoper melting had increased this season.

The height of the glacier has decreased, crevasses have appeared and the sound of falling ice can be heard. Several lakes have also formed in the glacier.

Residents of Hoper valley have to cross the glacier to access the other side. However, the recent glacial movement has blocked trekking paths, making the exercise extremely dangerous. A local resident recently got injured while crossing the glacier.

Mr Hussain said the surging Hoper glacier had also destroyed many tourist destinations and adversely impacted the ecology, reducing the snow leopard and Markhor population in the recent past.

Another resident, Dr Sajjad Hussain, told Dawn that Hoper was one of the rare glaciers in the world situated downside of human settlement and cultivated land.

He said it was alarming that the glacier started moving at an unusual speed this summer.

He regretted that the possible threats from the glacial surge to local people had never been discussed and the government had yet

to take steps to mitigate the potential threats and or even make locals aware of them.

Shahzad Shigri of the GB Environmental Protection Agency told Dawn that possible heatwaves could affect the speed of melting glaciers across the region.

He said snow received in winter at peaks particularly in Astore, Diamer and Ghizer started melting rapidly, creating flash floods and thus endangering people living in downstream areas.

Mr Shigri said heatwaves could cause GLOFs or make active glaciers slip, leading to major disasters. Glacier central

Pakistan has more glaciers than any other country outside the polar region nearly 5,300 in the Karakoram, Himalayan and Hindu Kush ranges, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

They feed the Indus River system, the country's water lifeline. But data gathered over the last 50 years shows that almost all glaciers exhibit signs of melting due to rising temperatures.

As the glaciers retreat, they leave behind lakes supported by ice dams or accumulations of rock and soil. Inherently unstable, these dams often burst, sending huge volumes of water rushing into the villages below them.

Environmental experts say GB residents are particularly at risk from glacial melting.

In July 2018, a small glacier melt had swollen Barsuwat Nullah in the Ishkoman valley of Ghizer district, creating an artificial lake and blocking the flow of the Immit River.

The water submerged more than 30 houses, cultivated land, a link road and cattle farms and washed away over a dozen vehicles in upstream areas.

On Jan 4, 2010, a massive landslide buried the village of Attabad, destroying 26 houses and killing 20 people. The landslide dammed Hunza River and formed Attabad lake.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Abdul Joshi, Shehroze Kashif conquer two highest peaks

Two Pakistani climbers separately summited the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, and fourth highest, Lhotse, in Nepal.

Abdul Joshi from the Shimshal valley of Hunza in Gilgit-Baltistan, who scaled the 8,849-metre Mount Everest, is part of a 13-member expedition team, led by Nepalese mountaineer Mingma Gyalje Sherpa (Mingma G). While 20-year-old Shehroze Kashif set the record for becoming the youngest mountaineer in the world to summit four highest peaks after scaling the 8,516m Lhotse.

Dawa Futi Sherpa, the manager of the trekking company facilitating Joshi, told Dawn that the team included Liu Wenwei, Hai Qiannan, Feng Jianfei and Zhan Xiongchang from China; Anna Surysheva from Russia; Nathan Peter Longman from Australia; Marina Cortes from Poland; Gabriel Tarso from Brazil; Montana from Thailand; Raju Lama, Ramkumar Shrestha and Suraj Paudyal from Nepal.

Dawa Futi confirmed that the expe-

dition team reached the top of the world's highest mountain at 6:40am. She said according to Pakistan Standard Time, the team started the summit push from camp-4 at 9pm. After the summit, they returned to camp-4 and will descend for camp-2, and return to the base camp.

Karrar Haidri, the secretary of Alpine Club of Pakistan, in a statement congratulated Joshi for the successful feat.

Joshi is also the first Pakistani to summit Annapurna, the tenth highest mountain in the world at 8,091m, in 2021. He also led a 12-member Pakistani team to the first-ever summit of Passu Cones.

Not only has Joshi summited a number of peaks, he also explored and discovered places that are still unknown and unreachable for others. Known in the community as the "Path Finder" for his extraordinary talent of finding new routes, Joshi was the first person in the world to cross FN/Joshi Pass and Verjerav Pass.

Meanwhile, Shehroze Kashif from Lahore, who was also part of an ex-



pedition team, summited the fourth-highest peak in the world, Lhotse, directly from camp-3. Kashif and his team had started the summit push.

Earlier on May 5, the young Kashif had summited the 8,586-metre Kanchenjunga. He also holds other records, becoming the youngest Pakistani to scale the Everest the world's highest peak on May 6, 2021, and the youngest person in the world to climb K2 the second highest mountain on July 27 the same year, peaking both the mountains within a span of nearly three months.

Following the Monday morning climb, Kashif set a world record by becoming the youngest mountaineer ever to summit the four highest peaks of the world.

He is also the youngest Pakistani to have climbed the Broad Peak (8,047m) at the age of 17. He used supplemental oxygen during his climbs at the Broad Peak, Everest and K2. Kashif first started climbing mountains at the age of 11 when he summited the Makra Peak (3,885m), followed by Musa Ka Musalla (4,080m).

He continued his passion with Gondogoro La K2 Base Camp trek at the age of 14, and at 15 he was able to complete the Khurdopin Pass (5,800m) trek. At 18, he did Khusar Gang, a 6,050m peak, Alpine style.

Fellow climbers, politicians and journalists congratulated both the mountaineers for their feats.

*Courtesy:Dawn*

## Indus water talks to resume today amid warnings of scarcity

Indus water talks between Pakistan and India are set to resume here amid warnings of an imminent scarcity in the region spurred by climate change and callous abuse.

The overarching background of depleting resources and melting glaciers could add urgency to the two-day talks and a Pakistan delegation, headed by the commissioner for Indus waters, Syed Muhammad Mehr Ali Shah, arrived here on Sunday to resume the conversation.

Sources said an improved atmosphere was expected for the sensitive and intense dialogue, which water sharing always involves.

The two sides held their last meeting in Islamabad in March, where Pakistan's objections to Indian hydel projects were raised as white heat scorched both countries. Floods and interdicted flow of water are two sides of the problem, both natural and man-made.

In previous talks, Pakistan had shared its reservations over the spillway and freeboard of the Pakal Dul project, and sought a visit to the site in early May. India has rejected the suggestion and so the Pakistani delegation will not be visiting the site.

"The Pakistani delegation will not visit the under-construction Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnaj dams, but the matter and other projects will be taken up with India," said Mehr Ali Shah, Pakistan's commissioner for Indus waters.

"Pakistan has always insisted on the implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty and raised its voice on India's behaviour in a timely manner," Mr Shah added.

Discussions on the matter could be made part of the annual report and minutes of the PCIW.

Sherry Rehman, who heads the task force on climate change set up by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, cautioned this week that Pakistan was among the three most water-stressed countries in the world and could become a scarcity-hit country by 2025 if steps were not taken for conservation and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Indian hardliners have frequently prescribed the diversion of waters from rivers flowing into Pakistan, but that would be an act of war, analysts say.

In March, both India and Pakistan had agreed and reiterated their commitment to implement the



Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in its true spirit.

The treaty mandates the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) to maintain cooperative arrangements for implementation of the agreement and to promote cooperation between the two sides for development of the water systems.

The treaty mandates the PIC to meet at least once a year alternately in India and Pakistan.

The IWT has been the cornerstone of the sharing of waters of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan, and the Indian government remains committed to addressing all matters within the treaty's purview bilaterally with Pakistan through appropriate mechanisms in accordance with the IWT.

*Courtesy:Dawn*

## Millions of views push PTI's rivals towards TikTok

Social media has been the foremost battleground between political parties in recent years, and after going at each other on Twitter where they unleashed hashtag after hashtag day and night, the 'war' has now moved to another social networking platform.

On TikTok, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) hashtag, "Imported hukoomat namanzoor" reached record viewership of 933 million while on Twitter, the same hashtag boasted over 100 million tweets in the last week of April.

TikTok is the world's largest video-sharing platform that has not been taken very seriously by mainstream political parties thus far. That is, until PTI supporters took it by storm.

Possibly taking a cue from the massive viewership of pro-PTI videos on TikTok, PML-N Vice president Maryam Nawaz recently held a meeting with the social media team of her party.

Announcing the gathering on Twitter, the PML-N tweeted: "A delegation of PML-N tiktokers met PMLN leader Maryam Nawaz at Jati Umra," signifying that the party had plucked out a group from its social media team dedicated to the video-sharing app only.

Social media expert Muhammad Imran, who has received extensive training in the medium in China, believed the massive popularity gained by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari during his party's 'Awami March' on Islamabad and the overwhelming response on TikTok to the recent activities of PTI Chairman Imran Khan have taken their political opponents by surprise.

"The PTI should be credited with making the PML-N and PPP shift their focus to social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter," Mr Imran said, adding, "But these platforms have a higher degree of restrictions even on political activities, therefore TikTok is a good option to share anything and everything for the PPP and PTI." He added that the PPP's 'Awami March' got limited coverage on mainstream media and a similar trend was witnessed on the popular social media platforms, while on TikTok, the hashtag #longmarch recorded 83.2m views and #PPP-longmarch 32m.

The PTI clearly has an edge over all the political parties on social media, not only among its workers, but also in its support base. Even while Imran Khan was the prime minister, several



hashtags initiated by his party crossed the 77m viewership mark on TikTok. Some hashtags even saw unexpectedly enormous numbers, including #pmimrankhan with over 264m viewers, #imrankhan with 580m, while #ImportedHukoomat-Namanzoor (in Urdu) had 933m views in the last week of April.

The head of the PTI's social media team, Dr Arsalan Khalid, too expressed surprise and said the numbers on TikTok were an accidental discovery and his team cannot take too much credit for this success.

"We were mainly focused on the urban class and some people shared some funny old videos that would further our party agenda, but it triggered enthusiasm among TikTokers, pushing the views to millions," he added.

Observing the development,

Maryam Nawaz held a meeting with her close aide and MPA Sania Ashiq to discuss the issue, and Atif Rauf, the unofficial head of the PML-N social media team, was tasked with gathering a separate group for TikTok only.

On April 22, the PML-N's TikTok team, led by Saud Butt, was announced to push the party on the short video-sharing platform. Having made his debut on the platform in April 2020, Mr Butt so far has over 1.9m followers and his videos have crossed 94m likes.

Meanwhile, a senior official at TikTok in Dubai told Dawn in response to a query that although it was an entertainment platform, all types of content was allowed to be posted as long as it did not violate the Community Guidelines.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Box Office Numbers of Pakistani Movies Released on Eid Ul Fitr 2022

The Pakistani film industry has revealed its movie list for Eid-ul-Fitr release to provide the audience with entertainment through local cinema during the Eid holidays. Three movies have released their trailers, full of fun, suspense, thrill, romance and comedy.

### Dum Mastam

Imran Ashraf and Amar Khan's Dum Mastam has attracted the Pakistani audience with its faced pace trailer. The film is produced by Akhtar Hasnain and Adnan Siddiqui. Ehtashamuddin's directorial venture promises a story more than a mere romantic comedy.

### Ghabrana Nahi Hai

Saqib Khan directed Ghabrana



Nahi Hai is a crime thriller genre. Saba Qamar and Zahid Ahmed can be seen in lead roles. The movie targets corruption,

politics, and the rights of women. The trailer of Jamil Baig and Hassan Zia's production showcases a powerful woman as the

protagonist.

### Chakkar.

The latest Lollywood movie to unveil its first look was Chakkar. The movie is directed by Yasir Nawaz, who has made it a ritual to release a film on Eid. Neelum Muneer and Ahsan Khan shine as the lead cast. Unlike his previous movies, Yasir has tried his hands on a murder mystery; but with a hint of comedy.

### Parde Mein Rehne Do

Earlier, Ali Rehman Khan and Hania Aamir's rom-com, Parde Mein Rehne Do, had also released its trailer, hoping to shine in cinemas on Eid.

*Courtesy: The upcut*

## Pakistani climber creates history by summiting world's third highest peak

Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze Kashif made history by summiting the world's third-highest peak Kanchenjunga in Nepal.

According to Radio Pakistan, Shehroze has already made two other unique world records.

The 20-year-old became the youngest mountaineer in the world as he summited the three highest peaks of the world – Everest (8,849m), K2 (8,611m) and Kanchenjunga (8,586m).

President Dr Arif Alvi congratulated Shehroze Kashif on achieving the unique feat. "You have made us proud once again, MashaAllah. This time Kanchenjunga 8586m in Nepal. As per his official Instagram account @thebroadboy he is now world's youngest mountaineer who has scaled the world's three highest peaks (Everest, K2, Kanchenjunga)," Alvi wrote on his official Twitter handle.

Last year in July, the Pakistani climber became the youngest mountaineer to summit K2, the world's second-highest peak.

The amazing feat from Kashif, a resident of Lahore, came about two months after he became the youngest climber to summit the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest as part of the SST Expedition 2021.

A passionate climber, Kashif first started climbing at the age of 11, summiting the Makra Peak (3,885m). Moving on from there, he aced Musa ka Massalah (4,080m), aged 12, followed by the Chembra Peak (4,600m).

This was followed by Minglik Sar Shimshal (6,050m) at age 13, the K2 Gondogoro La K2 Base Camp (5,585m) at age 14 and Khurdopin Pass (5,890m) at age 15.

At 17 years of age, he climbed Broad peak



(8,047m) earning the title 'The Broad Boy' and reached the peak of Khusar Gang-Alpine Style (6,050m) at 18 years of age.

At the age of 19, he conquered Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 8,849m, becoming one of the youngest in the country to do so.

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## The Glassworker wins over Annecy Animation Film Festival 2022

Pakistan's first hand-drawn film, Mano Animation Studios' *The Glassworker*, is among eight feature films from all over the globe selected for the Work In Progress category at France's Annecy International Animation Festival 2022.

"It is truly an honour to represent Pakistan at Annecy 2022. To have our first feature film, *The Glassworker*, on the same stage as so many incredible and inspiring animated films that have come before us is genuinely humbling," said Usman Riaz, the director.

Calling it an amazing opportunity, he said this will open up avenues for expansion in the animation world. "To be the first hand-drawn feature film to come from Pakistan and for it to be acknowledged by our peers is extremely encouraging. I love the craft of animation more than anything in the world, I have dedicated my life to it. With Annecy Work in Progress, we are in the incredible position to share my love for the craft with the most outstanding studios, artists and animators in the world."

The Film Festival is recognised globally and is always on the lookout for anything that stands out in the world of animation. The Work in Progress list determines and narrows down films bursting



with the potential for future awards and box office success. Some of the high-profile films that have made the cut include *Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse*, *Klaus* and *How to Train Your Dragon 2*.

Usman's feature film is an original story about young Vincent and his father Tomas, who run the finest glass workshop in the country and find their lives upended by an impending war in which they want no part. The arrival in their town of an army colonel and his young, talented violinist daughter, Alliz, shakes their reality and tests the relationship between father and son.

Annecy Work in Progress will be a 75-minute detailed showcase to industry professionals on Mano Animation Studios and *The Glassworker*.

Renowned Spanish producer Manuel Cristóbal

will be joining the team. Calling Usman "a new voice worth recovering," he was moved by the story and taken back by the quality of the film. He called the director the "driving force" behind the project, saying he was excited for the film and the fresh voice breaking through.

Inspired by Japanese animation film studio, Studio Ghibli, Usman followed suit and founded Mano Animation Studios in Karachi alongside Khizer Riaz and Mariam Riaz Paracha. He adopted Ghibli's co-founder Hayao Miyazaki's hand-drawn animation preference that's revered by people all over the world for *The Glassworker*. "One of my proudest accomplishments was when Studio Ghibli bought my film *Wrinkles* and distributed it in Japan. *Wrinkles* was the first and only Spanish film Ghibli bought," he shared.

The *Glassworker* project involves young and talented artists with a median age of 27 years and 52 per cent of the team is female. It's been described as a project full of surprises that encourages diversity in animation. Mano Animation has built a collaboration network that extends to Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Peru, Argentina, the United States and the United Kingdom.

*Courtesy: Image*

**Patron:**  
Ms. Seema Mughal  
*Vice Chancellor*  
**Editor:**  
Dr. Sabir Ahmed  
*Assistant Professor*  
**Graphics & Layout:**  
Shazia Anwar

Greenwichians interested  
in contributions!  
Shoot an email to the editor,  
including your name,  
roll number and your work at  
drsabir@greenwich.edu.pk

  
*Greenwich University*  
Pakistan - Mauritius  
Greenwich University, DK-10, 38th Street, Darakshan, Phase VI,  
Defence Housing Authority, Karachi-75500, Pakistan  
UAN: (021)111-202-303; Tel: (021) 35840397-98; Fax: (021)35851910  
Email: gu@greenwich.edu.pk ; URL: www.greenwich.edu.pk