

Positive



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

June in History

June 3, 1947: British Government decides to bifurcate British India, into two sovereign states – India and Pakistan

June 25, 1958: President Rule is proclaimed in East Pakistan.

June 14, 1961: Government takes over news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

June 1, 1962: Soviet Union awards Lenin Prize to Faiz Ahmed Faiz for his literary contribution.

June 7, 1962: SUPARCO launches Pakistan's first weather rocket, Rebbar – I from Sonmiani.

June 8, 1962: National Assembly elected and begins its first session. Ayub Khan takes oath of first President of Pakistan under new constitution.

June 30, 1965: Pakistan and India sign accord on Rann of Kutch.

June 11, 1978: Altaf Hussain forms All Pakistan Mubajir Students Organization (APMSO).

June 21, 1980: Government starts collecting Zakat.

June 6, 1986: President Zia lays foundation stone of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi.

June 15, 1988: President General Zia promulgates Shariat Ordinance making Sharia supreme law of the land.

June 18, 2017: Pakistan wins 2017 ICC Champions Trophy defeating India in the finals.

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.

Army chief awarded S. Arabia's highest medal

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was conferred with the King Abdulaziz Medal the highest award of Saudi Arabia for his contributions towards enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief had paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia and called on Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the kingdom's first deputy prime minister and defence minister, and Chief of General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces Gen Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili in Jeddah.

During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, bilateral defence and security cooperation as well as regional peace and stability were discussed.

The army chief said Pakistan "values its historical and brotherly relations with the kingdom and acknowledges its unique place in the Islamic world".



The ISPR said both sides agreed on enhancing defence cooperation in the fields of joint training, air defence, counter-terrorism and communication and information domain.

"They also agreed to further enhance cordial relations and deep spirit of brotherhood into enduring strategic partnership, being vital players in the region with significant responsibility towards unity of the Muslim Ummah," the ISPR added.

According to the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Prince Mo-

ammed conferred Gen Bajwa with the King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellent Class for his "distinguished efforts in consolidating and strengthening bonds of friendship and joint cooperation and developing Saudi Pakistani relations".

Gen Bajwa was received by Prince Mohammed, with whom a meeting was held on a host of issues, the SPA said.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the military fields and opportunities for developing them. The two sides also deliberated upon

a number of issues of common interest.

Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Chief of General Staff Gen Fayyad Al-Ruwaili and a number of senior officials from both sides were also present on the occasion.

Shortly afterwards, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the army chief for receiving the honour. "Heartiest congratulations to Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on conferment of King Abdulaziz Medal for his contributions to strengthening defence ties between our two brotherly countries. It is a great honour for the people and the armed forces of Pakistan," he said in a tweet.

He followed up his tweet with another one, in which he said Pakistan considered the security of Saudi Arabia "as our own and are completely resolved to further cementing our multifaceted bilateral relationship including excellent defence cooperation".

Courtesy: Dawn

Safeguarding sovereignty army's 'sacred duty': Gen Bajwa

Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday said that safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity was army's "sacred duty" and it would never fail the country.

Speaking at the 80th Formation Commanders' Conference held at GHQ, Gen Bajwa said: "Pakistan Army being a professional institution shall always fulfil its responsibilities towards security, integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan as a sacred duty."

Formation Commanders' Conference is one of the military's larger forums, which usually meets annually for discussion on strategy, operational and training matters, besides deliberating on organisational issues. It is attended by corps commanders, principal staff officers and all formation commanders of the army.



In quite a departure from the practice seen over the past few years, the 79th and 80th conferences were held in quick succession within a gap of less than two months. The previous conference was held on April 12.

"Participants were briefed on professional matters, national security challenges and response measures," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The reaffirmation of the resolve to protect sovereignty and integrity looked to be the institutional response to the relentless criticism coming from former prime minister Imran Khan.

Mr Khan had in his last rally questioned when the National Security Committee had concluded that the United States had interfered in Pakistan's internal matters and was delivered a démarche for doing so, then why

didn't the defenders of the country try to foil it.

He had in other rallies and a TV interview also expressed his concern about the implications of aggravating economy for the army and the nuclear programme and ultimately the country's integrity.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Nadeem Raza had at a seminar earlier this week rebutted Imran Khan's apprehensions about the nuclear programme.

Gen Bajwa, speaking at the conference, recalled the changes in the geo-strategic environment and urged the troops to maintain high standards of operational preparedness. He expressed satisfaction over the progress of Operation Raddul Fasaad and lauded the achievements made in the fight against terrorism, the ISPR said.

Courtesy: Dawn

PM sees \$5bn trade potential with Turkey

On the first day of his official visit to Turkey, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif noted that the closeness in Pakistan and Turkey's relationship was not reflected in trade relations between the two countries, and expressed the desire that the volume of trade between the two should go up to \$5 billion per year.

Addressing the Turkey-Pakistan Business Forum, the PM regretted what he termed the "maltreatment" of Turkish investors at the hands of the previous government over the past four years.

"The first metro in Lahore was designed by Turkey. Solid waste management expertise given to Pakistan in peanuts. Turkish trained our police free of cost. But in return what we have done to our Turkish brothers."

He also announced a decision to lift visa restrictions for Turkish citizens. In an interview with Turkish news agency Anadolu, the PM also thanked the leadership of Turkey for its principled support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

"Both Pakistan and Turkey have a similarity of views on regional and international issues and enjoy close collaboration on bilateral, regional,

and multilateral forums," Sharif said ahead of his three-day official visit to Turkey.

On Pakistan's role in US policy in the region, he said Pakistan and the US had a long-standing and broad-based relationship in various areas of mutual interest.

"We wish to deepen and widen our engagement with the US, which remains Pakistan's biggest export market and a major source of FDI and remittances," he said.

On China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the vision of connectivity and win-win cooperation at the heart of the project was in line with his government's priorities, as well as the vision for Pakistan as a peaceful, prosperous region.

He mentioned that work was underway on CPEC Special Economic Zones, and Pakistan was incentivizing foreign investments in key industrial sectors.

On relations with India, he said Pakistan pursued its shift from geo-strategy to geo-economics, we are looking to forge partnerships, especially within the region, based on connectivity, collective development,



and prosperity. The prime minister was accompanied on this trip by Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Investment Board Chaudhry Salik Hussain and PMs special assistants Tariq Fatemi and Fahad Hussain. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will also join the delegation.

During his visit, the prime minister will have a one-on-one meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which will be followed by delegation-level talks. A business delegation from Pakistan comprising representatives of leading companies across various sectors will also participate in the business en-

gagements.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also met with his Turkish counterpart, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu upon his arrival.

"Hosted my brother FM @BBhuttoZardari of #Pakistan in Ankara. Reviewed preparations of PM Shahbaz Sharif's visit... Will further develop our cooperation w/friendly and brotherly Pakistan on the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations," the Turkish FM tweeted.

Mr Bhutto Zardari thanked his host and tweeted that "fruitful discussions on a range of bilateral as well as regional issues" also took place during the meeting.

Courtesy: Dawn

Returning Shadab terms West Indies ODIs important for Pakistan

All rounder Shadab Khan has termed West Indies ODIs important for Pakistan, as the Men in Green are looking to improve their position at the ICC World Cup Super League table.

The Babar Azam-led side will host West Indies for three-match ODI series in Multan from June 8. The series is part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League. The 23-year-old, who hasn't featured for Pakistan since December, said that the side will be looking forward to securing maximum points from the series.

"The upcoming series is quite significant for me as I have not played any international and much domestic cricket recently, and I am

making a return after injury," said Shadab while speaking to the Pakistan Cricket Board. "Another reason which makes this series important is that we are playing it in our country and in Multan."

"I am looking forward to doing well for my team as these three ODIs are very important because of the Super League points. I am sure fans will get to see a good series and we will continue the Australia series momentum."

Pakistan are currently placed ninth in the Super League rankings with 60 points one place above the West Indies and a series win whether 2-1 or 3-0 will see them jump to the third spot.



Moreover, commenting on his return he said that playing for the country is a different feeling altogether. "I am very delighted to be back in the side and be amongst my friends as I had played the last for Pakistan in December," he said.

"It is a different feeling altogether to play for your country, which

makes coming back to this dressing room even more exciting," he added.

Shadab had to be withdrawn from the three ODIs and one-off T20I against Australia in Lahore earlier in the year because of an injury.

Courtesy: Saama

Compromise on country's nuclear programme ruled out

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) Gen Nadeem Raza on Monday ruled out any compromise on the country's nuclear programme and reminded about the limits on debate around nuclear issues.

"National security is indivisible and under no circumstances shall Pakistan allow a compromise on its nuclear programme," Gen Raza, who is also deputy chairman of the National Command Authority the top body overseeing the nuclear and missile programme was quoted in a statement as having said at a seminar at the National University of Sciences and Technology on 'Regional Environment and Imperatives of Security'.

Only excerpts of Gen Raza's speech that emphasised the significance attached to the nuclear programme were shared through the statement issued by the event organisers; he recalled the wide support it enjoys in the country; reiterated Pakistan's role as a responsible nuclear country; and cautioned against airing misgivings about it.

The statement was, in a way, the first official reaction from the military to former prime minister Imran Khan's interview aired by a private television channel on June 1 in which he had worried that the aggravating economic situation can eventually lead to a compromise on the nuclear programme with potential implications for country's integrity.

Responses like the one made by Gen Raza were in the past usually given to foreign opinions about the nuclear programme. It was, therefore, one of those rare occasions when discussion within the country had to be responded at this level.

Mr Khan was not the first leader to have expressed these views. Some other political leaders too had expressed similar apprehensions in the past, but it was the first time that a former prime minister, who had left the office quite recently, stated this.

In fact there have been longstanding fears in Pakistan that US had designs to denuclearise Pakistan. These anxieties were the result of continuous pressure from US and other western countries that the nuclear programme faced since its inception.

The objectives of the pressure kept changing as the programme progressed. While it was initially aimed at stopping Pakistan from acquiring nuclear weapons, more lately it was about preventing the development of long-range missiles and tactical weapons.

Pakistan always resisted this pressure and maintained that it would do all to maintain credible deterrence against India, which was being backed by the West in developing its conventional and strategic capabilities.

Gen Raza while underscoring the significance of the



nuclear programme said it was "the guarantor of deterrence and defence of the motherland".

He also reminded about the "across the board support" of all political parties and the people of the country.

The chairman called for avoiding "unnecessary and unfounded views" about the nuclear programme in public discussions. This, he maintained, was the norm in nuclear-capable countries.

Pakistan, he said, was a confident and responsible nuclear power that pursued the policy of full spectrum deterrence within the precincts of credible minimum deterrence.

"Our national security and safety architecture meets all national and international obligations and caters for all kinds of scenarios," he further said.

Courtesy: Dawn

Hostile forces targeting CPEC progress: Chinese envoy

Chinese envoy and Pakistani leaders warned of growing threats to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from fake news and disinformation about the mega-development project and emphasised the need for cooperation in countering it.

The issue was highlighted at the 7th CPEC Media Forum, which was jointly hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan-China Institute, and China Economic Net, where the speakers talked about the potential of propaganda, misinformation and fake news to polarise public opinion, promote violent extremism and undermine the development project.

CPEC has been widely projected in Pakistan as a game changer that would influence the region's geo-strategic, geo-economic and geo-political dynamics; and as an answer to its infrastructure shortcomings. But, at the same time media reports

spread scepticism about it by pointing to the possibility of Pakistan falling in China's debt trap, alleged absence of transparency in the projects, and environmental impact of the projects, especially coal-based power plants.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf, in his keynote speech, underscored the importance of CPEC, saying it was the country's best bet for becoming the region's geo-economic hub, but regretted that it had been "a victim of the malicious disinformation campaign" carried out by the "detractors" of CPEC and China.

In an apparent reference to growing attacks against Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan by the Baloch separatists, Mr Ashraf suggested that extremist and ethnic elements could be exploited to sabotage the project.

He, therefore, called for reaching out to the local communities to address



their grievances as they could fall for the vicious anti-CPEC propaganda. Chinese chargé d'affaires Pang Chunxue also spoke of the seriousness of this challenge.

She was more specific about who was behind the fake news and propaganda campaigns against CPEC.

Mentioning the strategic alliances formed by the US to contain China Quad, which is a group of US, Australia, India and Japan; Aukus, which is a trilateral security pact between Australia, UK, and US; and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework she said they were targeting China and undermining its efforts for promoting peace and development in the world.

"CPEC cannot progress well in the world full of cold war mentality," the Chinese diplomat added while reminding about the impact of the global environment on it.

Chairman Senate Defence Committee Mushahid Hussain, who also heads Pakistan-China Institute, described fake news and disinformation as the biggest challenge for CPEC.

He urged the two countries to jointly counter it.

CPEC, he emphasised, was not directed against any other country and said the mindset of cold war and containment of China is rejected.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan, Turkey to boost bilateral trade

Pakistan and Turkey agreed on Wednesday to constitute a joint task force under the coordination of their commerce and trade ministries to develop a comprehensive road map, covering the issues connected to bilateral trade.

The joint task force under the Turkish Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan would cover areas, including logistics, banking, customs and agriculture. The agreement was reached in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish Trade Minister Dr Mehmet Mus.

During the meeting, the prime minister underscored the importance of deepening economic engagement and realising the true potential of business, trade and investment between Pakistan and Turkey.

Underlining the need for increasing the bilateral trade, Shehbaz highlighted the importance of early finalisation of Trade in Goods Agreement, which would open up new opportunities to boost bilateral trade across various sectors to the



benefit of both economies and countries.

The prime minister also noted that the connectivity projects between Pakistan and Turkey, in particular Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Cargo Train, which would provide additional avenues for the traders on both sides to conduct business efficiently and expeditiously.

Read Erdogan assures PM of investment boost

Dr Mus concurred with the Prime Minister on realising true potential of the trade between the two countries and assured of full cooperation in this regard.

Separately, in a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted the convergence between the two countries on a range of regional and international issues and stressed the need for continued close coordination.

While receiving the Turkish foreign minister to the meeting, Shehbaz noted that the bilateral relations were exceptionally warm as the people of the two countries shared special bonds that dated back to centuries.

Shehbaz lauded the contribution of the Turkish foreign minister in ad-

vancing the bilateral relations and appreciated his important role in strengthening existing institutional mechanisms of cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, preparations for the 7th session of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) were reviewed. Also, the prime minister underscored the importance of increasing bilateral trade volume to \$5 billion over the next three years.

Noting the steadfast support of the two countries for each other on issues of core interest, Shehbaz thanked Turkey for its principled policy on Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir deeply appreciated Turkey's support for this just cause.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister stressed the importance of addressing the dire humanitarian situation, the releasing Afghan assets to help stabilise the economy, and continuing efforts for sustainable peace and stability in the country.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Pakistan, Turkey to shore up strategic, economic ties

Pakistan and Turkey have a positive and traditionally strong relationship, maintaining extensive cultural, commercial, strategic, and military cooperation over the years. Turkey established diplomatic ties soon after Pakistan's independence in 1947, and bilateral relations became very close due to the pair's cultural, religious, and geopolitical links.

Turkey has also begun to play a prominent role in Pakistan's foreign policy, especially in security and defence cooperation. Both the countries have maintained long-standing military ties with each other. Turkey has trained Pakistan Airforce officers to upgrade its F-16 fleet and purchased minor aerial weapons and components from Pakistan. The two nations are strengthening economic ties with a Pakistan Turkey Free Trade



Agreement that aims to raise bilateral trade volume between the two countries.

Furthermore, the Road Transport Joint Commission between the two countries is working on regulating road transport. Also, both the countries have signed a citizenship agreement to facilitate the movement of tourists and business personnel.

Moreover, both countries are trying to create more people-to-people exchanges, such as student exchange programs, conferences focused on public-private partnerships, and workshops to encourage start-ups.

Recently, both the countries have vowed to enhance their strategic and economic relations and agreed to take measures to eliminate terrorism. In this context, the two

sides signed six bilateral memoranda of understanding on public debt management, cooperation between credit guarantee institutions for SME financing, housing, public-private partnership models, especially in transportation and health, knowledge sharing in economic and social policy planning, and technical cooperation in highway engineering.

Turkey has agreed to help Pakistan in helicopter manufacturing to enhance defence cooperation further. The government has invited Turkey investors to invest in Pakistan's hydropower and renewable energy sector to enhance bilateral cooperation in other fields. These initiatives will boost cultural, economic, diplomatic, and strategic ties between countries.

Courtesy: <https://iips.com.pk>

Planners set 5pc GDP growth target for next year

The National Economic Council (NEC) on Wednesday set next year's economic growth rate target at five per cent with a Rs2.184 trillion worth of consolidated public sector investment almost unchanged from Rs2.135tr development allocation in the current year.

The meeting of the NEC the country's highest economic decision-making body was presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Chief ministers of three provinces other than Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other members of the council attended.

The participants unanimously decided that every effort would be made to reach 6pc growth rate next year.

Officials said the consolidated size of the national development budget was set at Rs2.184tr, which included the federal allocation of Rs800 billion against the current year's allocation of Rs900bn, although the meeting was informed that total federal expenditure would stand restricted at Rs550bn.

The provinces would separately formulate their annual development plans worth Rs1.384tr in aggregate against Rs1.235tr for the current year, showing an increase of over 12pc.

The council also unanimously de-

cidated that 60pc of the federal public sector development programme (PSDP) would be spent on ongoing development projects and the remaining 40pc on new projects. This would help accommodate maximum projects of the coalition partners ahead of general elections next year, an official said.

An official statement quoted the prime minister as telling the NEC members that the top priority for next year's development agenda would be to improve the lives of the people by utilising the full capacity of the federal and provincial administrations.

The government would focus on developing infrastructure, improving governance and ensuring uninterrupted and affordable energy, quality education and basic health facilities for all without discrimination.

The NEC was a representative forum of national unity and cohesion, he said, adding that its key theme of co-ordinated efforts by the centre and the provinces for national harmony should be guiding principles.

He said "unwise" policy measures taken by the previous government had created a situation where the country was now facing both internal and external economic challenges like poverty, inflation, unemployment and instability.



The NEC also approved the Macro-economic Framework for Annual Plan 2022-23, which envisaged 5pc growth rate on the back of agriculture (3.9pc), manufacturing (7.1pc) and services (5.1pc) sectors.

The investment will also be moderated because of fiscal and current account compression, whereas inflation will stay in double digits (11.5pc) as global inflationary pressures will not taper off very quickly.

The projected growth of 3.9pc in the agricultural sector mainly depended on the revival of cotton and wheat production, consistent availability of water, certified seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and agriculture credit facilities. Revival of both these crops will not only support growth momentum but will also ease out balance-of-payments pressures through fewer import requirements.

Under the annual plan, elevated industrial performance over the past two years is expected to consolidate, whereas augmented production capac-

ity during these years will anchor the growth momentum. However, the growth momentum will be moderated owing to fiscal consolidation efforts.

The broad-based revival of large-scale manufacturing is projected to sustain growth at 7.4pc during 2022-23. There are downside risks of a high cost and low supplies of energy inputs, exchange rate-related uncertainties and Russia-Ukraine war-related supply shocks, which have the potential to impact the manufacturing sector. The overall manufacturing sector is projected to grow 7.1pc during the next fiscal year.

The service sector will also be subject to moderation in growth and is targeted to grow by 5.1pc in 2022-23.

The investment level for the year 2022-23 is expected to decrease slightly to 14.7pc of GDP due to stabilisation and an uncertain economic environment.

Courtesy: Dawn

Fawad Khan appointed National Goodwill Ambassador for UNDP Pakistan

Humsafar fame actor and nation's heartthrob Fawad Khan has been appointed "National Goodwill Ambassador" for United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan.

This was announced during the launching ceremony of UNDP's Sustainable Development Program 2023 that took place in Islamabad. UNDP's goodwill ambassadors are inspirational individuals who serve as spokespersons to uphold the UN Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ceremony started with the contract signing between UNDP Pakistan's Resident Representative Knut Ostby and Fawad Khan, followed by

the screening of a climate action advocacy film 'Don't Choose Extinction'.

The film, launched by the UNDP Headquarters during COP26, advocates for phasing out fossil fuels for a more sustainable and equitable future. To reach wider population and to raise awareness on the issue of climate change in Pakistan, Mr Fawad Khan has done the voice-over of the film in Urdu.

"We are incredibly proud to have Fawad Khan as our Goodwill Ambassador. As you all know, climate change is one of the most serious and immediate risks we're facing. I appreciate that as a spokesperson for Agenda 2030, Fawad Khan's first advocacy support highlights climate action," re-



marked UNDP Pakistan's Resident Representative, Mr Knut Ostby.

"I am honoured to be signed as the National Goodwill Ambassador for UNDP Pakistan," commented Mr Fawad Khan while speaking to the audience of green ambassadors and social entrepreneurs. "I truly believe that the Sustainable Development Goals provide us with a roadmap for peace and prosperity, for people and the planet. This is an exciting opportunity for me to raise aware-

ness and advocate the Agenda 2030."

The ceremony started with the contract signing between Mr Knut Ostby and Mr Fawad Khan

Deputy Resident Representative Aliona Niculita, Head of Communications Unit Ayesha Babar, and UNDP's young beneficiaries working as green social

Courtesy: Saama

Pakistan slams BJP for remarks against Holy Prophet

President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the derogatory remarks recently made by two leaders of India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

"I condemn in the strongest possible words hurtful comments of India's BJP leader about our beloved Prophet (PBUH). [I have] said it repeatedly India under Modi is trampling religious freedoms and persecuting Muslims. The world should take note and severely reprimand India," the premier said in a Twitter.

"Our love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is supreme. All Muslims can sacrifice their life for the love and respect of their Holy Prophet (PBUH)," he said.

Meanwhile, APP news agency quoted President Alvi as saying such comments were the reflection of a growing trend of Islamophobia in India, which is home to millions of Muslims.

The president said that merely suspending and expelling party officials was not enough and the BJP must shun and denounce its extremist and fascist Hindutva ideology.

He said that India, under Modi's

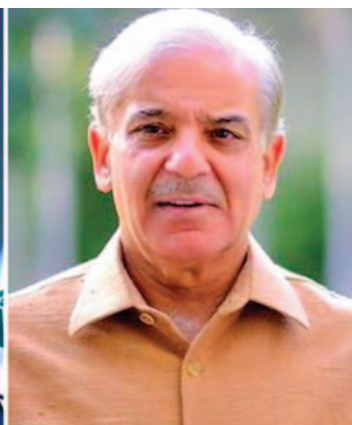


hateful Hindutva philosophy, was trampling the religious freedoms of all its minorities and persecuting them without any impunity.

"Allowing such Islamophobic remarks to continue without punishment constitutes a grave danger to the protection of human rights and may lead to further prejudice and marginalisation, which will create a cycle of violence and hate," he added.

He called upon the world community, United Nations and international human rights organisations to take serious notice of rising Islamophobia and systematic religious persecution in India without impunity and take all steps necessary to put an end to it.

The Foreign Office spokesperson also said in a statement on Sunday



that Pakistan condemned in the strongest possible terms the highly derogatory remarks recently made by two senior BJP officials.

He said Pakistan was also deeply concerned at the alarming rise in communal violence and hatred directed against the Muslims in India.

Muslims in India were being systematically stigmatised, marginalised and subjected to a well-orchestrated onslaught from radical Hindu mobs with full connivance and support of the security apparatus across various states in India. Regrettably, the Indian state machinery had remained aloof to the desperate calls for assistance by the local Muslim communities across the country, he said.

Reprehensibly, it had become a

norm in India to deprive the Muslims of their right to live and freely practise their religion, he said.

Pakistan urges India to ensure that decisive and demonstrable action is taken against those responsible for making derogatory remarks and attacking the dignity of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). India must also take immediate steps to protect its minorities from human rights violations, ensure their safety, security and well-being and allow them to profess and practise their faiths in peace.

"The international community must dissuade India from its reprehensible campaign of 'saffronisation' and ensure that Muslims are not victimised for having different religious beliefs than the majority population. The world must intervene to protect the Muslims in India from an impending genocide at the hands of Hindutva-inspired Hindu zealots, emboldened by the BJP-RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] dispensation at the helm."

Former PM and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chairman Imran Khan while condemning India asked the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to take strong action against India because "sadly so far India has been allowed to get away with its Islamophobic policies".

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan hockey team finishes in fifth place during Asia Cup

Pakistan hockey team has finished in fifth place after thrashing Bangladesh by 8-0 in Jakarta.

For the winning side, Mubashir Ali scored two goals meanwhile Ali Rizwan, Afraz, Abdul Shahid, Umar Bhutta, Ajaz Ahmad and Ali Ghazanfar scored one goal each.

Earlier, Pakistan failed to qualify for the super four of the Asia Cup, which means that they won't be able to qualify for next year's FIH Hockey World Cup.



Pakistan finished the first round but the latter had a better goal level on points, 4, with India difference.

India need to win their final pool match against Indonesia by margin of 15 goals in order to qualify for the next round. Despite the stiff ask, the Men in Blue defeated the hosts by 16-0 to confirm their spot in the super four.

Pakistan could have booked their spot in the super four if they had beaten or drew the match with Japan. However, the green shirts lost the match by 3-2.

Courtesy:Saama

Mehreen Jabbar says Pakistani dramas mimic Indian soap operas

Filmmaker and director Mehreen Jabbar has expressed disappointment over Pakistani dramas saying that they have turned into Indian soap operas.

Jabbar took to Twitter to share her reservations regarding Pakistani dramas and their portrayal.

She also regretted that Pakistani TV had lost its glorious past.

The director questioned in a tweet, "Why have most of our dramas become like Indian soap operas?"

Then she underscored what was wrong with contemporary Pakistani dramas.

"Bad lighting, non-stop carpet music, perfect blow dries for women,

the same stubble/beards for men. Everyone is in constant trauma & shouting or crying & 1000 eps of a stretched-out storyline," she wrote.

She concluded with another question, "Kahan kho gaiye vo lamhey?" an apparent reference to the glorious past of Pakistani TV dramas when they were also watched across the border.

Responding to her tweet, many users demanded from the Pakistani drama industry to produce better quality drama according to the standard set by Pakistani drama industry pioneers.

Fatima Hussain, a user commented that "Spot on! can't agree more. Hence we need your dramas more than ever these days. Please make



something for TV Mehreen, we are sick of what's being offered to viewers."

Another user wrote, "script matters the most and they don't have good stories anymore."

Some of the social media users sug-

gested that old guards must be contributing more to production.

"You, Haissam Hussain, Sarmad, need to be directing more plays. Btw, this year's "Jo Bichar Gaye" was excellent. Only 14 episodes, no dragging."

Courtesy:Saama

Abrarul Haq to take Karan Johar, T-Series to court for copying Nach Punjaban

Pakistani singer Abrar has said that he will be taking definitive legal action against ace Indian film director Karan Johar and music label T-Series for using his song in a movie without acquiring the requisite rights.

On May 28, Johar shared the movie Jugjugg Jeeyo's first official song titled "The Punjaabban Song,"

a copy of Haq's song from his 2002 album Nach Punjaban.

In a video posted on Instagram late on Saturday, Haq said giving someone credit is not enough to make up for copying their work.

"A lot of fans have been asking me 'why haven't you gone to the court against Karan Johar and T-Series

for stealing your song 'Nach Punjaban'. The answer is yes I'm going to the court, don't worry," he said in the video.

"Merely saying that credit has been given because the song is well written and would make their movie a hit is not enough," Haq maintained.

The Narowal-born singer reiterated that he had never sold rights for the use of his song to anyone.

"It (Nach Punjaban) belongs to me so I'll get it back and I'm coming to the court, see you there," he said.

After the controversy following the release of the movie's trailer, T-Series added Haq's name in the credits for the 'item number' song when releasing its video on YouTube. His name was also added on a poster of

the song.

Earlier, Haq had said he had not sold the rights of his song to any Indian movie and that he reserved the right to go to court to claim damages.

"Producers like Karan Johar should not copy songs. This is my sixth song being copied, which will not be allowed at all," he had tweeted.

In response to his claims, record label Movie Box called Haq's tweet "defamatory" and "completely unacceptable" and claimed that the song had been officially licensed to be included in the film.

"Karan Johar and Dharma Movies have the legal rights to use this song in their film," the company tweeted.

Courtesy:Saama



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