

Positive Post

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



Greenwich University
Pakistan - Mauritius

August in History

August 14, 1947: Pakistan came into existence.

August 21, 1952: Pakistan and India agree on the boundary pact between East Bengal & West Bengal.

August 22, 1952: A 24 hour telegraph telephone service is established between East Pakistan and West Pakistan.

August 16, 1952: Kashmir Martyrs' Day observed throughout Pakistan.

August 7, 1954: Government of Pakistan approves the National Anthem, written by Abul Asar Hafeez Jullundhri and composed by Ahmed G. Chagla.

August 17, 1954: Pakistan defeats England by 24 runs at Oval during its maiden tour of England.

August 1, 1960: Islamabad is declared the principal seat of the Government of Pakistan.

August 24, 1967: Pakistan's first steel mill is inaugurated at Chittagong.

August 29, 1971: Rashid Minhas awarded Nishan-i-Haider, Pakistan's highest gallantry award.

August 11, 1973: Chaudhry Fazal Ilahi is elected as President.

August 28, 1973: Return of Pakistan POWs (prisoners of war) Accord signed in New Delhi.

August 6, 1976: Z. A. Bhutto lays the foundation-stone of Port Qasim.

August 31, 1981: Pakistan Steel Mills starts functioning.

August 14, 1991: Nawaz Sharif lays foundation-stone of Bab-i-Pakistan at Walton Lahore.

August 14, 2000: President Musharraf introduces Local Government Ordinance.

August 14, 2001: New Local Government system installed, after holding of elections in three phases.

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.

Ali Jillani's statement at the High-Level Political Forum, 2020 of the UN General Assembly



All protocols observed and Leaders of the World

The decade of action and delivery for sustainable development can only be realized if systemic barriers like global inequalities of wealth, power and resources, international economic, trade and monetary frameworks, militarism & conflict, patriarchal authoritarianism, marginalizing governance, shrink-

ing democratic spaces as well as a guilt-free pass on Means Of Implementation (MOI) commitments are addressed.

The terms of discussions around Official Development Assistance (ODA) need to change from an act of benevolence to that of responsibility for Global North reckoning the historical debt owed to the developing world after centuries of

colonial plunder. ODA is falling short of its commitment of 0.7% of GNI, rather, wealth and resources continue to flow from developing countries through illicit financing, tax evasions, trade mispricing, and profit shifting by multinationals. ODA needs to be reformed, decoupled from climate financing, and reviewed for impact as part of the formal mechanisms to avoid going one step forward two steps back!

Reiterating the Secretary General's appeal reckoning COVID 19 situation "We cannot resort to the usual tools in such unusual times" so, rather than pushing the poorest countries for economic self-reliance, the processes should help them address macro-economic pressures embodied in conditions of market deregulation, massive privatizations, debt distress, hegemonic trade agreements, corporate capture of resources & governance, and neoliberal instruments like ISDS, among others.

Trade, as a critical MOI, needs to

be democratized through structural reforms prioritizing people and the planet over profits, upholding the essence and multidimensionality of the Agenda 2030 safeguarding state policy space. Localization of SDGs shouldn't mean the absence of accountability mechanisms at the global level, to ensure the establishment of global reform entities for SDGs Compatibility Impact Assessment of taxation architecture, trade & investment agreements, and synergizing multilateral cooperation to avoid corporatocratization of the globe.

Our decade of action demands the dismantling of neoliberal development framework that destroys the environment; starves people of resources and strips them of rights; and criminalizes those who stand for justice.

It's time for Development Justice.

If the Agenda 2030 is to be endorsed as the global social contract between people and governments of the world, it's high time you walked the talk!



Imran Khan named Man of the Year by Muslim 500

at ranks influential Muslim leaders and scholars from across the globe. This is the 11th edition of the book.

"If The Muslim 500 was in print back in 1992 and I was then Chief Editor I would have nominated Imran Khan as our Muslim Man of the Year because of his brilliant performance in cricket, which culminated in Pakistan winning the 1992 Cricket World Cup," wrote the editor of the book. He mentioned the establishment of the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital.

The book particularly notes that

when he took office in 2018, PM Khan prioritized lasting peace with India. "He wanted to normalize relations through trade, and settling the Kashmir dispute," it said.

PM Khan ranks 16 on the list in the 2020 edition of The Muslim 500. Number one on the list is Mufti Taqi Usmani, followed by Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei of Iran and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan of the UAE.

It listed Mufti Usmani's source of influence as scholarly and lineage.

"He is the leading scholar for the



Deobandis and in Islamic finance," according to the book and has authored 143 books in Arabic, English and Urdu.

The book also named Rashida Tlaib, a Palestinian-American congress-

woman, Woman of The Year. She is the first woman of Palestinian origin and one of the first Muslim women to be elected to the American Congress as a member of the House of Representatives.

Moody's upgrades Pakistan's outlook from 'under review for downgrade' to 'stable', maintains B3 rating

Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) has upgraded Pakistan's outlook from 'under review for downgrade' to 'stable', while maintaining a B3 rating. The stable outlook reflects Moody's view that the pressures Pakistan faces in the wake of the coronavirus shock and prospects for its credit metrics in general are likely to remain consistent with the current rating level.

Moody's expects Pakistan's economic growth to be positive in fiscal 2021 (ending June 2021) from a recession in fiscal 2020, but still low at around 1 to 2 per cent. While Pakistan's economy is relatively closed with low reliance on exports, movement restrictions due to coronavirus will keep economic activity below the pre-outbreak levels for some time.

The Federal Finance Ministry announced this development in a tweet and said, "This is an affirmation of the Government's sound fiscal and financial policies in these times of unprecedented hardship and uncertainty."

Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has confirmed that the government of Pakistan's B3 local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings with a stable outlook. Concurrently, Moody's has also confirmed the B3 foreign currency senior unsecured ratings for The Third Pakistan International Sukuk Co Ltd. The associated payment obligations are,



in Moody's view, direct obligations of the government. This concludes the review for downgrade initiated on 14 May 2020.

Rationale for the stable outlook

"The coronavirus pandemic is weighing on economic activity in Pakistan, resulting in lower tax revenue, a wider fiscal deficit, and a higher debt burden for the government. While continued spread of the virus poses downside risks to the economy and government finances, financial and technical support from development partners mitigates external vulnerability and liquidity risks," Moody's said in a statement issued.

"The government's commitment to

its current International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility (EFF) continues to unlock a large financial envelope that Moody's expects will cover its external financing needs over the next 12-18 months, and provides an anchor for ongoing fiscal reforms. Effective macroeconomic policies lower interest payments, supporting debt affordability, and provide policy buffers."

The slow economic recovery will in turn weigh on government revenue, keeping the fiscal deficit wide at around 8 to 8.5 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2021 under Moody's projections, at similar levels compared to fiscal year 2020, and leaving the government's debt burden at around 90

per cent of GDP by the end of fiscal year 2021. Risks to the economy and government finances are to the downside, particularly if more stringent measures are implemented to curb the spread of the virus domestically," Moody's maintain.

Moody's also expects the government's ongoing engagement with development partners on fiscal reforms, such as through the IMF EFF and other programmes with the Asian Development Bank and World Bank, to contribute to a modest widening of the revenue base, once the crisis passes, improving debt affordability and containing fiscal risks over the next few years.

Afridi names 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 Villiers 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: Samaa News

Pakistan-born astrophysicist Nergis Mavalvala named dean of MIT School of Science

Pakistan-born quantum astrophysicist Nergis Mavalvala has been named the new dean of the MIT School of Science, one of the five schools of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

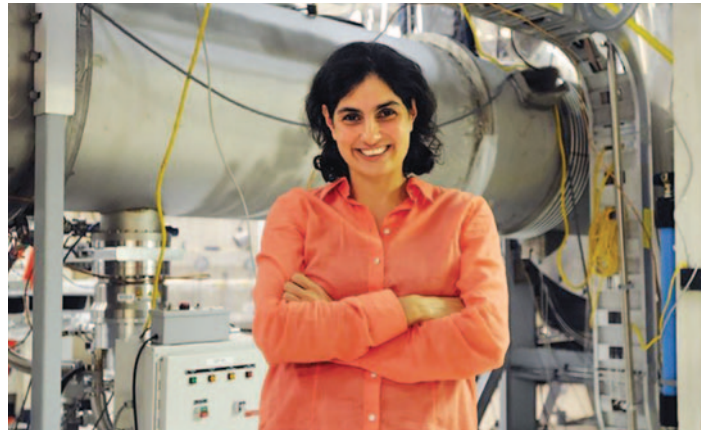
According to MIT News, she will become the new dean from September 1 and will succeed Michael Sipser, who will return to the faculty as the Donner Professor of Mathematics after six years of service.

Mavalvala is renowned for her pioneering work in gravitational-wave detection, which she conducted as a leading member of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), the report said.

"She has received numerous awards and honours for her research and teaching, and since 2015 has been the associate head of the Department of Physics. Mavalvala will be the first woman to serve as dean in the School of Science."

It added that Mavalvala was "energised and optimistic" about the role ahead, even as she acknowledged the unprecedented challenges the school and the institute as a whole were facing during this difficult time.

"We're in this moment where enor-



mous changes are afoot," she said. "We're in the middle of a global pandemic and economic challenge, and we're also in a moment, at least in US history, where the imperative for racial and social justice is really strong.

Meanwhile, MIT President L. Rafael Reif stated that Mavalvala's "brilliance as a researcher and educator speaks eloquently for itself".

"What excites me equally about her appointment as dean are the qualities I have seen in her as a leader: She is a deft, collaborative problem-solver, a wise and generous colleague, an incomparable mentor, and a champion for inclusive excellence.

"As we prepare for the start of this

most unusual academic year, it gives me great comfort to know that the School of Science will remain in such capable hands."

The report added that the news was announced by Provost Martin Schmidt via a letter emailed to the MIT community in which he said:

"I hope you will join me in congratulating her as she brings her great gifts as a leader to this new role."

Born to a Parsi family in Karachi, Mavalvala received her early education from the Convent of Jesus and Mary school, an administration official from the educational institute had confirmed.

She later moved to the United States as a teenager to attend Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she is said to have a natural gift for being comfortable in her own skin, according to an article published on the sciencemag.org website.

Mavalvala did her BA at Wellesley College in Physics and Astronomy in 1990 and a PhD in physics in 1997 from MIT.

Before that, she was a postdoctoral associate and then a research scientist at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), working with LIGO.

She also received the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Award in 2010. Later in 2016, Mavalvala was part of a team of scientists credited with the discovery of gravitational waves, a new window for studying the cosmos.

"We are really witnessing the opening of a new tool for doing astronomy," Mavalvala had said in an interview at the time. "We have turned on a new sense. We have been able to see and now we will be able to hear as well."

Courtesy: Dawn.com

PIA to partially resume flights to UK

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will partially resume its flights to the United Kingdom from August 14 with a hired plane.

PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez said that an agreement had been signed between Portugal's airline and the national carrier.

He said the PIA would operate flights with an Airbus A330, having a seating capacity of more than 300 passengers.

"The PIA has hired a plane and crew from a European company to operate flights using PIA call sign and slots," he said, adding:

"Due to public demand, the national flag carrier is resuming its flights."



The plane would have economy and business classes with comfortable seating capacity, he said.

Aircraft hired from European company. Mr Hafeez said that passengers would be able to travel to London, Manchester and Birmingham from Pakistan under

the new arrangement.

He said that social distancing would be strictly observed in all the flights.

The spokesman said a PIA flight, PK-9702, would depart from Islamabad from Manchester

with 250 passengers on August 14.

On August 15, PIA flight PK-9785 will depart from Islamabad for London.

He said that booking of seats had been started and all seats had been booked for the first flight.

The spokesman said that the airline would facilitate passengers with 45kg of baggage per passenger on the flights.

He said that after the suspension of PIA flights to the UK, other airlines had increased fares and it was expected that after the resumption of PIA flights, fares of other airlines would also come down.

Courtesy: Dawn

Hajj goes virtual for families of lucky pilgrims

Faridah Bakti Yahra travelled alone to Mecca when she won the lottery of a lifetime to join this year's Hajj, the smallest in living memory, but her family is relishing the experience virtually.

Thanks to her smartphone, and the 5G towers that loom over the holy city, the Indonesian housewife is sharing every step of the pilgrimage with her husband and three daughters back home in the Saudi coastal city of Khobar.

"I am so happy he joined me virtually, spiritually, with my daughters also. May my dear husband come here together with me again for Hajj inshallah (God willing)," the 39 year old told AFP.

In the first days of the pilgrimage, many of the faithful were seen holding their phones aloft to snap selfies and livestream their progress to friends and family back home.

Super high-speed 5G technology was rolled out in Mecca last year, allowing pilgrims to transfer data at breakneck speeds, and the network is now prevalent across much of Saudi Arabia.

But this year the shared religious experience has even greater resonance, with the gathering scaled down from more than two million people to just a few thousand, and at a time when many prayers are being offered for a world gripped by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Yahra opened a video call on the first day of the Hajj at Mecca's Grand Mosque when she approached the Kaaba, a large cubic structure draped in gold embroidered black cloth, towards which Muslims around the world pray.

"When my wife entered the Kaaba area and she showed me the Kaaba, I felt very, very cheerful, joyful, with tears," her husband Hendra Samosir said.

"It was very truly a holy journey I would say, even though I wasn't there, but looking at my wife attending this Hajj, it feels like I was there."



Hundreds of thousands of Indonesians usually take part in the Hajj, many waiting and saving for years before their turn comes up.

This year, there are believed to be hardly more than a dozen in Mecca.

Yahra was selected in a process that for the first time excluded pilgrims from outside the kingdom.

Muslims worldwide were disappointed, even though most accepted that a Hajj on the usual scale was out of the question.

Foreign residents make up 70 percent of the group and Saudi citizens make up the remainder, drawn from medical professionals and security personnel who have recovered from the virus.

There were grumbles over what was seen as an opaque system, and those who missed out swamped the Hajj ministry's Twitter account with anguished queries.

But for Samosir, who opted to stay at home and look after the couple's children, his wife's selection was "very good news" after months of bad news due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The virus crisis triggered months of lockdown in Saudi Arabia and a slump that saw the 44-year-old lose his job in the oil industry.

But he said the virtual pilgrimage left him feeling "like an empty bowl filled up with water".

In recent years, the Hajj has been at the centre of an acceleration in the growth of digital worship, with a slew of religious apps and tablet Korans.

Some pilgrims now prefer reading Quranic verses from their smartphones rapidly replacing traditional printed holy books.

But the tech is not limited to reading on screens and sharing stories. It has rapidly evolved to offer pilgrims the possibility of performing religious duties from their homes.

Online platforms have emerged allowing worshippers to virtually perform the year-round umrah, or minor pilgrimage, which usually takes only a few hours.

The service is based on the concept of outsourcing the pilgrimage asking someone in Saudi Arabia to perform umrah on their behalf, and experiencing it through a live virtual reality tool.

Some Islamic clerics support the idea, while others say only the sick are entitled to such an option.

And the situation is different with the Hajj, a journey made over several days that requires walking for kilometres, praying for hours, and sleeping outdoors.

Some of this year's pilgrims have reported that performing the pilgrimage on such a small scale has been an intensely spiritual experience

"I am praying for my husband to get back to work again," Yahra said.

"And I pray for the situation to get back to normal again, for the pandemic to stop, and for coronavirus to be gone."

Pakistan to resume international flight operations



Pakistan has decided to resume all international flights from August 9 midnight, said an official document issued by the country's Civil Aviation Authority.

The country already restored domestic flights at all airports, with a few exceptions, reflecting its intent to return to the pre-coronavirus aviation operations.

In March, Pakistan decided to close domestic and international flights and discourage large gatherings to try to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

"Government of Pakistan is pleased to allow all types of international passenger operations to/from all airports as available pre-COVID-19.

"International scheduled flight operations to/from Pakistan will revert to authorizations as per Summer-20 scheduling season," it added. "However, international flight operations shall be conducted in accordance with established guidelines and applicable SOPs. International cargo and special flight operations may also be conducted to/from Pakistan as per applicable SOPs."

Planning Minister Asad Umar announced that virtually all sectors in Pakistan shut down to prevent the spread of the coronavirus would be reopened next week.

With infections and deaths down nearly 80 percent since their peak as per government records, the National Coordination Committee (NCC), the apex body set up to oversee coronavirus mitigation efforts, met on Thursday to decide on measures to help the country return to normalcy. Umar announced that tourist destinations would open from August 8, restaurants, theaters and beauty salons from August 10 and schools and marriage halls from September 15. Shops would go back to pre-coronavirus timings from August 10.

Courtesy: Samaa TV

Pakistan Army Recruits TikTok Long Jumper Asif Magsi



The latest social media sensation, Asif Magsi, has been recruited by the Pakistan Army after his series of videos attempting long jumps went viral a few days ago.

Magsi captivated everyone with his long jump over 11 bikes and then over a water canal with the Pakistani flag in his hand. He has even been praised by legendary track and field athlete, Carl Lewis, who said Magsi has the right temperament and attitude to be a good professional athlete.

He has already been contacted by the Pakistan Athletics Federation to train with leading coaches in the country and now reports state that Pakistan Army has also recruited the

talented athlete.

ARY reported that Thatta-based Magsi, who is a fisherman by profession, will join the Pakistan Army athletics team instead of training with the Athletics Federation.

Earlier, Athletics Federation's President, Major General Akram Sahi, said, "I personally contacted Asif and invited him to Lahore where we will polish his skills and make him capable of representing Pakistan at the international level. I have asked our senior and finest coaches to observe him as soon as he reaches Lahore. I hope hell grow up in a sold prospect for Pakistan".

Courtesy: Samaa TV

Champ Imi: the Lahore man modeling for top London agencies

Mohammad Ali Subhani was born and raised in Lahore and is now modelling for top fashion brands in the UK, where he's known as Champ Imi.

He hails from the Data Ganj Baksh in Lahore and went to London when he was 18 to get a diploma in administrative management. On Friday, he told SAMAA TV that he was scouted by a modeling agency at 18 and hasn't looked back ever since. I never thought I'd be among the big names in international fashion industry, but it all worked out on its own, said Subhani.

"I was different because of my brown skin so I had to struggle more compared to other models," he added.

He's about to make his movie debut in Rose and Katie. Once the coronavirus spread slows in the London,



he will work on a couple more projects that he has already signed.

He, however, did not reveal the names of other projects he has signed because his contracts bar him from making the details public.

Subhani has modeled for L'Oreal, and Toni and Guy, and appeared in Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and GQ. The model has also worked with Coca Cola, ID Magazine and Hunger Magazine.

Inside Karachi's first ever tourist attractions map



Ever spotted a tourist in the city of lights and wondered what their visit would look like?

Think no more! Graphic designer and artist Assam Altaf just created Karachi's first tourist attractions map, featuring 108 places including historical buildings, educational institutes, hospitals, amusement theme parks, beaches, resorts, parks, religious worship spaces, industrial and residential areas, business hubs; and even the port.

Recognised as the city of opportuni-

ties, Assam believes the map was complex to execute. He captured it best when he wrote, "Karachi Tourist Map was the most challenging map for me so far, because it has a mini country living inside."

While it took him 7-8 visits to truly understand the essence of this city Altaf wants to keep exploring the domestic tourism available here. Previously, he had also taken the initiative to draft a map of tourist attractions in Pakistan. If you're out to explore, these guides could be a great resource.

Karachi Cantonment Board Clifton janitorial staff salaries increased to Rs17,500

The contractual janitorial staff of Karachi Cantonment Board Clifton have got their salaries raised to Rs17,500 a month the minimum wage fixed by the government.

They were until now getting Rs12,200 a month. The raise of Rs5,300 will be effective from the month of July.

However, the matter of salaries of these cantonment board employees is still sub judice in the Sindh High Court.

There are around 4,500 janitorial staff in the Cantonment Board Clifton and around 2,000 of them

are working on contractual basis.

There are six cantonment boards in Karachi, including the Cantonment Board Clifton, Cantonment Board Malir, Cantonment Board Korangi, Cantonment Board Faisal, Karachi Cantonment Board and Cantonment Board Manora.

Around 20,000 janitorial workers are working in all six cantonment boards in the city. Of them, 8,000 are working on contractual basis.

The other five cantonment boards have not yet increased salaries of their contractual janitorial staff to the minimum wage.



Enhancing Pakistan's counter-narcotics capacity through provision of specialized equipment under funding by the Government of Japan

In a high-level ceremony organized at the Headquarters Anti Narcotics Force (ANF), UNODC Country Office Pakistan, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, handed over specialized equipment to the ANF, Pakistan's premier counter-narcotics law enforcement agency. H.E. Mr. Azam Khan Swati, Federal Minister of Narcotics-Control and H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan were also present at the occasion.

The equipment has been provided under a Japan-funded project being implemented by UNODC Country Office Pakistan (COPAK) entitled 'Strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime (2016-2020). It comprised IT equipment for automating Pakistan's National Precursors Management System (NPMS), and for consolidating interagency networking under the framework of national Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on Counter-Narcotics, formulated by the Government of Pakistan in February 2010. Twenty Narcotics-Sniffer Dogs and forty Bullet Proof Vests and Helmets were also handed over, to strengthen ANF's drug interdiction capacity in border areas, dry ports, airports and seaports.

While welcoming the delegates, Mr. Ali Zulnoorain Sheikh, PSP, Deputy Director General ANF thanked the Federal Minister of Narcotics Control and the Ambassador of Japan for gracing the auspicious occasion. He offered gratitude to Mr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative and other senior officials from UNODC COPAK for providing regular technical support to the ANF and other members of Pakistan's IATF on counter narcotics. He said, "The ANF highly appreciates continuing capacity-building measures by UNODC, our closest strategic partner in the UN family. The ANF continues to lead counter-narcotics efforts not only in Pakistan, but we have also contributed to several international interdiction operations, where various international partners have greatly benefitted from timely and



accurate information provided by the ANF. We are making concerted efforts to nab drug traffickers, as they continue to exploit Pakistan's geographical location next to Afghanistan and the shortest distance it provides to the international maritime routes".

In his remarks, Mr. Jeremy Milsom thanked the Federal Minister of Narcotics Control and the Ambassador of Japan for their presence at the gracious handover ceremony. He also offered gratitude to the Government of Japan for its great commitment to support the ANF and other law enforcement agencies in Pakistan and that Japan's steady funding support to UNODC for capacity building of national counterparts has always been pre eminent. "It is indeed a great feeling and privilege to support a highly professional and competent force like the ANF, in its continuing efforts to save the world from drug trafficking and drug abuse the greatest challenges of our times. UNODC well-recognizes ANF's whole-hearted counter-narcotics operations efforts, whereby the ANF personnel even laid down their precious lives while fighting drug traffickers in various parts of the country. We acknowledge ANF's leading counter narcotics role and it will always remain our main partner in Pakistan. We also believe that multi dimensional roles and cross-cutting mandates

of various national stakeholders can be used as a force-multiplier, to address risks and challenges of drug trafficking in Pakistan" said Mr. Milsom.

After his remarks, Mr. Saqib Khan Programme Officer (Border Management) of UNODC COPAK highlighted the specificity, advantages and expected results associated with the equipment.

In his statement, H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda appreciated highly technical and sustainable capacity-building support by UNODC COPAK and also realized the need to continue its funding contributions, to rid Pakistan of the menace of drug trafficking and associated money laundering, that continue to threaten health, human security and socio-economic development in Pakistan. He assured that the Government of Japan continues to accord a high-priority to the peace-security-development nexus and therefore, will continue endeavors to build Pakistan's counter narcotics capacity. He also offered condolences on the recent sacrifices made by ANF personnel in the line of duty, whereby four ANF personnel were martyred during two major encounters with the drug trafficking networks in Balochistan and Rawalpindi.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Azam Khan Swati, the Federal Minister of

Narcotics-Control highlighted the emerging misuse of the internet for drug peddling and money laundering, a predicate crime under the FATF, and a growing challenge for the rule of law and socio-economic development. He also highly appreciated regular and sustainable capacity-building support by the Government of Japan as Pakistan's long-term strategic partner through UNODC. "The Government of Pakistan well-recognizes that controlling licit use of precursor chemicals is an important counter-measure to prevent drug production. The Precursor Management System being strengthened under this project is a cost-effective way to combat drug production and trafficking from Afghanistan" said Mr. Swati. He also highlighted the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan to address the growing challenge of narcotics trafficking, by adopting a collective, coherent and multilateral approach, He reiterated that Pakistan, as a law-abiding country is not going to tolerate the menace of drug trafficking and its negative consequences upon health and socio-economic development in Pakistan. He also drew attention to Government of Pakistan's recent counter narcotics drive, as well as measures for strengthening the national legislation and interagency partnerships, as per special directive of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Apple and Google pull Fortnite from mobile app shops

Apple and Google on Thursday pulled video game sensation Fortnite from their mobile app shops after its maker Epic Games released an update that dodges revenue sharing with the tech giants.

The latest version of Fortnite contains a payment system that lets player transactions bypass Apple's App Store and Google's Play, preventing the firms from collecting their typical 30 percent cut.

Apple, which does not allow users of its popular devices to download apps from anywhere but its App Store, booted the game from its on-line marketplace, followed later Thursday by Google.

Epic quickly filed a federal lawsuit against Apple, accusing the iPhone maker of wielding monopoly power.

The game-maker called on a federal judge to order Apple to stop its "anti-competitive conduct" and invalidate the tech giant's rules requiring app developers to pay the company 30 percent of transactions.

The suit said Epic is not seeking favourable treatment, but is asking the court to order Apple to change its commission structure for all developers.

Apple said Fortnite was pulled after "Epic Games took the unfortunate step of violating the App Store guidelines that are applied equally to every developer and designed to keep the store safe for our users."

Google followed suit and removed Fortnite from its Play store for mobile devices powered by its Android software.



"For game developers who choose to use the Play Store, we have consistent policies that are fair to developers and keep the store safe for users," Google said in reply to an AFP inquiry.

Gamers will still be able to play Fortnite on their mobile devices, though Apple users will no longer be able to receive updates because those would need to come through the App Store.

Android users can still download updates directly from Epic.

Apple has in recent months come under fire for the tight grip it has on the App Store, with the issue coming up during a heated congressional antitrust hearing last month.

"Apple has become what it once railed against: the behemoth seeking to control markets, block competition, and stifle innovation," the lawsuit argued.

"Apple is bigger, more powerful, more entrenched, and more pernicious than the monopolists of yesteryear."

The Silicon Valley colossus has defended its position, saying its commission which can drop to 15 percent in the second year for subscriptions helps it keep apps and users safe from hackers and scammers.

"Epic agreed to the App Store terms and guidelines freely and we're glad they've built such a successful business on the App Store," Apple said.

"The fact that their business interests now lead them to push for a special arrangement does not change the fact that these guidelines create a level playing field for all developers and make the store safe for all users."

Fortnite has been played by some 350 million people around the

world since its release in 2017. Set in a virtual world, players must survive by searching for weapons and resources while eliminating competitors.

It is also a popular esports title in which spectators watch expert players compete, in some cases for cash prizes.

Epic is taking a "risky and calculated path" by going after Apple at a time that the App Store is under scrutiny by antitrust regulators, reasoned Wedbush analyst Dan Ives.

"This is a high stakes game of poker being played," Ives said.

"Apple needs to make sure the Epic challenge, which is timely in light of anti-trust swirls and growing opposition to Big Tech within the Beltway, does not create a ripple impact which developers globally are watching carefully," Ives said.

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
rizwana@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