

Positive Post

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



Greenwich University
Pakistan - Mauritius

October in History

October 7, 1954: Foreign Minister Ch. Zafarullah Khan becomes a member of the International Court of Justice.

October 27, 1959: President General Ayub Khan becomes Field Marshal.

October 28, 1964: Pakistan's hockey team wins Silver Medal in Tokyo Olympic games.

October 26, 1968: Pakistan becomes Olympic Hockey Champion, winning over Australia 2-1.

October 24, 1971: Pakistan wins World Hockey Cup defeating Spain 1-0 at Barcelona.

October 28, 1972: President Bhutto inaugurates Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP).

October 5, 1975: Pakistan and Bangladesh agree to establish diplomatic ties.

October 15, 1979: Dr. Abdus Salam, eminent Pakistani Scientist, is awarded Physics Nobel Prize.

October 16, 1985: National Assembly adopts Eighth Amendment Bill.

October 21, 1987: Jan Sher Khan wins World Open Squash Championship for the first time.

October 1, 1989: Pakistan rejoins Commonwealth.

October 20, 1989: SAF Games open in Islamabad.

October 19, 1993: Benazir Bhutto is elected Prime Minister by 121 votes.

October 17, 2004: Pakistani physician Dr. Muhammad Saeed Fazal Karim Beebani sets new Guinness world record for having the smallest Qur'an of the world.

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.

On UN Day, PM Imran calls for implementation of Security Council resolutions on Kashmir

Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Dr Arif Alvi urged the United Nations to exercise its authority and implement the Security Council resolutions in occupied Kashmir.

The president and the premier issued separate statements for United Nations Day which marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the UN and its founding Charter.

PM Imran said that the day was another somber reminder that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains unresolved, despite being on the UN's agenda for over seven decades.

He highlighted that the situation in the occupied valley had been exacerbated by India's unilateral and unlawful actions in August 2019.

"Led by the 'Hindutva' ideology, the RSS-BJP regime has continued an inhuman military siege and imposed draconian restrictions on freedom of movement and communications," he said.

"I urge the international community, especially the Security Council, to exercise its moral, legal, political and diplomatic authority to imple-



ment UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir."

In his statement, the premier also touched on Pakistan's participation in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

"Pakistan has played a critical role in preserving international peace and security through its contribution of 'blue helmets' to the UN Peacekeeping Missions all around the world.

"At this historic occasion, I want to pay tribute to all men and women peacekeepers, including from Pakistan, who remain ready to serve in the most fragile and conflict-ridden areas and never hesitate to make the ultimate sacrifice for maintaining

peace and security around the globe."

PM Imran also observed that the UN faced many challenges amid the pandemic as the rise of ultra-nationalist, populist, xenophobic and Islamophobic tendencies was being witnessed. "At the same time, international law and agreements are being flouted or set aside and trade barriers are being imposed while the pandemic is being politicised."

He added that Pakistan remained committed to supporting the UN in realising the shared objectives of maintaining international peace and security, economic and social development, and promoting and protecting human rights for all.

"I also reaffirm Pakistan's abiding commitment to multilateralism. Pakistan will continue to play a leading role in UN for the peaceful settlement of international disputes and for developing friendly relations among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter," he concluded.

In a separate statement, President Alvi said that the Security Council should put pressure on the Indian government to end its oppression in occupied Kashmir. "The UN should have the military siege and restrictions on communications and peaceful protests in the occupied territory lifted," he said, according to Radio Pakistan.

The president added that the world body should declare null and void the new domicile laws introduced in the occupied valley which are an attempt to change its demographic structure as well as the unilateral steps taken last year in August.

He said a Commission of Inquiry should be constituted to investigate blatant human rights violations in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the report said.

Courtesy: Dawn

27 women cricketers named for high performance camp

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a 27 player high performance camp for women cricketers that will be staged at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre at the National Stadium in Karachi from October 8 to 31.

As part of the PCB Covid-19 protocols, all 27 players and player support personnel will undergo first round of testing at their residences, the cost of which will be reimbursed by the PCB. Players and support personnel with negative tests will then assemble in Karachi, where they will undergo the second round of tests before being allowed to integrate with the larger group.

During the camp, the players and

player support personnel will undergo third round of testing to ensure their health and safety. During the training period, the players and player support personnel will follow the bio secure protocols while being stationed at a hotel in Karachi.

The High Performance Department will appoint the player support personnel, who will be announced in due course.

Wicketkeeper-batter Sidra Nawaz said: "It is very refreshing to be at the NHPC, which provides the cricket atmosphere and encourages professional cricketers to get actively involved and utilise the facilities."

All-rounder Aliya Riaz said: "I



know our domestic season has not been announced though the High Performance camp has been unveiled, but we are taking this period as pre-season training and preparation so that they are not rusty when our cricket resumes."

Cricketers announced for the camp: Aiman Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Ayesha Naseem, Ayesha

Zafar, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana Khan, Iram Javed, Javeria Khan, Javeria Rauf, Kainat Imtiaz, Kaynat Hafeez, Maham Tariq, Muneeba Ali, Nahida Khan, Najiha Alvi, Nashra Sandhu, Natalia Pervaiz, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Saba Nazir, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz, Syeda Aroob Shah.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan's strong determination to continue to play role for peace in Afghanistan: PM



Prime Minister Imran Khan has reaffirmed Pakistan's strong determination to continue to play its role for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Addressing Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum in Islamabad on Monday, he said peace in Afghanistan is important for promotion of trade and economic activities in the region which will bring prosperity and provide job opportunities to the people.

Referring to the belligerent posture of Indian government against Pakistan and the Muslim population especially those in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister said Pakistan has concerns that India could use the Afghan land to destabilize Pakistan. He, however, said our government has decided to strengthen relations with Afghanistan, no matter who

is in power.

Imran Khan said the government is giving priority to uplift the business community and take the country towards industrialization for wealth creation. He said we are making efforts to enhance connections with the business community of Afghanistan in order to benefit from each other's experiences and give impetus to the trade and economic relations.

In his remarks on the occasion, Speaker of Afghan Wolesi Jirga Mir Rahman Rahmani said Afghanistan values the contributions of Pakistan to the Afghan peace process. He said the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan are deep rooted in common culture, faith and values. He stressed the need for enhancing parliamentary contacts between the two countries.

Courtesy: The Nation

Iman Vellani is the new Ms. Marvel

Marvel's first Pakistani Muslim superhero has just been finalised

Marvel's first Pakistani Muslim woman superhero has just been finalised, and what better representation than to have a teenager who's just that bag the role. Cue Iman Vellani, Disney Plus' Kamala Khan, a Pakistani-American teen based in New Jersey; with her inhuman ability to extend her limbs, alter her appearance, and shift her shape and size, Kamala works tirelessly to make the world a better place.



"In the course of becoming a local hero, Khan would encounter various peers in the super-powered community, always with enthusiasm and unbridled joy," Marvel revealed. before adding that Khan's character will also be a part of future Marvel films. Oscar-winning director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy alongside Meera Menon, Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah are ready to bring this superhero's story to the screen. Written and developed by British writer Bisha K. Ali, this marks Vellani's first major Hollywood production, with hopefully many more to come.

Courtesy: Dawn

Building a cohort of mentors in integrity education through hybrid learning in Pakistan

UNODC's Global Integrity Education (GIE) Project stands out at the cutting-edge of innovation in Pakistan. A unique and momentous programme, it brings together the creative spirit of a large fraternity of academics and university teachers to lead change through building a cadre of integrity ambassadors

capacity of local lecturers to use the contextualized modules in their courses. The event brought together a cohort of 48 eminent academic experts, professors and university faculty to go through an interactive, exhilarating and enriching hybrid learning curve. In the course of the programme, participants engaged in



in private companies by teaching customized learning modules on ethical leadership, challenges to ethical living, behavioural ethics and detecting and investigating corruption to last-year graduate students. This is the first-ever programme of UNODC, funded by the Siemens Integrity Initiative, that has set a benchmark of ethical learning in Pakistan.

Backed by an inter disciplinary, participatory and phased approach, UNODC Country Office in Pakistan has followed a rigorously iterative and innovative path of engaging a wide range of private sector experts and academics to form a working group under the project. Bringing together years of learning, experience, thought leadership and knowledge, they worked to adapt and tailor a selection of modules from the UNODC's 28 global modules on anti-corruption, integrity and ethics to ensure their local relevance to Pakistan. The modules were contextualized by integrating real life examples, role play exercises, local readings and case studies.

As part of this ongoing process of transfer of learning, UNODC led a TOT Programme for lecturers that took off in mid-September with preworkshop activities and an online self-paced e-learning course. The process contributed into a Virtual Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme hosted by UNODC in Lahore from 5-8 October 2020 in collaboration with the University of Central Punjab (UCP). The objective was to enhance the

a series of interactive activities, including pre-workshop assignments, self-paced online course, four webinars and teaching demonstrations on the modules. Given, this was the first of a series of ToT activities, which UNODC will implement in Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan, it was also attended by academics from Kenya and Mexico who participate in the GIE Project.

The timing of the ToT is also critical. As countries all over the world are trying to tackle some of the most pressing and unpredictable challenges stemming out of the economic fallout of the outbreak of COVID-19. Among these, the pandemic has brutally influenced and stretched the business ecosystems increasing the compliance risk, particularly for the developing economies of South Asian countries like Pakistan.

Overall, the ToT was a stimulating and thought-provoking experience in the way everyone meshed as a team for sharing the knowledge both at the local and global level. The workshop is the first step in bringing together the foundational elements of an enriching and engaging learning experience in integrity education. As the modules are further cascaded for university students, there is going to be a lot of iterative feedback, generating new knowledge and case studies to make the experience more up to date, relevant and innovative for the students.

Courtesy: www.unodc.org

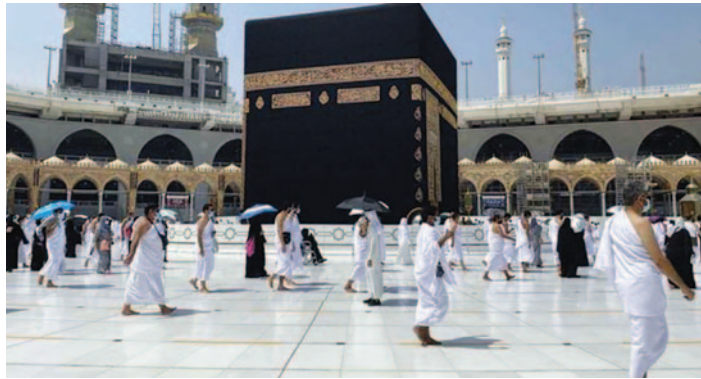
Thousands enter Grand Mosque as Makkah reopens for pilgrimage

After a 7-month coronavirus hiatus, 6,000 pilgrims per day will be allowed in first stage to perform Umrah

Mask-clad Muslims circled Islam's holiest site along socially distanced paths on Sunday, as Saudi authorities partially resumed the year-round Umrah pilgrimage with extensive health precautions adopted after a seven-month coronavirus hiatus.

Thousands of worshippers entered the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Makkah in batches to perform the ritual of circling the sacred Kaaba, a cubic structure towards which Muslims around the world pray.

The Umrah, the pilgrimage that can be undertaken at any time, usually attracts millions of Muslims from across the globe each year but it was suspended in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will be revived in three phases, with Saudi Hajj Minister Mohammad Benten saying last week that 6,000 pilgrims per day will be allowed in the first stage to perform the Umrah "meticulously and within a specified period of time."



Each group of 20 or 25 pilgrims are to be accompanied by a health worker and medical teams will be on the ground in case of an emergency, Benten said. "In an atmosphere of faith and with assured hearts the first batch of pilgrims begins the pilgrimage in accordance with the precautionary measures laid out," the hajj ministry said on Twitter.

'Aspirations of Muslims'
Under the second stage from October 18, the number of Umrah pilgrims will be increased to 15,000 per day. Visitors from abroad will be permitted in the third stage from November 1, when capacity will be raised to 20,000. A maximum

of 40,000 people, including other worshippers, will be allowed to perform prayers at the mosque in the second stage and 60,000 in the third, according to the interior ministry.

The decision to resume the pilgrimage was taken in response to the "aspirations of Muslims home and abroad" to perform the ritual and visit the holy sites, the ministry said last month. It said the Umrah will be allowed to return to full capacity once the threat of the pandemic has abated.

Until then, the health ministry will vet countries from which pilgrims are allowed to enter based on the health risks. Saudi Arabia suspended

the Umrah in March and scaled back the annual hajj pilgrimage over fears the coronavirus could spread to Islam's holiest cities and back to pilgrims' home countries.

The hajj went ahead in late July, on the smallest scale in modern history, with only up to 10,000 Muslim residents of the country allowed to take part a far cry from the 2.5 million who participated last year. Health authorities said no coronavirus cases were reported at the holy sites during the hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam and a must for able-bodied Muslims at least once in their lifetime. The pilgrimages are a massive logistical challenge, with colossal crowds cramming into relatively small holy sites, making them vulnerable to contagion. Saudi Arabia's custodianship of Makkah and Medina Islam's two holiest sites is seen as its most powerful source of political legitimacy. The holy sites are also a key revenue earner for the kingdom, whose economy has been badly hit by a coronavirus-driven collapse in the global demand for oil. Saudi Arabia has had more than 335,000 confirmed cases of the virus and 4,850 deaths

Automating Crime Scene Investigation through state of the art crime scene vehicles for Gujranwala Police

UNODC has been working in close partnership with Punjab Police through the generous support of the Government of Norway, which is going a long way in modernizing and upgrading, among others, the crime scene capacity of the Punjab Police. The collection of evidence is the first and the most critical step in any criminal investigation right from the preservation to the collection of evidence without contamination for further investigation. The role of the responders is therefore instrumental to any crime scene investigation that would seriously impact conviction if not done properly, hence, the provision of proper tools, equipment, knowledge and skills to first responders is fundamental to ensure that proper steps are followed to enable the criminal justice system to take its course in convicting criminals..

As part of its continued efforts, UNODC is working with the Gujranwala Police to enhance their capacity in crime scene investigation. To this end, a ground-breaking ceremony of handing over state-of-the-art purpose-built Crime Scene Vehicles to Gujranwala Police was held on 12 October 2020 at the Gujranwala Police Lines. The event had brought together district police officers of Gujranwala, Punjab Police and key representatives from UNODC.

The handing-over of the crime-scene mobile units was hailed as one of the milestones among a stream of transformative activities supported by the UNODC. Mr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative, UNODC Country Office in Pakistan stressed the importance of minimizing the potential contamination of evidence



in crime scene investigation. As the first-ever intervention of its kind for the Gujranwala Police, Mr. Milsom mentioned that the provision of vehicles will help to model investigation techniques and skills of investigation officers on global standards of investigation through access to state-of-the-art crime scene vehicles along with enhancing the capacity of the relevant police officers on its use.

Counterparts from the Punjab Police appreciated the intervention as a refreshing and long-awaited step

towards modernizing speedy and efficient crime scene investigations in the most critical and crime-sensitive area of Gujranwala district.

The Crime Scene Vehicles will help the Gujranwala Police to deploy better support in the gathering and processing of physical and forensic evidence in line with international standards, upholding UNODC's commitment towards delivering peace and justice to the people of Pakistan

Courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

President for concerted efforts to prevent breast cancer

President Dr Arif Alvi called for concerted efforts by the intelligentsia, media and health experts to prevent the prevalence of breast cancer in the country through creating massive awareness and breaking the taboos.

Addressing an event held to create awareness for self-examination of breast cancer, the president said the disease could easily be diagnosed at an early stage by guiding the women to palpate their breasts.

First Lady Samina Arif Alvi, federal ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats and representatives of various collaborating organizations attended the event held as part of the month-long awareness drive under the First Lady's initiative.

With the participants pinning pink ribbon or wearing pink scarves while following the event, the Presidency turned into pink after the pink lights were switched on to promote the pink ribbon drive. Dr Alvi viewed that the repeating of awareness messages made difference as had been experienced in case of the coronavirus, which had been successfully contained through joint efforts and cooperation by people as well as religious scholars.

He viewed that the breast feedings could not only lead to prevention of breast cancer as well as the stunting in babies. The president again advised the people not to give up precautions as the virus could hit



back hard as had been witnessed in some countries.

He said being a developing country Pakistan would be unable to provide treatment to every cancer patient. Therefore, it was vital to take preventive measures to avert any bad scenario.

He said contrary to around 98 percent survival rate, almost 50 percent breast cancer patients died in Pakistan just because of delayed diagnosis as the ailment was usually concealed owing to attached taboos.

He said having witnessed unprecedented discipline and spirit on the national issues shown by the nation, he could confidently say that the country was on tipping point of achieving progress and prosperity.

Earlier, First Lady Samina Alvi said the breast cancer and protection of disabled people were the two areas of her focus. She said the statistics on prevalence of the breast cancer in Pakistan were alarming and



urged the ministers, parliamentarians and media to dedicate their energy and time to create awareness on the disease. She also lauded the civil society and philanthropic organizations for introducing free of charge mammography facility for the breast cancer patients. She also urged the federal and provincial governments to establish screening and mammography facilities at least at divisional level, besides reducing the treatment costs.

She also advised the social media users and bloggers to create awareness and thanked the civil society organizations like Green Star, Pink Ribbon and Shaukat Khanum Hospital for supporting the initiative.

She also clarified that the anti-breast cancer efforts had no financial implications for the government exchequer rather all was being funded by civil society organizations and health organs of the armed forces.

Special Assistant to the PM on

Health Dr Faisal Sultan said the government was making efforts to help reduce the cost of breast cancer medicines and treatment through promoting investment in fields of medicine and pharmacy.

Inter-provincial Coordination Minister Dr Fehmida Mirza, also a breast cancer survivor, said she was diagnosed the breast cancer during her stint as National Assembly Speaker. But she accepted the disease to tear down the taboo and treat it like any other disease. She said a minor lump in the breast could prove fatal if ignored out of shame or negligence.

Brig Dr Nadeem Paracha of Army Medical Corps, while highlighting the military's health services and contributions, said the institution planned to establish 10 state of the art breast cancer diagnosis and treatment facilities across the country.

He said instead of establishing a few cancer hospitals, every hospital must have the treatment facility and every doctor must be educated on the subject.

Group Captain Dr Munazza of Pakistan Air Force said the PAF had been extensively running free medical and awareness camps on the disease. Dr Asim of Shaukat Khanum Hospital also shared with the audience the statistics, treatment and research support by the SKMH, a specialized facility.

Courtesy: The News

KP government to introduce 'Kalash Marriage Act'

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to introduce the first ever Kalash Marriage Act for the overall protection of the Kalash tribe's customs and traditions, especially those pertaining to marriages in the community.

Adviser to the Chief Minister on Minority Affairs Wazirzada said the act is being formulated in consultation with 74 judges, experienced lawyers and influential figures from the Kalash tribe.

There is no legal documentation of matters pertaining to marriages,

divorce, dowry and inheritance in the community, and the decisions are made merely considering the tribe's customs and traditions, which involve a number of legal complications, he added.

The adviser said because the marriages are not officially registered, people from other areas marry into the Kalash tribe and take their women away. They are not given their basic rights and the men do not fulfill their responsibilities. He added that legal action against such people is not possible, because there is no proof of these marriages.



The draft for the act will be completed by January and presented first to the cabinet and then the provincial assembly for approval. The law will be officially enforced with the governor's signature after approval from the assembly.

According to Wazirzada, if the act

is approved, it will be a great achievement for the Kalash people.

The Kalash people live in KP's Chitral. These 4,000 people form the smallest minority ethnic group of Pakistan. They are known for their unique traditions and style of living.

Courtesy: www.samaa.tv

Workshop on Targeted Financial Sanctions in Countering the Financing of Terrorism and SHERLOC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), hosted two Workshops on Targeted Financial Sanctions in Countering the Financing of Terrorism and SHERLOC. These workshops were held under the framework of project Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) Sindh, and were made possible with support from the European Union (EU)

The first workshop was dedicated to the women anti-terrorism prosecutors of the province of Sindh. Dr Jeremy Milsom, UNODC Country Representative in his opening remarks mentioned the importance of gender equality, and commented that 'as part of UNODC's commitment towards gender sensitive responses and gender mainstreaming technical assistance, we are pleased to be providing an equal opportunity to women prosecutors who are playing a pivotal role in countering terrorism in Sindh'. The participants for the second workshop were investigators from the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh Police.

The first half of both workshops focused on Pakistan's national legal



and institutional framework for countering the financing of terrorism, while Pakistan's international obligations under various UNSC resolutions were presented; along with an overview of current and emerging terrorist financing threats faced internationally, followed by the United Nations response in assisting Member States. The second halves consisted of detailed presentations on Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS,) in addition to recent legislative amendments in Pakistan, followed by an overview of UNODC's global knowledge tool SHERLOC.

Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) are asset-freezing and financially prohibitive measures against terrorism adopted under the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). The Government of Pakistan is required to demonstrate effective

implementation of targeted financial sanctions, supported by legislation, against all designated terrorists and those acting for or on their behalf. Additionally, Pakistan must also demonstrate enforcement against TFS violations, including administrative and criminal penalties. The presentations delivered by Director General Counter Terrorism Financing Mr Muhammad Iqbal, NACTA and Director CT Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Kamran Taj highlighted the scope of TFS, their applicability and implementation process in Pakistan, the legislative structure, and the mechanism of monitoring TFS.

Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) is a UNODC web-based portal to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the

implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto, and the international legal framework against terrorism. This knowledge management portal of legal information on organized crime and terrorism created by UNODC aims to raise awareness and serve as a practitioner's tool to be used by police, prosecutors, and judges in the fight against terrorism. An introduction to SHERLOC, and linkages between organized crime and terrorism, was followed by practical demonstration of the portal for the participants.

Mr Francois Zablou from the European Union noted that the workshops provided a 'great opportunity for prosecutors and investigators to learn about targeted financial sanctions in order to apply their learnings successfully to their practice', and he emphasized the EU's 'ongoing support to the Government of Pakistan for strengthening its response in countering terrorism'.

These workshops were a successful blend of virtual and in-person presentations, and were attended by 22 participants on each day.

Courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Salam Award for Imaginative Fiction announces 2020 winner

Many submissions came from students and a multitude of professions including filmmakers, teachers, and lawyers

From regular science fiction to steampunk magic realism, The Salam Award for Imaginative Fiction rewards short story writers for their creativity and artistic talent. For the fourth year running, the competition has released its honourable mentions - including winners, finalists and commendable announcements for the year 2020. By the deadline on July 31, the competition this year received a record number of submissions (around 150), from Pakistani nationals all over the world and across the country - ranging from the United States, Canada, and the Middle East, to villages in Sindh

and Punjab. Since no applicant identifiers (including name, gender, location, biographical details etc.) were available to the jury, the stories were judged blindly. A writer from Lahore, Pakistan, Nihal's interests include reading and occasionally writing weird, strange stories involving obscure ideas of little practical use that seem to matter only to him. He is also especially fond of dogs. When he isn't involved in reading or weaving hapless narratives, he can be seen struggling to make it big with his lawful wife, medicine.

Finalists:

Into the Light by Zunaira Nadeem
Door One Seventy One by Hira Awais

Honorable Mentions:

Of Sweet Seas and Starlight by

Zahra Mukhi

Visions of Host by Eman Kamran
Jinns by Mehak Khan

Furthermore, a majority of the participants were women; a large number of submissions came from students, but also from a multitude of professions including filmmakers, teachers, and lawyers. This year's distinguished jury included Ellen Dattlow, Aliza T. Greenblatt, and Sami Shah for taking the time to provide their valuable feedback. Sharing their thoughts on The Smokesense of Pluvistan, they described the strangeness and wonder of the setting that first drew them into the story and the love the characters had for each other that kept them reading. A story full of sadness, longing, and beauty. They were particularly



impressed by the beautiful use of language. "The imagination and rising talent of Pakistani writers is undeniable. The love for storytelling and the beauty of words shone through the submissions. There were many wonderful stories, and choosing the top stories was a difficult task," they added. The winning story will be available on the Salam Award's website, followed by a reading. They hope to receive more recommendations by next year!

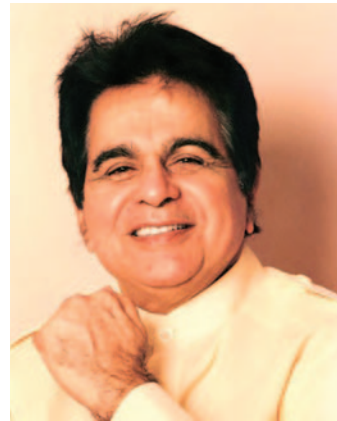
Courtesy: Dawn

Dilip Kumar is requesting people in Peshawar to share pictures of his ancestral home

"I have memories of the sitting room where the family gathered for tea in the evenings the terrace, the bedroom, everything."

Before the legendary Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar moved to Bombay to kickstart what was a majestic career in the Indian film industry, the duo resided in Peshawar, Pakistan. Recently, as the Pakistan government announced the restoration of their ancestral homes as part of the national heritage program to restore the city's glory, the Mughal-e-Azam actor took to social media,

requesting people in Peshawar to send him pictures and updates. "Requesting all in #Peshawar to share photos of my ancestral house (if you've clicked the pic) and tag #DilipKumar," he tweeted. Penning down a heartfelt note, the Ram Aur Shyam actor also took a trip down memory lane to his childhood spent there. "The news that the house where I was born (1922) and where I spent a good part of my childhood in Peshawar's Qissa Khwani Bazaar, then in undivided India, has sent my mind racing back to memories of happy



days spent in the spacious home and its surroundings," Kumar wrote. Speaking about his parents and family, the star went on to recall intricate details that he fondly recalled to date.

"I have memories of the sitting room where the family gathered for high tea in the evenings, the large room where the ladies prayed, the terrace, the bedrooms, everything. I can vividly recall the piggy rides on my grandfather's back and the scary

stories my grandmother cooked up to forbid me from wandering out of the house alone."

"I have lovely memories of Qissa Khwani Bazaar, where I received my first lessons in story telling, which later provided the impetus to choose meaty stories and scripts for my work," he added. "Every day as the trading closed in the market of Qissa Khwani Bazaar, a story teller would sit in the centre of the square narrating stories of valour and victory, deceit and retribution which I would listen to with wide-eyed attention, seated next to my father and uncles." He also revealed that he would be penning these details down in his autobiography, which would be releasing shortly. Previously, Kumar's wife and former actress Saira Banu praised Pakistan for taking this action. Talking to Times of India, she said: "I wish the provincial government success in its efforts and sincerely hope that this time the dream comes true. Mashallah." *Courtesy: Daily Dawn*



Pakistan issues over 2,000 visas in a day to Afghans

Pakistan's embassy in Kabul issued over 2,000 visas in a single day on October 12, following the government's decision to facilitate Afghan citizens, an official said.

The move is part of Islamabad's new policy to improve its relations with the western neighbor following its globally appreciated role in the Afghan peace process to end the nearly two-decade long war in Afghanistan.

"Yesterday, 12 October, Pakistan Embassy in Kabul issued 2059 visas to Afghan nationals. We are working to further facilitate visa applicants," Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul, tweeted.

He announced that his country's consulates in Afghanistan will continue issuing visas to Afghan citizens.

On Sept. 29, Pakistan's federal cabinet approved a new visa policy for Afghanistan to issue multiple entry visit visas to facilitate Afghan traders and citizens.

"The cabinet has approved a new

visa policy for Afghan citizens. Acquiring visas will be easy for Afghan visitors with multiple entry visit visas and long-term business, investment and student visas. A new category of health visa is also introduced which will be issued on border," Pakistan special representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq, said after the decision.

Earlier, Pakistan embassy and consulates in Afghanistan were issuing only one-time entry visas to Afghan visitors.

Last month, Islamabad also opened all border terminals with Afghanistan located in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, including key Torkham crossing point, for pedestrian traffic which were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the country since March.

Islamabad also announced to establish 12 markets in the border areas with Afghanistan and Iran to push business activities at border areas with its neighbors.



The new initiative came while Abdullah Abdullah, the man leading Afghanistan's peace process, was in Islamabad on a three-day visit on September 28.

Landlocked Afghanistan has for decades relied mostly on Pakistani overland routes and seaports for bilateral and international trade.

However, tensions due to accusations of supporting militants in each other countries have significantly

undermined the bilateral trade activities in recent

In a statement following a meeting with Abdullah last month, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed the hope that Abdullah's visit will help open a new chapter in Kabul and Islamabad's often troubled relationship, adding that he will be visiting Afghanistan soon on President Ashraf Ghani's invitation.

Courtesy: The Nation

A series of capacity building workshops titled Mock Criminal Investigation & Trial Exercise on the Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorist Financing (TF) were organized by UNODC and NACTA across the province of Sindh

A series of capacity building workshops titled Mock Criminal Investigation & Trial Exercise on the Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorist Financing (TF) were organized by UNODC and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) across the province of Sindh between 12 and 20 October 2020. The two-day workshops were held in three cities; Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur. Over 80 criminal justice officials including judges, prosecutors and investigators from districts of Karachi, Hyderabad, Umerkot, Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Ghotki and Sukkur participated along with international experts from INTERPOL and World Customs Organization (WCO).

Building capacity for Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) is one of the key objectives under the framework of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) project in Sindh. To achieve this goal the workshops were designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of stakeholders across the provincial criminal justice system using a blended approach of expert presentations in-person and virtually followed by a mock-trial of a factitious terrorism financing case. During the morning sessions of each workshop presentations were delivered by NACTA officials on Pakistan's legal framework on CFT, followed by CT Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pakistan's obligations to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) on targeted financial sanctions especially UNSCR 1267.

The latter half of the day included



presentations by UNODC experts on current and emerging challenges of terrorist financing followed by INTERPOL representative on challenges and approaches for investigators terrorism financing cases and the tools available to Member States for enhancing international cooperation. The representatives from the World Customs Organization (WCO) presented on various means of terrorist financing with a specific reference to bulk cash smuggling and movement of gems and precious metals.

During the second day of workshops, NACTA and UNODC facilitated a mock-trial exercise on terrorism financing. The interactive

exercise used a case scenario to identify challenges faced in investigation, prosecution, and



adjudication of cases, along with various tools and approaches to manage them. The mock-trial exercise was complemented with

on-going group discussions to gain insight into various national and international standards on information sharing, investigation, legal processes, evidence requirements, recent legislative amendments in Pakistan, and admissibility of evidence for successful adjudication of terrorism financing cases.

The purpose of the mock-trial was to allow participants a dynamic learning environment where they

could present and augment learning with incremental sets of evidence and information as the investigation and trial progressed. The session aimed to encourage peer-learning and experience sharing during the interactive sessions while improving inter-agency cooperation and information sharing going forward.

Presentations were also shared by experienced advocates on United Kingdom's approach to criminal investigations and prosecutions related to terrorism as well as defense perspective in criminal prosecution trials in Pakistan.

Courtesy: www.unodc.org



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