

# Positive Post

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



Greenwich University  
Pakistan - Mauritius

## November in History

**November 26, 1964:**

President Ayub Khan inaugurates Pakistan Television Lahore Station.

**November 13, 1966:**

Punjab city of Montgomery renamed Sahiwal.

**November 18, 1966:**

Pakistan awards Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Egyptian vocalist Umm-i-Kulsoom for singing the poetry of Allama Iqbal.

**November 18, 1967:**

Pakistan awards Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Egyptian vocalist Umm-i-Kulsoom for singing the poetry of Allama Iqbal.

**November 24, 1978:**

Pakistan wins Hockey Champion Trophy at Lahore, defeating Australia.

**November 30, 1987:**

Local bodies election held throughout the country.

**November 16, 1988:**

General elections held. PPP wins 92, IJI secures 54.

**November 13, 1993:**

Farooq Laghari elected eighth President of Pakistan.

**November 10, 2001:**

US President Bush meets President Musharraf in New York and assures additional aid of one billion dollar.

**November 23, 2002:**

Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali sworn in as Prime Minister.

**November 6, 2012:**

US polls event organised in US embassy in Pakistan.

## Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

### Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2018 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

### DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan ranked 112th out of 167 countries in the Democracy Index scoring 4.17 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 4.26 in 2017.

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 150th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

### PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

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

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

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

### TERRORISM INDEX

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

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

### ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

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

Index from 0 (repressed) to 100 (free)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic and Political outcomes.



Karachi Research Chair (KRC) delegate **Mr. Ali Jillani** represented Pakistan at the “Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum 2020: Solidarity and System Change are the only Antidotes to COVID-19 Crisis”, November 22-23, 2020.

The forum focused on reemphasizing the need for proactive development planning amid catastrophic implications COVID 19 has had on social, economic and environmental aspects of development. The pandemic has also exposed systemic flaws across politico-economic governance structures, eventually affecting the most marginalized segments of the global society. The situation presses the need for reassessing development priorities against Sustainable Development Goals, while mobilizing political will in the Global North to finance recovery efforts in the South to build back better post COVID 19.

Mr. Jillani's intervention focused on the need to advocate redress of systemic barriers like inequalities of wealth, power and resources; oppressive international trade and monetary frameworks; and, militarization and conflict arising out of contesting geo-political

ambitions. He emphasized the need to galvanize pressure on governments of the Global North to commit adequate financing, technological and strategic support for building back better post COVID 19. He urged the tracking of financing patterns in COVID 19 response where the funds are being diverted to massive corporate bailouts rather than investing in public healthcare infrastructure.

He advised Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCSEM) to lead the front on countering neoliberalism enabling multinational corporations to plunder developing countries through tax evasions, trade mispricing and profit shifting combined with illicit financing and corruption. He recommended that APRCEM's advocacy strategy should entwine Development Justice at the heart of the Agenda

2030 to realize the transformative ambition for global development. He also pressed the need to democratize mediums of engagements within and outside UN systems for enhanced accountability at national, regional and global levels. He concluded that COVID 19 has exposed neoliberal patterns and reinforced the need to enact fundamental reforms to safeguard the interests of people and the planet over profits.





## Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves at a three year high



Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves jumped to \$13.415 billion when the week ended on November 20, according to information shared by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The last time Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves were at this level was in January 2018.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves, foreign exchange held by State Bank plus commercial banks of the country, also crossed \$20 billion mark. It stood at \$20.552 billion.

State Bank shares foreign exchange reserves data by a week's delay.

The bank said that the reserves increased by \$484 million due to government's official inflows without giving further details.

Pakistan's depleting dollar reserves

were one of the main challenges for the PTI when it came into power in August 2018. Within its first six months, the PTI government saw dollar reserves down to a level that was barely enough to pay for two months of imports.

To tackle this challenge, Prime Minister Imran Khan's government signed a \$6 billion bailout with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The increase in dollar reserves can be attributed to dollar inflows caused by the signing of the IMF programme, which opened more doors for Pakistan as the World Bank, ADB and AIIB also pledged support.

According to the IMF, the programme was supposed to unlock funding of \$38 billion from multilateral donors.

*Courtesy: Express Tribune*

## AirSial hopes to launch this December



Pakistan's newest private airline, AirSial, is starting its fleet with an Airbus A320.

The plane landed in Karachi on Sunday afternoon from the US. The airline will start operations with three planes.

With the arrival of these planes, AirSial will finally be able to start operations. The airline's management hopes to operate its first flight ahead of the new year.

AirSial will start with flights between Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Sialkot and Peshawar before expanding operations.

The airline is a project of members of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It was conceived in 2015 after Sialkot's business community constructed the city's airport on its own. That makes it the country's first and only privately owned airport.

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*

## Pakistanis join final trials for China-made Covid-19 vaccine

the Covid-19 coronavirus, the first ever Phase 3 clinical trial for any vaccine in Pakistan, at a hospital in Islamabad.

Thousands of volunteers are flocking to research hospitals across Pakistan to join final-stage clinical trials of a Chinese-made vaccine for the coronavirus.

It is the first time Pakistan has participated in such a trial, which comes amid a string of positive vaccine announcements by Western pharmaceutical companies this month.

ready about the accuracy and efficacy of the vaccine in two to three months," Ejaz Ahmad Khan, the principal researcher overseeing the trial in Pakistan, told AFP.

Officials said Pakistan has already inoculated about 7,000 of the 10,000 participants expected to receive a jab.

The trials come with intensive care wards across the country nearing capacity as a second, deadlier wave of the coronavirus spreads and officials struggle to counter public indifference to the pandemic.



The vaccine is being developed by CanSinoBio and the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology China.

"I have volunteered myself for a noble cause that will help humanity," said a volunteer at Islamabad's Shifa hospital, where hundreds of participants are being paid about \$50 for their trouble.

Others should "step forward and take part in this noble cause which will save lives," he added.

For years, China has focused much of its attention in Pakistan on mammoth development projects, bankrolling the construction of roads, power plants and a strategic port.

Beijing has now tapped one of its closest allies to participate in the vaccine trials, despite Pakistan's chequered history with inoculation campaigns.

"We hope to have some findings

The country has confirmed more than 382,000 cases including over 7,800 deaths since the virus arrived in late February.

Less than a year after the coronavirus that has claimed 1.4 million lives began spreading across the globe, a number of highly promising Covid-19 vaccines are on the cusp of release.

Four separate drug makers have recently announced that their vaccines are effective for most people.

Due to lingering suspicions over vaccines, Pakistan is one of just two countries where polio continues to spread, sparking fears that a new drive to inoculate the population against the coronavirus will fail.

The Chinese vaccine is also undergoing phase 3 trials or large scale testing on humans in several other nations including China, Russia, Chile, Argentina and Saudi Arabia.

*Courtesy: Express Tribune*

## Mohammad Amir weighs in on Babar Azam, Virat Kohli debate



Pakistan's star pacer Mohammad Amir believes that bowling to Babar Azam is more difficult compared India's Virat Kohli.

The duo has been compared for a number of years after series of consistent performances in different formats of the game for their respective national teams.

Amir, while talking to Cricket Pakistan, said that he has found bowling more difficult to Babar compared to Kohli.

"If you compare Babar with Kohli, I find it difficult bowling to Babar because of his stance," he said.

"Because if I take the ball away from him he plays the drive [through off-side] and if I bring the ball back in, he flicks it [through on side]."

Babar has represented Pakistan in 29 Tests, 77 ODIs and 44 T20Is where he has managed to score 7,306 runs which included 17 centuries and 47 half-centuries.

On the other hand, Kohli has played 86 Tests, 248 ODIs and 82 T20Is for India where he has managed to score 21,901 runs which included 70 centuries and 104 half-centuries.

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*

## Entire Punjab to get health cards by December 2021

Minister Imran Khan told officials in Lahore.

In a briefing during his visit to Lahore on Wednesday, PM Khan told Punjab health officials that the target to give people in Punjab health cards should be achieved by December 2021.

Last month, PM Khan had made a promise during a Lahore visit that he would provide health cards to people in Punjab.

Addressing an event of Insaaf Doctors' Forum, the premier had said that he met Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar as well as the



During the briefing, health officials told the premier that the government will spend Rs60 billion on health cards each year and every individual will be able to get medical treatment free of charge.

provincial finance and health ministers before the event and told them to issue health cards to people in Punjab in different phases.

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*

## Toyota to unveil in Pakistan Corolla with a 2021 facelift



Indus Motor Company (IMC), which assembles and sells Toyota cars in Pakistan, is gearing up to give a fresh look to its flagship Toyota Corolla, the Corolla X Package, which is expected to roll out in January.

According to a source, the company will make a formal display at an event in the next week.

According to the company, the new Corolla X Package will be come in the Altis 1.6 and 1.8 variants. The new model has an all-black interior

along with passenger seat belt warning, EC mirror and a cosmetic body kit change.

IMC is expected to shortly commence bookings and unveil the new price simultaneously.

The Corolla is Pakistan's most selling car in terms of sales volume with close to 750,000 units sold to date. It has also been the No 1 selling car in the Asia-Pacific region and the fourth highest selling car in the world for many years

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*

## Karachi records coldest November day in 10 years



Karachi has broken its 10-year winter record this November, the Pakistan Meteorological Department said.

The minimum temperature recorded this month was 10.5 degrees, breaking the 2010 record in which the lowest temperature in November was 12 degrees.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the lowest temperature recorded in November was 7.4 degrees in 1986.

The city is likely to experience dry and cold weather in the next 24 hours as well.

Winter has arrived in other areas of

the country as well. Northern areas such as Swat, Naran, Galiyat, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Nathia Gali and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were covered in a blanket of snow.

In the last 24 hours, the lowest temperatures have been recorded in Kalam at -5 degrees, Gigit at -2 degrees and Bagrot at -3 degrees. The Met Department said the weather will remain the same in the upcoming week with more snow and rainfall.

Several roads have been closed due to heavy snowfall in Galiyat over the last three days. Large swathes of Punjab were covered by

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*



## Pakistan receives 45 stolen relics from US

A relic showing Gautama Buddha meditating under the tree of awakening was among the 45 antiquities that the Manhattan District Attorney's office returned to the people of Pakistan this week.

The repatriated items include a Gandharan frieze featuring seven figures of Buddha beside a Bodhisattva Maitreya (a friendly Buddha), a Gandharan box of religious relics and a gray schist relief of Panchika and his consort Hariti Panchika. The relics also include a Hariti Stele, a gray schist head of Buddha below a bodhi, the tree of awakening, and a Gandharan head of Buddha under the bodhi tree all dating back to the 2nd Century CE.

In a statement released on Monday, the DA office recalled that in 2015, they and the US Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) office had executed multiple search warrants and seized close to 100 antiquities from "Nayef Homsy, a known trafficker involved in the illegal looting, exportation and sale of ancient art from Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and other nations".

Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance, Jr. announced the return of 45 Pakistani antiquities, valued at approximately \$250,000, during a repatriation ceremony attended by Pakistan's Consul General Ayesha Ali and Erik Rosenblatt, a special agent of the HSI office.

"Many people believe the looting and theft of antiquities are injustices that only occurred in the past, but

these crimes of culture are still being committed all over the world every day," said District Attorney Vance. "I strongly encourage all collectors and gallery owners to conduct due diligence and ensure all pieces they purchase were lawfully acquired."

Consul General Ali said that her office "vigorously followed" the case and "months of cooperation" between the consulate and authorities in Islamabad led to the recovery and return of these assets to Pakistan. She praised US officials for their "efforts in retrieving stolen cultural treasures of Pakistan".

Mr Vance said he was "honoured to return these 45 beautiful artifacts to the people of Pakistan" as it belonged to them. He said his office was committed to "protecting global cultural heritage by investigating and returning stolen relics to their countries of origin."

Peter C. Fitzhugh, Special Agent-in-Charge of HSI New York, noted that the high profit business of smuggling and trafficking antiquities encouraged some people to indulge in trafficking these valuables and emphasised the need for all communities to work together to discourage this trade.

"HSI recognises the importance of both international and local partnerships in locating pilfered antiquities and cultural property, and it is through these repatriations that new generations are able to experience a part of their nation's story," he said.

The Manhattan DA's Antiquities



Trafficking Unit also recently repatriated multiple pieces to India and Lebanon. On Aug 14 this year, 10 antiquities valued at more than \$1 million were repatriated to India. These included five pieces from Maitreya (Nayef Homsy's Gallery); three from the Nancy Wiener Gallery; and two that had been put up for auction at Christie's Auction House with the auction house co-operating fully in the investigation as soon as they were notified.

The items included a carved marble statue, known as an Apsara, dating back to the 10th century, which was stolen and trafficked abroad in 2006 and featured in Interpol's stolen art database.

On September 30, a life-size Roman Head was repatriated to the Lebanese Republic. The piece, dating back to the 2nd century AD, is valued at approximately \$300,000, and was stolen from the Temple of Eshmun in Lebanon during the 1979 civil war.

The DA's Office seized the piece on June 19, 2020 from the Royal Athena Gallery in New York with the gallery cooperating fully in this

investigation.

To date, the unit has recovered several thousand stolen antiquities collectively valued at more than \$150m. Many hundreds of these priceless artifacts have been returned to their rightful owners and repatriated to their countries of origin. Many hundreds more are ready to be repatriated as soon as the relevant countries can receive them amid the pandemic. But more than a thousand must be held awaiting criminal proceedings against the traffickers.

The items already returned include a gold coffin stolen from Egypt in the aftermath of the Egyptian Revolution in 2011; three marble Lebanese statues; a Roman mosaic excavated from the Ships of Nemi; an Etruscan relic stolen from the site of a historic necropolis known as "City of the Dead"; a marble sarcophagus fragment; a Buddhist sculpture stolen from an archaeological dig site; a pair of 12th century Indian statues; a collection of 8th Century BCE bronze statues; and a set of ancient Greek coins.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistan to launch its first radio school

The Education Ministry of Pakistan signed an MOU for the launch of the country's first radio school.

A joint venture of the government and Radio Pakistan, the radio school will help educate over eight million children across the country.

It will run educational programmes for four hours every day from 10am to 12pm.

Announcing the launch, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood said that the project was

the first step in achieving Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision to take education to the doorsteps of students in every corner of the country.

"This an important step as students have suffered a lot throughout this year because of the coronavirus lockdown," he said, adding that radio school will serve as a distance learning platform.

The minister added that the government will launch an education portal soon as well.

Earlier in April, the government had launched



the TeleSchool Channel. The educational channel beams programmes at PTV from 8am to 5pm everyday and delivers content for grades 1 to 12.

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*

## UNODC promotes cooperation within the criminal justice system through the Pakistan Prosecution Forum

27 November 2020 - Islamabad, Pakistan: In August 2020 the secretariat and support function for Pakistan Prosecution Forum (PPF) was officially handed over to the UNODC Country Office in Pakistan by the CAPRI Programme supported by the British High Commission (BHC). The PPF was formed in 2018 as a premier level of informal forum comprising the senior leadership from Prosecution, representative of all the provinces of Pakistan. It aims to promote reforms that benefit not only the prosecution but the entire chain of institutions within the criminal justice system in Pakistan. A few of the examples to cite the seminal work of the PPF include reform proposals of specific provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code 1898, a review and analysis of the respective Prosecution Acts and the drafting of Codes of Conduct in each of the Provinces.

On 27 November 2020, UNODC



was delighted to host the 9th PPF in Islamabad – the first time under its auspices. Despite COVID challenges, the PPF met in person as well as connecting stakeholders remotely through an interactive hybrid model of engagement, which was very pleasing to attend by all. The main item on the agenda was the important issue of enhancing Police-Prosecution Coordination mechanisms.

The PPF operates through a rotational practice of appointing its Chair, which is currently enjoyed

by the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. All the logistics were excellently arranged and COVID safety measures were in place and observed. The workshop room was adequately sanitized with sufficient space for participants to socially distance themselves, while observing COVID protocols.

The PPF was hosted through a detailed and meaningful debate to address key aspects within its mandate through decisions made by the Senior Prosecution Leadership. The members resolved and decided that

Police-Prosecution coordination mechanisms framework should be developed in consultation with the police and implemented across the provinces to improve police-prosecution practices and processes to deliver a better justice to citizens. A joint workshop to this end will be organised with the police in early February 2021 with the objective to iron out the details and concrete proposals for the provinces with consideration of local nuances to adapt to the provincial requirements.

Representatives from Prosecution and Police Departments of the individual provinces will be invited to participate through a joint event. The efforts will go a long way to seamlessly connect key institutions of the Criminal Justice Sector to enhance their efficiency and performance to enable effective delivery of justice for the citizens.

*Courtesy : [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)*

## Democratising the role of the police to ensure accountability and safety for the citizens in Balochistan

26 November 2020 - Quetta, Pakistan: The professionalism of the police demands balancing the responsibilities between serving the state and the public at large, while staying responsive and accountable to the safety needs of the community. UNODC is committed to ensuring the services of the police are tailored to delivering humane performance of law enforcement functions in line with the international best practices, UN guidelines and the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials adopted by the General Assembly, which also refers to the different aspects of accountability to the public. To this end, a sensitization workshop was organised by the UNODC's Criminal Justice and Legal Reforms Programme in Quetta on 26 November 2020 with the primary objective to create awareness and empowerment on public safety and police accountability mechanism.

The workshop was presided over by Mr. Zia Ullah Langove, Minister of Home, Tribal Affairs and PDMA,

Government of Balochistan who underscored the critical need for establishing an independent accountability and oversight mechanism towards enhancing the integrity of the police in the eyes of the general public, which also forms the basis for good governance.

The workshop was well-attended by a cross-section of stakeholders from Police, Levies Force, Balochistan Constabulary, Prosecution and Prisons Department, Balochistan University, Bar and civil society organisations and the representatives of UNODC. The diversity of participants shared perspectives on the public oversight mechanisms that can make the police more accountable to the citizens, building their confidence and trust in the law enforcement agencies in the context of Balochistan.

Focused discussions on the public safety oversight and accountability mechanisms and the role of an effective Police-Community Coordination (PCC) in the provincial context



proposed enhancements to the Rule of Law Roadmap in Balochistan. The recommendations also outlined the role of various stakeholders and civil society towards enhancing Police-Community Coordination. The participants unanimously agreed that:

- effective police-community coordination would ensure transparency, accountability and improved law and order in Balochistan, which is one of the most conflict-sensitive provinces of Pakistan
- public feedback mechanisms will improve service delivery of the police, reducing the trust deficit by the citizens in the law enforcement agencies

the actions and services of the law enforcement officials should be responsive to public scrutiny through a reviewing agency whether judiciary or a relevant citizen-led structure

- public oversight mechanism and police accountability should be part of the Police law, holding the police accountable to the judicial systems along with the application of the Citizens' Right to Information (RTI) Act

- incorporating public oversight mechanisms into the Rule of Law Roadmap in Balochistan will help towards institutionalizing the public oversight and accountability mechanisms

*Courtesy : [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)*



## UNODC provides specialist training to female law enforcement officers to address heavily gendered nature of human trafficking and migrant smuggling

06 November 2020 - Islamabad, Pakistan: We know that women are underrepresented in institutions responding to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. To address the heavily gendered nature of both crimes, UNODC, under the EU funded Global Action to Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT – Asia and the Middle East), conducted from 02 to 06 November 2020 a training workshop for female law enforcement officers on “Investigative techniques in tackling human trafficking and migrants smuggling”. 17 female officers from the Federal Investigation Agency’s (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking units and 8 female police officers of the Punjab police participated in the weeklong training.

Welcoming the participants, Jeremy Milson, UNODC Country Representative said, “While UNODC’s work in combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) is directly relevant to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) on the eradication of forced labour and human trafficking. At the same time the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration is essential for decreasing profit opportunities for migrant smugglers and human traffickers. HE further added “I feel honored today to address 25 police officers representing the FIA and the Punjab police. As a woman who is raising a family while pursuing a career you have the challenge of doing two full-time jobs at once. Yet your positions as police officers place additional burdens on you at work and at home, requiring you to intervene, console and protect other families while also maintaining peace within your community. I deeply admire the dedication, skills and enthusiasm you bring to both these tasks.”

The training focused on female law enforcement officials who, to date, had limited training opportunities on how to investigate both crimes. The training was delivered in a hybrid manner led by Martin Reeve, GLO.ACT Regional Advi-



sor and a pool of national experts. As a pre-requisite to the weeklong training, participants had to complete several e-learning modules on TIP and SOM which ensured that the trainees, coming from different backgrounds and sections of the two different agencies (FIA and police) all had the same foundational knowledge about TIP and SOM.

Wajid Zia, Director General FIA, in his opening remarks, while thanking UNODC and EU said, “The presence of all these women law enforcement officers here is evidence of a strong partnership and a shared recognition in the indisputable correlation between women’s empowerment and global peace.” He further added, “During the past few years, our joint efforts have resulted in accomplishment of number of activities. These include development of Pakistan’s National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (2015-2020), enactment of TIP and SOM Laws in June 2018, representation in regional consultative meetings and workshops, capacity building of officials and institutional reforms. These efforts show our strong commitment to address problems related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling.”

Going beyond the classroom setting, 3 coaching sessions, each lasting 2 days, will complement this weeklong training and while the training followed a planned curriculum, the coaching will be semi-structured and responsive to challenges, needs and questions set by the participants themselves. All of the participants from the training course were invited to sign up for the coaching sessions. Using such a blended learning methodology the participants enhanced their understanding of TIP and SOM, gained a demonstrable understanding of international and national legal frameworks and increased their understanding and knowledge in areas of victim protection, interviewing skills and intelligence-led policing. The workshop also helped participants to understand human rights considerations and gender dimensions in TIP and SOM investigations.

Highlighting the importance of women’s role in Policing, Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan she said, “Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is a global challenge. Along the international routes, organized criminal networks exploit vulnerable populations with the false promises to escape from poverty

and conflict. The EU recognizes along with the UN that THB is a gender-specific crime. The UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons states that women and girls represent more than 70 per cent of detected human trafficking victims over the last 15 years. Therefore, it is important to know the Human Rights and Gender dimensions to this crime.”

Seeking to address the gendered nature of human trafficking and migrant smuggling through the provision of specialized training for female law enforcement officers is a priority under GLO.ACT. GLO.ACT also hopes to encourage and support mid-level and senior managers to ensure that the training participants will, as a result of such specialized training, be given access to the full range of police duties.

The Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants – Asia and the Middle East (GLO.ACT-Asia and the Middle East) is a four-year (2018-2022), €12 million joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in up to five countries: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Afghanistan), Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R. of Iran), Republic of Iraq (Iraq), Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan). The project builds on a global community of practice set in motion in GLO.ACT 2015-2019 and assists governmental authorities and civil society organizations in targeted, innovative and demand-driven interventions: sustaining effective strategy and policy development, legislative review and harmonization, capability development, and regional and trans-regional cooperation. The project also provides direct assistance to victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants through the strengthening of identification, referral, and protection mechanisms.

*Courtesy : [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)*



## Pakistan's lonely elephant Kaavan packs trunk for Cambodia



With music, treats, and balloons, friends of Pakistan's only Asian elephant threw a farewell party for the creature ahead of its relocation to Cambodia following years of campaigning by animal rights activists.

The plight of Kaavan, an overweight, 35-year-old bull elephant, has drawn international condemnation and highlighted the woeful state of Islamabad's zoo, where conditions are so bad that a judge in May ordered all the animals to be moved

Kaavan is set to be flown to a wildlife sanctuary in Cambodia on Sunday, said Saleem Shaikh, a spokesman for Pakistan's ministry of climate change, following months of veterinary care and a special training regime to habituate the elephant to a huge metal crate he will travel in.

But before flying out, the capital's animal lovers said goodbye, with performances from local bands who serenaded Kaavan ahead of the mammoth move.

"We want to wish him a happy retirement," said Marion Lombard, the deputy mission leader for Four Paws International an animal welfare group that has spearheaded the relocation effort.

The Islamabad Zoo, where Kaavan has lived for decades since arriving from Sri Lanka, was decorated with balloons for the occasion and banners wishing the animal well.

"We will miss you Kaavan," read one of the signs.

Kaavan's plight was given a boost over the years by American pop icon Cher, who publicly campaigned for the elephant's relocation and called the decision to move him one of the "greatest moments" of her life.

Zoo officials have in the past denied Kaavan was kept in substandard conditions or chained, claiming instead the creature was pining for a new mate after his partner died in 2012.

But Kaavan's behaviour including signs of distress such as continual head-bobbing raised concerns of mental illness.

Activists also said Kaavan was not properly sheltered from Islamabad's searing summer temperatures, which can rise above 40 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit).

Kaavan's mate Saheli, who also arrived from Sri Lanka, died in 2012.

*Courtesy: Pakistan Today*

## Electronic and overseas voting: Pakistan PM announces electoral reforms

While addressing the media on Tuesday, he said that they are bringing the following changes to the electoral system:

- Electronic voting
- Allowing overseas Pakistanis to cast their votes
- A constitutional amendment to make sure senators vote during senate elections through a show of hands.

He remarked that he wants people to accept defeat gracefully because of which the PTI government has been working on these reforms. The premier started his speech by thanking the people of Gilgit-Baltistan for coming out of their houses in extreme temperatures and casting their votes. "I promise you that you will receive the same rights as other citizens of Pakistan," he said, adding that this is why the government worked towards giving a provisional provincial status to the region.

### 2013 vs 2018 elections

The PM said that he will explain the difference between the rigging allegations during the 2013 and 2018 general elections too.

After the 2013 elections, the PML-N itself said that rigging had occurred in Sindh. My party just focused on four constituencies. If the votes had been recounted in those constituencies then the PTI wouldn't have won the election. "We couldn't have formed a government even then," he remarked. "We just wanted the election authorities to audit those four constituencies and bring the truth in front of everyone."

At least 133 petitions were filed in



the Election Commission challenging the results of the elections, of which 23 were filed by the PTI.

In comparison, only 102 petitions were filed in the ECP challenging the results of the 2018 General Election. Of those, only 15 were filed by the PML-N and 9 by PPP. "I even directed [Pervaiz] Khattak to form a committee and hear the grievances of the opposition members," said the PM. They attended one meeting and stopped coming after that. "This was their seriousness in 2018."

When I was campaigning against the rigging in 2013, I went to the Election Commission and then the Electional Tribunal after which I knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court. We did everything we could and staged protests a year later because we want to reform the electoral process, he added.

"We collected evidence and took it to the Supreme Court," the PM said. "I ran the campaign for free and fair elections in the country."

*Courtesy: Samaa TV*

Patron:  
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Vice Chancellor  
Editor:  
Dr Sabir Ahmed  
Assistant Professor  
Graphics & Layout:  
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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