



## Roundtable on "PAKISTAN-US Relations Looking Forward"

Discussing regional situation, Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the situation in Afghanistan had direct bearings on Pakistan. Pakistan advocates proactive engagement of the international community to mitigate humanitarian crisis in the neighboring Afghanistan. The Planning Minister highlighted situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir stressed upon the need for the international community, United States and champions of human rights across the globe to take cognizance of the situation.



A high-level delegation from Pakistan met Prof. Dr. Ali Erbaş, President of Türkiye's Presidency of Religious Affairs on 10 August 2022 in Ankara. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Minister of State for Frontier Regions and Maulana Fazlur Rehman were part of the delegation.



Secretary Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah appreciated the UNAIDS's commitment for supporting the development portfolio for HIV/AIDS control in Federal as well as Provincial territories of Pakistan especially when many people are living with HIV (PLHIV) in Pakistan.



Central Development Working Party meeting is being convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Prof Ahsan Iqbal. Projects related to energy, environment, health, HEC, IT, manpower and transport and communication are being discussed.



# Development **INSIGHT**



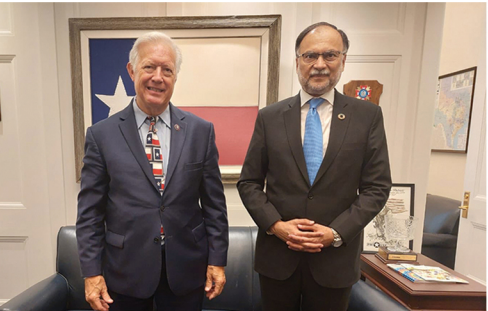
## **Minister Ahsan Iqbal met with US Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Mr. Dilawar Syed**

The Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal met with US Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Mr. Dilawar Syed. Both sides agreed on further advancing Pakistan US economic ties and cooperation.



## **Prof. Ahsan Iqbal met with H.E. Lisa McClain**

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister Planning met with H.E. Lisa McClain in Washington. Both sides agreed that broad-based Pakistan US relations are vital for peace, stability & socio-economic development in the region and beyond.



## **Prof Ahsan Iqbal met with Congressman Randy Weber**

Federal Minister Planning Prof Ahsan Iqbal met with Congressman Randy Weber. The Planning Minister emphasized the significance of further strengthening people to people & inter parliamentary linkages between Pakistan & the United States.



## **Prof Ahsan Iqbal met with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee**

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister Planning met Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Chair Congressional Caucus. The Minister highlighted importance of promoting parliamentary exchanges & appreciated role of Congressional Caucus in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and US.

## **Minister Ahsan Iqbal met H.E. Derek Chollet**

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal met H.E. Derek Chollet, the Counselor of the Department of State and discussed robust economic ties between Pakistan and US including food security and investment partnerships in development.





# Development INSIGHT

## Meeting with Delegation of US-Pakistan Business Council

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal talked to a delegation of US-Pakistan Business Council which called on him at Embassy of Pakistan Washington DC. The Minister highlighted potential of Pakistani markets & its unique geo-location offering opportunities to US businesses & tech entrepreneurs



He remarked that Pakistan needs “Second Green Revolution” saying that climate change has compounded issues related to agriculture sector posing serious challenge to food security. He mentioned that Pakistan looks forward to benefit from US expertise.

Talking to US business delegates, the Planning Minister highlighted energy, engineering, healthcare as key areas for investments. He assured the delegation that Government was committed to provide conducive environment & remove all obstacles to unleash Pakistan’s full potential.

## Pictorial memory of Minister Planning Prof. Ahsan Iqbal’s

A pictorial memory of Minister Planning Prof. Ahsan Iqbal’s, visit was presented by Information section on a successful visit to Washington D.C.



## The Turnaround Pakistan Conference Recommendations Review Meeting

The Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal directed to formulate action oriented roadmap as purpose of Turnaround Pakistan conference was to identify bottlenecks and to chalk out strategy to remove them.

He advised to reinstate teachers training centers initiative. He said curriculum must be uniformed with 21st century challenges & should cover concepts like industrial revolution & productivity, modern agricultural practices & Muslims glorious historical past.



Reviewing Turnaround Pakistan policy recommendations, the Planning Minister said that our human resource have to be trained in coherence with global needs. He also directed to formulate a coherent integrated health policy to address emerging health challenges.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal instructed to structure program for adult literacy while reviewing education sector recommendations. He said we must use technology as an enabler and fill the entire educational landscape.



# Development INSIGHT



## NDMRF issued a Grant for Promoting Horticulture Development and Climate Change Management

On Behalf of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Department, NDMRF has issued a Grant Rs 2899.67 million for promoting horticulture development and climate change management in the province. Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Planning, was the guest of honor.



Secretary Planning while appreciating the project of horticulture promotion and climate change management said that this project will produce valuable crops like olive and saffron. He said that the federal government will continue to release funds for various projects related to food security and climate change in all provinces.



## 11<sup>th</sup> JCC Preparatory Meeting

Minister Ahsan Iqbal while chairing 11th JCC preparatory meeting remarked that ministries must ensure projects of high significance to be included under CPEC Framework. Projects that can be covered through private sector must not be entertained as public sector projects.



## The Ambassador of Turkey, H.E Mehmet Paçacı called on Hon Planning Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal

The Ambassador of Turkey, H.E Mehmet Paçacı called on Planning Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad. Matters concerning mutual interests came under discussion. The Minister said, Ukrainian crisis left a huge impact on world's economy especially the fuel prices.



Minister Iqbal noted that Pakistan has a very strong connection with Turkey as South Asia is greatly influenced by Central Asia. Similarities run from cuisines to social rituals to religious inclinations. He said there's great potential to upscale relations on socioeconomic levels

The Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that Pakistan & Turkey should initiate Twining Programs between their respective Universities in similar areas of expertise. It'll help share knowledge and a spirit of collectivism.



# Development INSIGHT

## National Meet on Sustainable Development Goals 2022

Planning Minister Hon Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is the guest of Honour in a National Meet on Sustainable Development Goals 2022 in Islamabad today. Development partners, National and provincial govt representatives are present.

The National Meet on SDGs aims parliamentary engagement to translate the global Agenda 2030 in to practice as implementation of the SDGs requires utilization of wide ranging policy approaches.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal noted that economic development is contingent upon political stability and succession and continuity of policies. Parliamentarians are expected to take ownership of SDGs during Budget making process.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal remarked that it is need of the hour to do introspection as a nation and delve into the factors that hinder our development and learning from the past to make a bright and prosperous future.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal stressed to integrate 3 approaches of development goals i.e. social inclusion, economic development & environmental stability. He said Pakistan is committed to SDGs and has embarked on strategizing & implementing its development agenda in line with the SDGs.



## Ms. Yuki Takemoto, Country Director for UNAIDS called upon Mr. Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Planning

Ms. Yuki Takemoto, Country Director for UNAIDS called upon Mr. Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Planning. Both dignitaries discussed current situation and future strategies to combat the looming concentrated epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Pakistan.

Country Director, UNAIDS appreciated the commitment of senior leadership of the Planning Commission for approving investment in domestic resources in the form of PC-I for financial support in Islamabad Capital Territory, GB, and AJK.



Member (Social Sector) Planning Commission Dr. Shabnum Sarfraz urged UN partners to constitute a larger consultative forum to discuss and find solutions for HIV/IDS control in Pakistan involving National and International stakeholders.

Secretary Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah appreciated the UNAIDS's commitment for supporting the development portfolio for HIV/AIDS control in Federal as well as Provincial territories of Pakistan especially when many people are living with HIV (PLHIV) in Pakistan.



# Development INSIGHT



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Census Monitoring Committee

The 2nd Census Monitoring Committee was held to review the progress of preparations & activities for Pakistan's 1st Digital Census, ensuring an expeditious, transparent & credible census.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, while chairing 2nd meeting of the Census Monitoring Committee emphasized that population census is a critical exercise hence, it should be completed by Feb 2023 utilizing all possible resources.



Minister Ahsan Iqbal directed NADRA that it should expedite the process of procurement of tablets and accessories for the conduct of digital census as the exercise is of paramount importance due to linkages with resource allocation and delimitation of constituencies.

Minister Iqbal directed Chief Secretaries to assure full cooperation & give full support to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to successfully commence census. He said any delay in process will create constitutional crises as the conduct of General Election 2023 depends on Census 2022.



## An Emergency Meeting on Gwadar Projects

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal chaired an important and emergency meeting on Gwadar projects. Issues related to fishermen of Gwadar, Pismi and Gwadar port were discussed in the meeting. The present government is taking steps to revive Gwadar port. Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan should be aligned with Gwadar Port City Plan. Implementation of Gwadar Smart City project should be ensured. Instruction of Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal



Gwadar fishermen should be provided with new engines for boating soon. The need of the fishermen should be kept in mind while supplying the engine. Instruction of Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal



## Data Dissemination KIOSK

Hon Minister Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the Data Dissemination KIOSK. Dr. Naeem-uz-Zafar briefed the Minister that PBS being the National Statistical Organization is mandated for collection, compilation & Dissemination of data on various socio economic sectors. He appreciated PBS for developing dashboards by using data as an important currency of this digital age. This intervention is actually a start of open data revolution which gauge up economic growth, provide avenues to researchers & plays pivotal role for job creation.



# Development INSIGHT

## Roundtable Conference on Digital Revolution

A Roundtable Conference in coordination with HEC Pakistan was organized today which aimed to align IT /Computer Science curriculum with industry/ employers' needs to meet local IT market requirements to increase IT Export. Experts from academia, IT Sector & Industry participated.

Speaking to IT experts, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said that the government had set Vision 2025 in 2013 to make the country one of the top 25 economies in the world. In 2017, PWC said that if Pakistan moves at the same pace, it will be among the top 30 economies in the world by 2030.

Under digital revolution, we have to select one or two sectors and make Pakistan a global leader in these sectors. And we have to create capacity in a few sectors in which we can do better than the world and market Pakistan's talent in the world. Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal that UNICEF will reciprocate Government's commitment towards social

A working group should be set up on how to take Pakistan forward on the digital frontier and how to grow the IT sector and how to bring academia and industry on the same page. Instruction of Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal.

Everyone has to work together for the betterment of the country. The country can be revolutionized by promoting modern technology. Links between educational institutions and industry should be increased. Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal.



We all have to work together as Team Pakistan, the youth of Pakistan has the passion to take Pakistan forward. We have to bring this country to a platform where our young generation can take it forward. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal.

Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said that we need manpower with critical thinking skills who not only need to learn skills but also learn the skills to adopt new ideas out of old ideas.

A working group should be formed to take forward the IT sector of Pakistan to set the agenda, define the responsibilities, and complete the projects according to the timeline. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Mr. Ahsan Iqbal's instructions.



## Pakistan's Economic Growth Strategy

Chairing a meeting on Pakistan's Economic Growth Strategy, Hon Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal directed to focus on drivers of growth. He said perspective of economy should be clarified. Chief Macro Economics briefed the meeting about updated statistics of various sectors of economy.

