

NEWS LETTER

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Pakistan is ranked 5th among the top ten most climate change vulnerable countries in the world in the Global Climate Risk (German Watch, 2020)

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Shahid Javed Burki

Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Afghanistan's Future in the Changed Global Context

The term "globalization" entered academic and policy discourse in the 1980s when analysts began to study and understand the significance of relatively open world borders. Constraints were eased on all kinds of flows across international frontiers. Trade, finance, information,

even people began to move with greater ease among nations. This development had many consequences. It changed the structure of the global industrial system. Production of final products did not take in one place. Parts made in several places were transported and sent to an assembly point to become the final product. This is the way Apple .Inc did its manufacturing. It designed products such as iPads, watches, and computers in its design center on America's west coast. Parts for the final product were made in a dozen or so countries in Southeast Asia and then sent to an assembly plant owned by the Taiwanese in China's south. Supply chains became the industrial norm. It is unfortunate that Pakistan made no attempt to take advantage of this system of global industrial production.

Not only that, what happened in one part of the globe affected in different ways the developments in other parts. Often, some global developments may not be obviously linked but it takes only a little bit of reflection to notice the connection. The latest example of this kind of connectivity is to be found in the return of the Taliban to Kabul as the country's rulers and the tiff between Paris and Washington relating to the production of submarines. Let's try to explain the connection between these two events by putting them in the global context.

The unexpected announcements made simultaneously by Washington and Canberra that the Australians will abandon the program they had negotiated years ago to manufacture the diesel-powered submarine with the help of France and go instead with the production of the American-developed nuclear submarines.

They needed a boat that could move faster and travel longer distances than was possible with the machine that used diesel as the fuel. Australia had opted to become a partner with

the United States, and Japan and India to counter the growing power and influence of China. This arrangement was given the name of the "quad" by Shinzo Abe who as then Japanese Prime Minister was of the view that the large Pacific nations needed to work together to face China.

China has begun to respond to developments such as the "quad" by improving its links with the countries to its west. It is doing this by using what President Xi calls the Road and Belt Initiative, or RBl. This is more than a trillion-dollar program of investment to build roads, railways, ports and fiber optics cables to connect China with Central and Western Asia, southern Europe and Africa. The under-development China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, is an important part of this initiative. While the United States and the rest of the West is not pleased that the Taliban are back in control in Kabul, Beijing has begun to reach out to the new rulers of Afghanistan. If Beijing had its way, it would use the under-construction roads, railways and fiber-optics links between the Pakistani port of Gwadar and China's west by extending the network to Afghanistan and through Afghanistan to the landlocked countries of Central Asia. If these ambitions materialize, Gwadar on Pakistan's Baluchistan coast could become one of the more important ports of the Asian continent. While the United States under President Joe Biden is building on the quad idea, Beijing has begun to work with Kabul, Islamabad and possibly also Tehran and Ankara to create another alliance with China at the center of the arrangement.



Ms. Shakeela Bano
President Women's Chamber of
Commerce (Layyah)

Gender Mainstreaming

Pakistan is ranked 153 out of 156 on Gender Parity Index and is ranked 7th out of 8 countries in Asia, only better than Afghanistan, according to 'Global Gender Gap Report 2021' published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Current economic situation of Pakistan also is a result of socio-economic deprivation of women in Pakistan, particularly rural women who in spite of being the key player in the agriculture, dairy and livestock sectors, are simply deprived of the basic rights to being paid for their labor, ownership of assets, basic necessities of life, participation in politics and decision making.



Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2021

Some women apparently have these rights, but their decisions are dominated by the patriarchs of the family or society. Therefore, the role of women should be focused at attaining socio-economic parity, enhanced political participation and sustainable & rights-based

gender development in the country. It would help not only to improve the human resources but also financial independence of women.



Cottage industry of Pakistan has a great potential to provide economic opportunities to the people of all genders, not to forget the transgender community within the country. This industry is labor intensive and requires a minimal technological can help develop interlinkages between agriculture and small scale industrial set-ups. Capacity building of women and robust value chain systems will create more job opportunities for them in this arena. Our youth is dynamic, and women in particular can contribute actively and effectively when given the opportunities with equity, in leadership roles at different forums. More focus needs to be placed on institutional development particularly in the following areas:

1. Basic & reproductive health and mental wellbeing
2. Education and capacity building
3. Access to economic opportunities & inclusion in the formal economy
4. Access to law enforcing agencies (LEAs)
5. Political participation and training

Improvements in these dimensions will consequently improve the economic contribution of women. This can be achieved by establishing an implementable framework that entails policy programmatic, and legislative interventions to support and mobilize all the relevant stakeholders.



Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

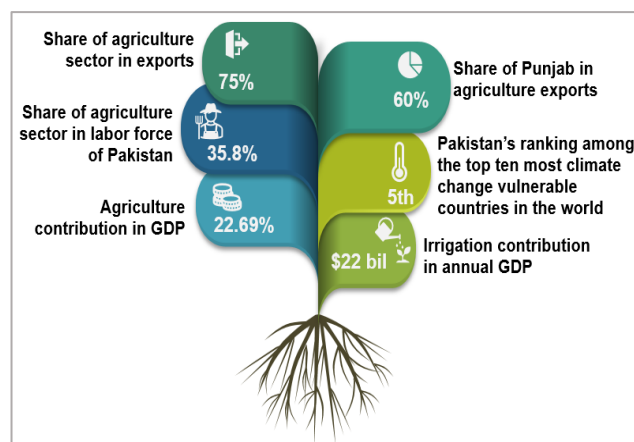
The Challenge for Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture contributes approximately 22.69 percent to the national Gross Domestic Product (2020). The sector employs approximately 35.8 percent (ILO) of the labor force in Pakistan. Punjab bears a large share of the total area cultivated for all major crops in Pakistan and contributes more than 50 percent of the total volume produced of all major crops. Agriculture is the source of providing raw materials to major industries, textile, leather, rice processing, edible oil, sugar and various food processing industries. Pakistan's total export has a three fourth share of agriculture and 60% of this share comes from Punjab. Owing to the large production base, it is considered the food basket of Pakistan.

The full potential of the sector has not been harnessed so far, inter alia, due to lack of policy and institutional stability, *ad hoc* technological interventions, the inadequacy of budgetary resources, unfavorable and extractive terms of trade to the detriment of agriculture. Land and water policies are particularly characterized by fragmentation, institutional dysfunction and market failure. Pakistan does not make the best use of inputs including water resources which are predominantly utilized by agriculture and in particular by irrigated cropping. Irrigation contributes around US\$22 billion to annual GDP. The four major crops (wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton) consume nearly 80

percent of all water use but generate less than 5 percent of GDP: around US\$14 billion per year.

Pakistan is ranked fifth among the top ten most climate change vulnerable countries in the world in the Global Climate Risk (German Watch, 2020). According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Pakistan, agriculture is highly susceptible to the short-term climate variability and longer-term climate change in terms of substantial decrease in the production of key crops such as wheat and rice.



As such, developing climate-smart agriculture is imperative for agriculture and food production on a sustainable basis for present and future needs. Strategies need to be devised to mitigate the negative impacts and pursue adaptation measures to sustain agricultural productivity and profitability, reduce vulnerability, and enhance resilience of the agricultural system to climate change at all levels of the agriculture cycle. In practical terms, appropriate set of objectives and policies have to be put in place that incentivize farmers, and other stakeholders to invest in mitigation and adaptation strategies while

maintaining steady productivity growth. Opportunities for less water-intensive storage and less energy-intensive irrigation through improved rain-fed agriculture and green water (raised bed and mulching) and soil management and eco-based solutions have to be designed to develop agriculture, water, livestock and forestry through an integrated perspective to avoid mal-adaptation and negative externalities.



Tariq Hussain
Member, Board of Directors
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
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Can Humanity Avoid a Warmer Future?

The answer to that question is an unequivocal **No**. However, we can still avoid a planetary meltdown. The sixth United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC ; August 2021) states that Climate Change is already affecting every region of the world in dramatic ways: - drought and uncontrolled forest fires in the US west; heat waves in Europe; flooding in Asia, Europe and the eastern US .It notes that the window to reverse these effects is closing .Each of the last four decades has been the warmest on record. It notes that even if the world gets down to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 -temperatures may come down a little ,but not all the way to the pre-industrial growth trend. Other effects will continue the trend on near-future time-scale (By end 2200). Sea levels will continue to rise for the next 200 years driven by the melting

of the Greenland and Antarctica Ice sheets. Low lying islands will disappear, and beaches will move inland in all low-lying areas of the world.

The Paris Agreement in 2015 initially set a goal to keep temperature increase to below 2.0 Celsius. But most small island nations and developing countries argued for a target of 1.5 Celsius. The **IPCC 2018 Special Report** studied what that half a degree difference could mean. The Table below shows what a few degrees more would mean in terms of impact on human habitations.

Climate Impact under Four Different Scenarios above Pre-Industrial Levels

| Temperature | Today's temperature +1.1 degrees C | +1.5 degrees C | +2 degrees C | +4 degrees C |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Temperature | +1.2 degrees | +1.9 degrees | +2.6 degrees | +5.1 degrees |
| Drought: times per decade | 2 times | 2.4 times | 3.1 times | 5.1 times |
| Precipitation: Wettest day per decade | 1.3 times | 1.5 times | 1.8 times | 2.8 times |
| Snow: percent change in snow cover | -1% | -5.1% | -9% | -25% |
| Tropical storms: Increase in Intensity | 0% | +10% | +13 % | +30 % |

SOURCE: -IPCC

Researchers today understand climate change much better than in 1990 when IPCC Reports were initiated. In the past three decades new findings and more sophisticated computing capacity with more observing stations, including use of satellites to observe glaciers mass balances, have dramatically improved the accuracy of climate change simulations.

The IPCC -2014 report had established that climate change is **human caused**; not a variation by Nature. That led to the 2015 Paris Agreement by 195 nations to accept that all

nations are threatened jointly and must work together. In 2017 the US had a new President (Trump) who withdrew from the Paris Agreement. Without US leadership, co-operative global actions slowed down. The US has a new president in 2021 and we are beginning to get back on track.

The science is undeniable: - humans have launched planet earth on a self-destructive path. Corrective international efforts guided by science are required on a war footing to prevent a planetary meltdown.



Aiman Adnan
Research Fellow

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Pakistan Rising Above the Pressure of Politicization of Regional Development

The sudden withdrawal of New Zealand's cricket team from a scheduled match in Pakistan did come as a surprise initially for the host country; however, it has also helped many to understand the political underpinnings of this issue. One might ask the reason for this sudden backing-out considering the team had been staying in Pakistan for some time, and had been provided an adequate level of security befitting that of the VVIPs in Pakistan. The official spokespersons of New Zealand team has not shared details of the threats felt or perceived with the Pakistani authority, despite Pakistan's insistence however, an Auckland based news outlet has disclosed that the indication of threat and the orders to leave

Pakistan on such short notice had come from the UK operating from the forum of the Five Eyes, an intelligence agency comprising the Anglo-Saxon countries.

Traditionally, the US & UK relations with Pakistan have remained transactional and lopsided towards India, and largely interest based, rather than being broad-based aiming to foster a greater understanding and cooperation for socio-economic uplift and safety against the non-state actors. This time too, it has come to notice that the UK government had placed Pakistan on the Red List for travel purposes due to COVID-19, however, placing India on a lesser sensitive list-Amber- while the rate of deaths by pandemic has been outrageously high in India and in the US in comparison to Pakistan. This high-impact tour abandonment by New Zealand cricket team could also be seen as an extension of the strategic understanding and effort of the Five Eyes to sabotage Pakistan's global image, exacerbate regional chaos, and to thwart regional connectivity in South Asia spearheaded by China.

Whatever the cause maybe, the impacts of this politicization of a cricket match to be held in Pakistan in this manner without any evidence and intel-sharing are profound. Not only does it burden Pakistan with more responsibility to make diplomatic outreach to clear its name of terrorism and of having any links to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, but also of restoring its image. This event also aimed to shake the budding confidence of the foreign investors who'd wish to be the stakeholders in the regional economic connectivity owing to China's BRI. Who is to dispense already constrained resources to neutralize and turnaround the media bashing done aggressively by India? It could also land Pakistan in hot waters at FATF arena. Who is to protect the Pakistani diaspora in New Zealand

from Islamophobia and anti-Pakistan sentiments? Who is to neutralize the efforts to isolate Pakistan internationally or for it to be seen as a state unfit for tourism? More so, who is to facilitate Pakistan in covering the great economic leakage that has been made in preparing for this match in Rawalpindi, considering Pakistan is a developing country where each penny counts for the socio-economic uplift of the masses enshrined within the UN SDGs, its tourism, and its regional & global appeal.

China's BRI. Who is to dispense already constrained resources to neutralize and turnaround the media bashing done aggressively by India? It could also land Pakistan in hot waters at FATF arena. Who is to protect the Pakistani diaspora in New Zealand from Islamophobia and anti-Pakistan sentiments? Who is to neutralize the efforts to isolate Pakistan internationally or for it to be seen as a state unfit for tourism? More so, who is to facilitate Pakistan in covering the great economic leakage that has been made in preparing for this match in Rawalpindi, considering Pakistan is a developing country where each penny counts for the socio-economic uplift of the masses enshrined within the UN SDGs, its tourism, and its regional & global appeal.

According to Pakistan's investigations, the root of this episode is the disturbing emails generated from India, the claim that the Interpol supports as well. This lends support to the notion that India sees Pakistan's development and regional integration with a jaundiced eye. It is most pertinent to note that a British journalist has reminded us all that Pakistan is a hospitable country, safe and vibrant, that has also welcomed the future king and queen of England, so how does it pose a security threat to the New Zealand team?

At the same time, China has renewed its "all-weather friendship" with Pakistan by making an international diplomatic statement in Pakistan's favors – a signing of the \$15 billion deal in petrochemicals, nuclear energy, and industrial uplift- indicating that Pakistan is a safe place for foreign investment, contrary to the objectives of Indian machinations.



Sana Ahmad
Research Assistant

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
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Make Pakistan Green

The Prime Minister of Pakistan launched a Green Pakistan initiative on 13th October 2018 to address five main categories: plantations, solid/liquid waste management, hygiene, sanitation and safe drinking water. Various projects have been launched to achieve the 2030 SDG goals like Ten Billion Tree Tsunami, Clean and Green Pakistan etc. However, we still remain vulnerable to climate change and according to a research, Pakistan is the fifth most affected country to climate change hazards. One of the most severe impacts that has been observed is the rising 'smog' in Lahore which is now ranked amongst the most air polluted cities in the world, not to forget the rising dire health concerns.

According to UNDP, Pakistan has achieved the 'on track' status on climate change. While the state initiates various projects, effort also needs to be made by all stakeholders, collectively. How can we as responsible citizens of the world by participating in the Clean Green Pakistan Movement?

Here are a few helpful habits that can hasten the process of making Pakistan clean and green if all individuals and organizations:

- Dispose their litter responsibly.
- Switch to biodegradable items.
- Plant trees.
- Conserve water.
- Avoid and discourage use of plastic.
- Encourage a 'responsible mindset' in private and public spheres .
- Sensitize themselves about the perils of irresponsible tourism.
- Take responsibility of their carbon footprint.
- Government should introduce dependable public transportation to minimize the use of private vehicles.
- There also needs to be a check on all public and private sector lead projects for the sake of better learning and implementation of future projects.
- Official records should be made for accountability of the projects initiated by the public sector and donor agencies
- Promote and increase green investments in the public sector
- Increased citizen engagement

Pakistan has to think long term and make policies accordingly that support the climate change sustainability and provide immediate benefits and reverse the environmental degradation process gradually as a strategic goal. Mere policy making is not going to help unless 'creating a conscious mindset' in individuals is also becomes part of the change process. Education drives must include creating awareness amongst school going children of our natural resources and how to protect them. This is going to empower

citizens, raise awareness and strengthen the environment protection mechanism. By focusing on these key points, the state can effectively address water and air pollution concerns.



Mamonah Sattar
Research Intern

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Methane Plumes Engulf Lahore

A large Methane plume was spotted leaking from the second largest city of Pakistan by a Satellite on August 6. According to the French energy markets geo-analytics firm Kayrros SAS, the estimated emission rate is about 126 metric tons of methane/hour. Another yet smaller plume was also seen above the city, which is emitting 39 tons of methane an hour. It is to be noted that methane is one key driver of rapidity in climate change.

However, this is not the first time that Lahore, Pakistan, has experienced such a climate crisis. As far as air quality is concerned, it has been experiencing the most toxic air compared to other cities in Pakistan. In 2018, Air Quality Index gave a warning to Lahore due to its air quality of 207 points that indicates its being unhealthy and toxic, but to no surprise in 2020, the toxic air quality increased to 750 points, which is 12 times more than the recommended level of 300¹. Similarly, this city is not new to such climate issues because Lahore has arecord figure of smog from 2014 and leakage of other

methane-like greenhouse gases.

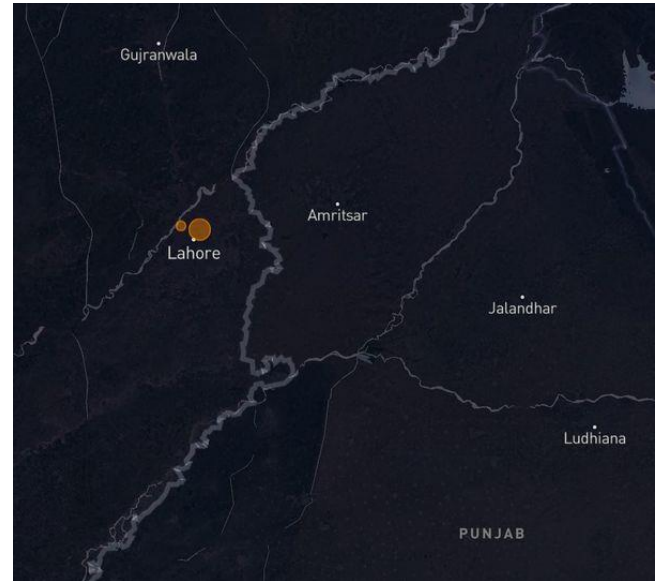
Why methane plume should be of concern? It is because methane (CH₄) is 80 times more potent than Carbon dioxide (CO₂). Though, the carbon dioxide lasts for thousand years in the atmosphere, methane only lasts for a decade as calculated by Global Warming Potential (GWP), which means the methane emission issue has solutions.

Methane in the environment comes from the burning of fossil fuels, vehicles fumes, operations in oil and gas fields, and decompositions of waste in open dumps, landfills, and livestock. Globally it is 50-65% of total methane emissions. Methane emission is the leading cause of health issues and decreased oxygen levels in the human body leading to constant fatigue, headaches, inactivity and depressive mood.

The question is how can developing countries reduce methane emissions? Industries ought to upgrade the outmoded equipment to those that emit little to no methane. Since, Pakistan has a large labor force of up to 42.3% in agriculture, the smart approach is to adopt manure management and feed optimization in livestock. Moreover, Lahore city has its own Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) at Lakhondair landfill some 15km away on the outskirts of the city, which is also a possible source of methane plume according to a Dutch researcher Bram Maasakkers. Instead of just disposing of the solid waste from the city, composting techniques should be used, as it releases no methane in the process.

It is high time that the government shows seriousness towards this climate hazard in one of the major provincial capital with a growing population. Climate action is a necessity, and both public and private entities should take responsibility for a healthy environment to be

as legacy for the younger generation.



Kayros SAS Source spotted two methane plumes in August over Lahore, Pakistan

¹ "Pakistan's Lahore Sees Peak Pollution as Coronavirus Surges." AP NEWS. Last modified November 11, 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pakistan-health-air-quality-lahore-c58d15948b4d50cef7c1ec88beb16d5e>.



Isma Khizar
Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Conducting MDCAT: A Case of PMC Irregularities

The Constitution of Pakistan recognizes the right of education to all the subjects of the state and agrees on providing free education to children 5-16 years old.¹ However, a challenge that Pakistan faces is the implementation of the laws enacted, and this article of the COP is no exception. The foul play of the institutions responsible for irregularities in the educational

sector serves as an obstacle in the imparting of fair and quality education in the country. Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), most significant in this regard has violated the code of conduct and its act in conduction of the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT). The section 18 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act 2020 mandates a single MDCAT, but the holding of the test for a month continuously is hence the violation of the act. PMC held tests in the month of September which raised concerns for the Pakistan Medical Association regarding the MCQs pool of the test getting public.² PMC's irregularities in the conduction of MDCAT has caused distress for the candidates as reports of severe mismanagement have been reported.³



Source: <https://www.trendsmap.com/>

Writs against the commission's irregularities and violation of Section 18 has been filed in different courts across the country, calling for aid to the grievances of the students. Lahore High Court issued a notice to PMC in response to a writ petition submitted to it. Higher Education Commission being a responsible body has played no vital role in this regard which leads to a significant concern. The question of students' educational security in the country arises allied with different aspects i.e., Single National Curriculum.⁴ A solution to these irregularities by PMC can't be presented but an attempt to secure the future of the

candidates would be possible by undertaking the complete investigation and accountability of the commission, and with an active response by all the stakeholders in this regard.

¹ After the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, compulsory and free education is recognized as a Fundamental Right via Article 25 A. The violation against any child is a crime and not acceptable by the law.

² PMA raised concerns that the MCQs pool of PMC cannot be so big that different questions would be given for the whole month and may become public within 10 days.

³ The online test conducted by PMC reportedly doesn't have the same level of difficulty for all the students. Accusation of favoritism, unchecked questions, out of syllabus questions and internet connectivity issues while attempting are some of the worrisome concerns against the PMC.

⁴ SNC has raised concerns for the students from the religious minority groups along with the prolonged closure of the educational institutes in the COVID-19 situation.



Minaahil Kamran

Research Intern

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Food Insecurity: A Grave Outcome of COVID-19

The increasing number of severe food insecurity around the world amid the global pandemic is reversing the impacts of SDG achievements, especially in the Global South. The UN Report on State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 revealed some distressing and alarming statistics. According to the report, around 118 million more people faced extreme starvation in 2020 than in 2019 and nearly 2.37 billion people (or 30% of the global population) lacked access to adequate food in 2020 – a rise of 320 million in just one year.¹ World Food Program of United Nations estimated the number of 272 million people who are already or are at risk of facing acute food insecurity this year, **an 80% increase over 2019.**²



World Food Program of United Nations estimated the number of **272 million** people globally who are already or are at risk of facing acute food insecurity.

Global Food Summit in September 2021-aiming to transform global food systems, but came to grip at large and was being called more of an 'elitists and regressive' than being a 'people's' summit, which was called for the pandemic but ended as if there was no pandemic.³ 'Build Back the Better World', announced in June 2021 by G7 countries, failed to attract the attention of the Third World countries mainly because of its agenda which is based on climate change, digital technology, gender equality, etc. than on economic & military infrastructure, as BRI does.

Pakistan is seemingly heading towards a 'hunger pandemic', after fighting the hazards of the COVID-19. A study conducted by UN in August 2020 accentuated that about 20-30% population of Pakistan is experiencing some form of food insecurity.⁴ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics special report on the impact of COVID-19 during the first wave, from April to July 2020, calculated that about 40% of households in Pakistan were facing moderate to severe food insecurity during the first wave.⁵

Hence, the situation is quite worrisome and demands urgency in policy-making and action.

Policy-making in this aspect needs to be two-fold. First, climate change - a root cause of food insecurity (also being considered as the cause the eruption of such deadly diseases as COVID) should be incorporated in policy making under the 'sustainable development' paradigm. United Kingdom, which claims itself to be a torchbearer of EU's 'Green Policies' had to fire up its coal power plant and the severe energy crisis and price hike in Europe. Therefore, shifting from the use of fossil fuels to renewable energy resources would be a major challenge for countries like Pakistan, but is also a need of the hour. Second, agriculture sector should be given top-level priority and should be facilitated with substantial subsidies under such circumstances, as it has suffered quite a lot as a result of this deadly pandemic.

Furthermore, immediate action is required by the government which includes food security programs under the domain of Ehsaas program, to carry out coordination among the concerned departments, and increase federal minimum wages so the masses can be facilitated in the short term urgently against the upcoming surge of food insecurity.

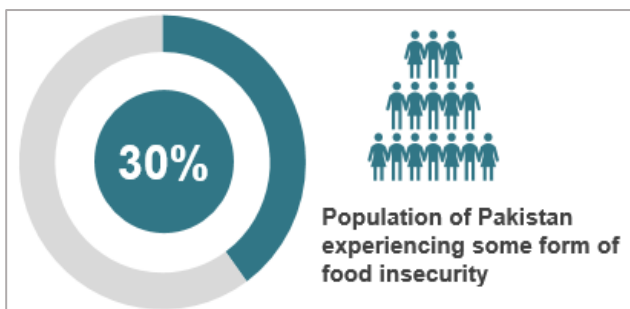
¹ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. *FAO Publications*. http://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/online/cb4474en.html#chapter-executive_summary

² July 17th, 2020. New report shows hunger is due to soar as coronavirus obliterates lives and livelihoods. *United Nations World Food Program (WFP)*. <https://www.wfp.org/news/new-report-shows-hunger-due-soar-coronavirus-obliterates-lives-and-livelihoods>

³ Karen McVeigh. September 27th, 2021. UN Food Summit will be 'elitist' and 'pro-corporate' says special rapporteur. *The Guardian*.

⁴ Rapid Assessment: Possible Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods, Food Security, Nutrition and Agricultural Supply Chain in Pakistan. August 2020. *FAO & WFP*.

⁵ September 2020. Special Survey for Evaluating Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on well-being of People. *Pakistan Bureau of Statistics*.





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 Knowledge Management**
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On 10th August 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Seekho Pakistan and the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and Community Development Foundation (CDF). Seekho Pakistan joined hands with the BIPP-CDF collective initiative of Women Economic Development Initiative Punjab (WEDIP) for a mutually agreed project named Rural-E-Commerce. This project aims to empower rural women with the introduction of new e-commerce concepts involving selling and marketing in Pakistan.



BIPP in collaboration with CDF and WEDIP, launched "Kisan Ki Beti Research" on 13th August 2021. The launch ceremony was held at the BIPP office. BIPP team, consortium partners, WEDIP regional heads, and others were part of the ceremony through zoom conference.



BIPP paid a tribute to the patriots and benefactor of Pakistan, in accordance with the celebrations of the 75th Independence Day.. In an inclusive environment of institute, the colleagues, patrons, interns, and the support staff joined in the "Clean Green Pakistan" plantation drive to play their roles as active and responsible citizens of the country. Cake cutting and flag hoisting was also performed. As we move towards another year of independence, we here, at BIPP, are hopeful that we will continue to contribute towards eradicating our Nation's challenges and upholding its progress.



On 24th August, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the research and academic collaboration between the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and the University of Management and Technology Lahore (UMT) was signed at UMT. The documents were duly endorsed with the signatures of Dr. Muhammad Aslam (Rector UMT) and Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice-Chairman BIPP). Dr. Aisha Azhar, Director SGS department - UMT, and Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu, Director Operations, Education & Learning – BIPP, coordinated this collaboration for the promotion of research and development. Faculty members of UMT, Officials from BIPP's consortium partners (Strateasy Consulting, AgriByt, SF Consortium, Community Development Foundation, Indus Foundation), and BIPP's team members attended this MOU signing activity.



On 26th August, Mr. Awais Rauf, Deputy Chairman, University of Lahore (UOL) visited the BIPP office in Lahore and attended a meeting with Mr. Shahid Najam (Vice-Chairman BIPP). Ms. Aiman Adnan (Research Fellow) briefed the meeting participants about the ongoing research on National Innovation and Technology at BIPP. A healthy discussion was done on this account and on other areas of mutual interest. Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu (Director Operation, Education & Learning-BIPP) and Ms. Samra Naz (Assistant Manager IT wing) were also among the participants.



BIPP hosted webinars on "A Post - US Withdrawal Afghanistan: Security, Political, & Socio-Economic Implications" and "Gig Economy: Needs Assessment, Caveats and Pakistan's Preparedness Analysis for Economic Leapfrogging" on 27th August and 23rd September respectively. Both of the webinars were graced with highly gifted and analytical speakers who comprised former ambassadors, defense analysts, economic, and knowledge management experts. You may watch our panelist share their expert views using the following links:

https://youtu.be/jTAqZaWP_90

<https://youtu.be/aVh13UWrldk>

The 2nd phase of Khalid Sherdil Scholarship Award has also commenced at BIPP. The turnover is massive. The students who are to be enrolled in undergrad program fall session 2021 in any HEC recognized university of Punjab province can apply for the scholarship. The scholarship is available on semester basis and is renewable subject to fulfilling conditional performance benchmark (minimum 3.0 GPA in each semester) till the completion of the degree program. The deadline of the scholarship is extended to 15th October 2021 considering that the result of HSC is yet to be announced and many universities are still in the admission process.

BIPP is extremely pleased to welcome Mr. Mujahid Sherdil and Dr. Athar Mansoor on board as member Advisory Council. Mr. Sherdil is bringing to BIPP decades of rich and versatile experience in leadership and senior executive positions with government organizations at federal and provincial level. While Dr. Mansoor is a researcher in innovation and technology policy, green finance, fintech, digital government and Belt and Road Initiative. BIPP is looking forward to a rewarding engagement with both of them to make a far-reaching impact in its research, advocacy and public policy capacity.



Mr. Mujahid Sherdil

Dr. Athar Mansoor



Awais Khalid
Manager Operations & Finance
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Increase in Interest Rate

The State Bank of Pakistan announced its new monetary policy on Monday, 20th September 2021. It announced to increase the key interest rate by 25 basis points to 7.25%. BIPP's Investment Policy has been revised since last month to get the maximum ROI.

Economic Review & Outlook

Current Account Deficit (CAD) in Jul'21 reached at US\$773million compared to a surplus of US\$583million in same period last year. Higher deficit is attributable to 52% YoY increase in goods imports and slight decline in worker's remittances of 2% YoY to US\$2.7billion. Commodity wise data shows import of petroleum products witnessed a jump of 77% YoY to US\$ 1.3billion mainly due to higher international oil prices. In addition, textile related imports were also on the higher side due to substantial reduction in previous year's cotton crop impacting current season's procurement. Imports continued the momentum in August as well and recorded highest ever monthly import number of US\$6.4 billion.

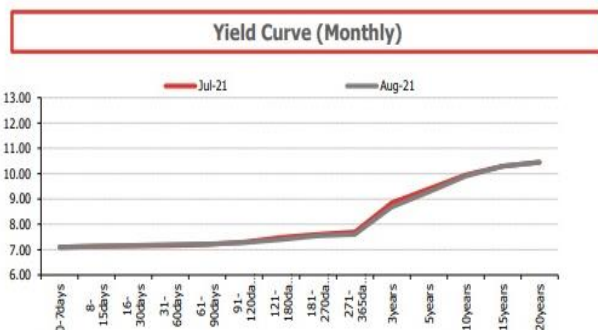
Money Market Review

The CPI inflation stood at 8.35% for the month of August 2021. State Bank of Pakistan conducted Treasury bill auction twice during August and accepted total bids worth PKR 1,003.5 billion at a weighted average yield of

7.2294% and 7.4293% in 3 months and 6 months respectively. However, the bids in 12 months had been rejected. Auction for fixed coupon PIB bonds was held on August 04, 2021. Total participation of PKR 444.9 billion was witnessed in this auction out of which 3, 5, 10 & 15-year tenor received bids worth PKR 187.7 billion, PKR 122.1 billion, PKR 95 billion & 40 billion respectively. State bank of Pakistan accepted PKR 67.2 billion in 3 years, PKR 33 billion in 5 years & PKR 5 billion in 10 years and 40 billion in 15 years at a cut-off rate of 8.88%, 9.198%, 9.839% & 10.4% respectively.

Stock Market Review

Benchmark index posted a return of 0.77% during the month of August to close at 47,420 points.



The average daily turnover declined by 14% on MoM basis as it clocked at 127million compared to previous month's level of 147million. Foreigners remained net sellers again, as the net foreign outflow during the current month amounted to US\$9.87million as compared to a

net outflow of US\$28.6million in July, where the selling was concentrated in Cements (US\$5.01million) while there was net buying in Technology amounting to US\$9.62million.

ISO 9001-2015 Certification

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP) has been awarded ISO 9001-2015 certification for the period 2021-2022. Resource Inspection Canada Incorporation Co. (RICI) has certified that the BIPP management system fully complies with the prescribed international quality and management standards.

Closure of Financial Year 2021

Pre-audit reports are under process and accounting and financial reports are being analyzed in a comprehensive manner.




Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

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