

CHRONOLOGY



July-December, 2021

July 2

The EU and its partners i.e., United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have jointly launched a five-year (2021-2025) program with the allocated budget of 20 million euros. It aims to foster the rule of law and enhance the criminal justice system in Pakistan focusing on the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.

July 6

German authorities have granted 2400 visas to Afghan military personnel.

July 11

The EU and the UNICEF have signed an agreement which is a five-year education development program, aimed to launch in Balochistan under Education Support (BES) which will be co-financed by the EU (17.4 million euros) and the UNICEF (4.8 million euros).

July 12

The European Union has pledged to renew its financial support for Pakistan and Iran with 22 million euros in humanitarian aid and to assist Afghan refugees battling against the Covid-19 pandemic.

July 16

The European Union Court of Justice (CJEU) has announced that the EU-based Companies are allowed to ban their employees from wearing the headscarf in order to project neutrality in a workplace.

July 19

Turkey condemns the European Union court ruling on women's headscarf ban at workplaces to present neutrality.

July 21

Britain is going to deploy two warships in Asian waters as London deepens its security ties with Tokyo.

July 23

Italy's Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani states that Energy and Environment ministers from the G-20 rich nations have failed to agree in their final communiqué on climate change in Naples.

August 4

The ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi took office as the President of Iran in the ceremony attended by the high level European diplomat Enrique Mora, deputy secretary-general of the European External Action Service in Tehran.

The French administrative court, Council of State has fined 10 million euros (\$12 million), on French government for failing to reduce air pollution and smog to acceptable levels.

August 9

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko held an annual press conference at the anniversary of the vote that handed him a sixth term in office but was denounced by the opposition as rigged.

August 11

Polish MPs voted in favour of a new media law that would prevent companies from outside the European Economic Area from holding a controlling stake in Polish media companies.

August 23

A business survey showed a strong growth of economic activities in the Euro zone as a rapid COVID-19 vaccination drive allowed more firms to reopen and customers to venture out.

September 8

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean hosted a regional summit in Americas. The summit brought together political leaders across the Latin American and Caribbean region, global and regional development banks and organizations, technical experts, and climate change specialists.

The event consisted of three segments that include a high-level debate, technical discussions, and a ministerial roundtable.

September 15

The UK, US and Australia have signed a historic pact in a joint virtual conference, forming a trans-regional security block AUKUS. This pact is meant to counter the political and military activities of China.

September 21

The UN General Assembly has designated the International Day of Peace around the world as the theme of “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.” It follows the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire to local conflicts and facilitating Covid-19 vaccinations.

September 26

In Switzerland, a referendum was held regarding same-gender marriages in which two-thirds of the Swiss nationals cast their vote in favour of marriages.

September 27

The European Commission has adopted a 10-year legislative proposal (2024-2034) of the new Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) for Pakistan to be replaced by the current GSP+ in 2024. The Commission attached six new conventions, mostly related to labour rights, human rights, environment safety and governance.

An eleven-day Climate and Security Conference has begun in Berlin to deeply discuss the climate and security challenges. The focus is inclusive and joint-up approaches across local, national, regional, and multilateral levels.

October 11

A five-day Conference of the Parties (COP15) held in Kunming, to set new goals for the Convention on Biological Diversity for the next decade. It emphasizes on transforming society’s relationship with biodiversity and fulfilling the vision to live in harmony with nature.

October 24

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the UK-based Oracle Power PLC and Power China International for a joint project to build the first green hydrogen plant in Sindh with a capacity to produce around 150,000 kg fuel per day.

October 30

Rome hosted a two-day G-20 Summit, with the participation of the G20 Heads of State and Government, and the representatives of international and regional organizations.

October 31

The United Kingdom hosted a thirteen-day 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. The COP26 summit has brought global countries together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

November 10

The Asia-Pacific Economic Council (APEC), the major economic forum of the Asia-Pacific region, gathered Asian and world leaders for its annual economic leaders' meeting. The forum aimed to identify policies and improving regional and bilateral trade in Auckland.

November 11

The fourth edition of the Paris Peace Forum held in a hybrid format for three days, with heads of state and government, representatives from nongovernmental organizations and companies, and individuals from around the world coming together in Paris and online.

November 25

President Dr. Arif Alvi awarded International Peace Award to Ambassador of European Union (EU) to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara in recognition of her services for the cause of interfaith harmony.

December 3

The United Arab Emirates and France have signed a \$19bn arms deal to sell Gulf state Rafale fighter jets military helicopters.

French President Emmanuel Macron began a two-day trip to the Gulf, during which he will also visit Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The EU has blacklisted travel firms and Belarusian officials that created the migrant crisis with Poland and Lithuania. The US also expressed concerns to the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko.

December 6

Hungary and Estonian diplomats have blocked a revised set of EU tax rules - potentially derailing an effort to curb the race for ever-lower corporate taxes in the EU.

December 8

Social Democrat Olaf Scholz sworn in as Germany's ninth new Chancellor, formally taking power after Angela Merkel's historic sixteen years of leadership.

December 15

A three-day, sixth Eastern Partnership Summit was held in Brussels, which was attended by all the leaders of the EU and Eastern Partnership (EAP) countries, in order to further strengthen their partnership.