

**Current Affairs: January 2020**

**Jan 1:** The revenue collection for the first half of the current fiscal year has shown a shortfall of Rs287 billion. For the first half (July-December) of the current fiscal year, the FBR's reduced target was Rs2.367 trillion. The FBR has collected Rs2.080 trillion by this time for the half year ended December 31, 2019, tweeted FBR Chairman Shabbar Zaidi.

**Jan 1:** Umaro Cissoko Embalo was declared the winner of Guinea-Bissau's presidential race. He defeated Domingos Simoes Pereira, from the majority PAIGC party.

**Jan 2:** HBL becomes first Pakistani bank to open branch in Beijing, China.

**Jan 2:** UBL has become the only bank to win the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) "Top Companies of the Year" Award for three consecutive years (2016-18).

**Jan 2:** The Pacific nation of Palau has become the first country to ban sun cream that is harmful to corals and sea life. The island nation markets itself as a "pristine paradise" for divers. A lagoon in Palau's Rock Islands is a Unesco World Heritage site.

**Jan 3:** Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, where he met with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The two leaders held official talks "on enhancing cooperation and friendship" and discussed "regional and international issues of mutual interest".

**Jan 4:** General Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC's) Quds Force, and architect of its regional security apparatus, has been killed following a US air raid at Baghdad's international airport.

Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was also killed in the pre-dawn raid.

**Jan 6:** A survey, conducted nationwide by the Ministry of National Health Services with the World Health Organisation has revealed that 17 million children aged five years to 15 years in 40 districts of the country need to undergo deworming as they are at a risk of developing soil-transmitted helminth infections (STH).

**Jan 6:** Pakistan's National Assembly approved three separate bills regarding the appointment, reappointment and tenure of chiefs of the armed forces. The three amendment bills — Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act 2020, Pakistan Navy (Amendment) Act 2020, and Pakistan Air Force (Amendment) Act 2020. Introduced three bills in the National Assembly to extend the retirement age from 60 to 64 years for the chiefs of army, navy and air force, and the chairman of the joint chief of staff committee.

**Jan 7:** Pakistan's emergence as an enticing travel destination for adventurous tourists gained another major supporter in the New Year, as *Forbes Magazine* listed the country among its '10 Best Under-the-Radar Trips' for 2020.

**Jan 7:** Pakistani squash player Muhammad Hamza Khan has won the Under-15 category title of the British Junior Open 2020.

**Jan 7:** The [Pakistan Navy](#) is currently hosting 6th bilateral exercise 'Sea Guardians-2020' being conducted between Pakistan and PLA Navies in which Chinese Flotilla comprising naval platforms/ assets along with PLA (Navy) Marines Corps Detachment is participating.

**Jan 7:** Sebastian Kurz is poised to become the world's youngest government leader — for the second time

**Jan 8:** Former chief election commissioner Justice (retd) Fakhruddin G Ebrahim passed away in Karachi after a prolonged illness. He was 91.

**Jan 8:** SpaceX has launched yet another batch of 60 Starlink satellites — its third production batch of the orbital communication spacecraft, and its second batch this year, using a Falcon 9 rocket whose booster stage had already flown for two prior SpaceX missions in 2019.

**Jan 8:** NASA's planet hunter satellite TESS has discovered an Earth-sized world within

the habitable range of its star, which could allow the presence of liquid water.

The potentially habitable planet, named "TOI 700 d," is relatively close to Earth - only 100 light years away.

**Jan 9:** In World Bank latest report "2020 Global Economic Prospects", the bank forecast Pakistan's current year growth rate at 2.4 per cent — about 0.3pc lower than its estimates of June 2019 — before touching 3pc next fiscal year and 3.9pc in FY2022.

**Jan 10:** PM Imran Khan to inaugurate the new Azakhel Dry Port. This new modern dry port is being set up in the Pirpai district Nowshera for facilitating the business community and boost the trade activities in the region.

**Jan 11:** Bank Alfalah received the Best Bank Award for 2019 at the 4th Pakistan Banking Awards. Habib Bank Limited succeeded in winning two awards for the year 2019 for the Best Investment Banking Award other award in the category for Small and Medium Banking. The National Bank of Pakistan succeeded in winning the Best Bank for Agriculture Award 2019.

**Jan 11:** Pakistan's Parliament passed a landmark "child protection law", making it mandatory for the police to take action in a child abuse case within two hours of it being reported.

The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill 2019 was passed by the National

Assembly, exactly two years after a nine-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Punjab province's Kasur city in 2018.

**Jan 11:** Afkar e Taza Fest 2020 kicked off at Alhamra, Lahore.

**Jan 11:** The Presidents and representatives of HBL, NBP, UBL, MCB Bank, Allied Bank, Meezan Bank, Bank Al-falah, BAHL, HMB and Faysal Bank signed the shareholders' agreement for the establishment of Pakistan Corporate Restructuring Company Limited (PCRCL) at State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The objectives of the PCRCL are aligned with the initiatives of the Government of Pakistan to revive the sick industrial units.

**Jan 12:** Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman, the Arab world's longest-serving ruler, has died aged 79.

The sultan deposed his father in a bloodless coup with British support in 1970 and set Oman on a path to development, using its oil wealth

**Jan 12:** Remittances received by the country edged up 3.3 per cent to \$11.394 billion during the first half of 2019-20 as compared to \$11.03bn in the same period last year, the State Bank of Pakistan Report.

**Jan 12:** Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen has secured a second term after sweeping to victory in an election dominated by the island's relationship with China.

**Jan 16:** Turkey has restored access to online encyclopedia Wikipedia after the official publication of a Constitutional Court ruling that the more than two-year block was a violation of freedom of expression.

**Jan 20:** The United States pointperson for South Asia arrived in Pakistan on a four-day visit, which diplomatic sources termed crucial just ahead of the possible peace deal between the US and Afghan Taliban.

**Jan 21:** Davos 2020: Pakistan PM Imran Khan went Switzerland to attend World Economic Forum. The WEF summit began and will last four days. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the forum. A total of 53 heads of State are on the guest list.

**Jan 22:** Athens, Greece-High court judge and human rights advocate Katerina Sakellariopoulou has been elected Greece's first female president by parliament.

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**Jan 23:** Pakistan ranked 120 out of 180 countries on the Corruption Per-ceptions Index (CPI) 2019 released by Transparency International

**Jan 23:** The International Court of Justice (ICJ) also ordered authorities to

prevent the destruction of evidence related to genocide allegations.

The case against Myanmar was brought to the ICJ in November by The Gambia, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), arguing that the mainly-Muslim Rohingya had been subjected to genocide.

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**Jan 25:** Pakistan's dip in T20I wins over Bangladesh at home, the wins giving them an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

**Jan 26:** The International Customs Day (ICD) on 26 January 2020 will be dedicated to the contribution of Customs towards a sustainable future where social, economic, health and environmental needs are at the heart of our actions, with the slogan "Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet".

**Jan 26:** National Basketball Association legend Bryant passed away with his daughter Gigi on January 26, 2020, in a Calabasas, California, helicopter crash that killed all nine people onboard.

**Jan 27:** Boeing has successfully completed the first test flight of the world's largest twin-engined plane, the 777X.

**Jan 27:** Sikandar Sultan Raja was sworn in as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). He was administered oath by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed at a ceremony at the Supreme Court in Islamabad.

**Jan 27:** Nisar Durrani and Shah Mohammad Jatoi have been nominated as ECP members from Sindh and Balochistan.

**Jan 28:** SBP on 28th January 2020, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 13.25 percent.

**Jan 30:** The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has received nearly 40 per cent more income tax returns for the tax year 2019 compared to the preceding year ahead of the Jan 31 deadline.

The board received 2.285 million tax returns until January 29 as against 1.635m returns filed in the tax year 2018.

**Jan 31:** The new coronavirus has been declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China.

**Jan 31:** The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday it was declaring the coronavirus outbreak that has killed 170 people in China a global emergency, as cases spread to at least 18 countries.

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