



UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yahya calls on Ayaz Sadiq



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Gakhar heritage sites to be promoted as international tourist destinations: Khichi

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CDF Munir, Minister Naqvi reach Iran as Pakistan pushes for regional peace

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff and Field Marshal Asim Munir has arrived in Tehran along with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi as part of Pakistan's diplomatic initiative to promote regional peace and security and help ease tensions between Iran and the United States. Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni received Field Marshal Asim Munir upon his arrival in Tehran and held a meeting with the visiting delegation. During his visit, Field Marshal Munir is scheduled to hold detailed meetings with the Iranian leadership in a bid to ease regional tensions. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday Field Marshal Munir will focus on advancing efforts aimed at

achieving a peaceful, lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflict in the Middle East. Reuters on Monday cited three Pakistani sources as saying that Army Chief Munir spoke with US President Donald Trump last week, days before Munir was expected to hold talks in the Iranian capital of Tehran. The call, which has not been previously reported, came as the US threatened to roll out major economic sanctions targeting Iran and its trade partners. The White House Office of the Press Secretary did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It was unclear what Munir and Trump discussed. Another Pakistani government source said while US-Iran tensions were a focus of the visit.



Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir along with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meet with with Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni .

'Imran would not have spent 3 years in jail sif he wanted to make a deal,' says PTI's Gohar

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday brushed aside speculation regarding a deal with the government, saying party founder Imran Khan

would not have spent three years in jail if he wanted to make a deal.

He made the remarks while speaking outside the Supreme Court (SC) alongside PTI leader Sardar Latif Khosa after the two met with the court's registrar. "Khan sahib does not make deals. He will not stay in the hospital a minute more than is necessary for his tests and treatment. If he had to make a deal, he would not have spent three years in jail," Gohar said. "All we have to say is that there should be no politics on his health," he said. During the press talk, Gohar said that he and Khosa had arrived at the SC to meet with Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi in connection with the party's contempt petition against the government's alleged violation of its Aug 18 order for shifting Imran to Shifa International Hospital.

PM Shehbaz, Sindh CM agree to maintain political harmony, consultation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday, and both agreed to "maintain political tolerance and consultation", the premier's party, PML-N, posted on X.

The meeting comes amid an emerging rift between the PML-N and Murad's PPP, allies in the Centre. State broadcaster Radio Pakistan reported that the meeting took place in Islamabad while the PML-N said matters of mutual interest and political affairs were also discussed on the occasion. The talks also covered Sindh-related matters and ongoing development projects, the PML-N's X post stated.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Information Technology Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema and Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik also attended the meeting.

The meeting takes place against the backdrop of the PPP expressing its grievances, particularly those related to recent elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The PML-N has come out as the winner in the polls that the PPP alleges were marred by rigging and irregularities.

Last week, the PPP also established formal contact with the opposition, with party Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari saying a genuine alliance with the ruling PML-N.

DPM/FM Dar arrives in London on his official visit to United Kingdom

PEAK POINT



LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday arrived in London ahead of his official visit to the United Kingdom from 24 to 28 August 2026. High Commissioner of Pakistan to the

United Kingdom, Tipu Usman received the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister at London Heathrow Airport. During the visit, the deputy prime minister will hold meetings with UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband and FCDO Minister of State for Pakistan Stephen Doughty, as well as with other senior members of the UK Government. He will also meet with Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to discuss regional maritime security. The deputy prime minister will also meet with Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

Tanker on fire off SA after strike by 'unknown projectile'

PEAK POINT

SAUDI ARABIA: A tanker struck by an "unknown projectile" caught fire off Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast on Monday, a British maritime agency said, as Yemen's Houthi target Saudi shipping after declaring a maritime blockade.

"The Company Security Officer reported a tanker has been struck by unknown projectile causing a fire to the vessel on the main deck," said the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). "All crew are safe and accounted for and no environmental impact.

PML-N wins six reserved seats, set to form AJK govt

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won six of the eight reserved seats in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly on Monday, taking its total strength in the 53-member house to 32. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) won the remaining two seats.

The PML-N previously had 25 members in the assembly. With the addition of its reserved-seat members and the support of the Awam Dast-e-Bazu, the party now has the numbers to form the next government in the region.

Polling was held for five seats reserved for women and one each for technocrats and ulama and religious scholars.

PML-N candidate Barrister Iftikhar Gilani

won the technocrat seat with 26 votes, while PPP

Farzana Yaqoob and Zobia Khurshid Raja won the



candidate Zulfiqar Ali received 12 votes. On the seat reserved for ulama and religious scholars, PML-N's Muhammad Mazhar Saeed secured 26 votes, defeating PPP candidate Hafiz Tariq, who received 12 votes. The PML-N also won three of the five seats reserved for women.

Maryam Zaman, Maryam Idrees and Seharish Qamar were elected, while PPP candidates

remaining two seats.

The seat reserved for overseas Kashmiris had already been won unopposed by PML-N candidate Abdul Rehman Arain.

Following the latest results, the PML-N has 32 members in the assembly, while the PPP has 14.

The results mark the next stage in the formation of the government in Azad Kashmir. The assembly will elect its speaker and

deputy speaker on Tuesday, while the election for the AJK prime minister is scheduled for August 27. AJK elections conclude

The elections were held in three phases under a revised schedule announced by AJK Chief Election Commissioner Ghulam Mustafa Mughal on July 21. The first phase covered all 13 constituencies in Mirpur Division, while polling in Muzaffargarh Division and the 12 refugee constituencies was held on August 2, followed by Poonch (Rawalakot) Division on August 10.

The AJK Election Commission on August 7 announced that polling would proceed as scheduled in four constituencies — Bagh Central, Bagh East, Bagh West and Haveli — while voting in seven constituencies.

India police used excessive force during protests: Amnesty



PEAK POINT

NEW DELHI: Indian police used excessive force, including electric shock devices and pellet guns, against youth-led protests that forced the education minister to resign last month, Amnesty International said on Monday. A report from the rights group clashes with the police account that force was used only after protesters turned violent, and comes after India's Supreme Court set up a panel on Thursday to investigate violence by both police and demonstrators.

Demonstrations in the capital, New Delhi, triggered by the leak of the national medical entrance test, turned violent on July 20 when thousands of protesters attempted to march towards parliament.



SPORTS



SAOC delegation visits PTF Complex ahead of SAGs 2027

Pakistan to host South Asian Games in April next year



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host the South Asian Games from April 3 to 11 next year, 23 years after it last staged the regional sports gala in Islamabad in 2004.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Asia Olympic Council held here on Sunday, with Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) president Arif Saeed, who is also president of the South Asian Olympic Committee, in the chair.

The meeting reviewed preparations for the Games and approved

three host cities — Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar.

Representatives from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meeting in person, while India participated through video link. All the representatives endorsed the proposed dates, according to sources.

A visiting delegation is scheduled to inspect proposed sporting venues in Islamabad on Monday.

The Games will feature 28 sports and 346 medal events, with more than 3,200 athletes expected to participate across the three host cities. A large number of technical

officials will also be part of the event, with Pakistan preparing to host around 4,000 athletes and other foreign visitors.

During Sunday's meeting, representatives of the participating countries reviewed preparations and measures being taken by Pakistan to host the regional event.

The federal government has already given the go-ahead to the POA and other stakeholders to hold the Games and announced that the required funds would be released. Pakistan was originally scheduled to host the Games in Shanghai 2021, but the event was subse-

quently postponed for various reasons. Preparations are now said to be in their final stages.

The visiting delegation also visited the Taxila Museum and other historical sites on Sunday.

Sources said the Capital Development Authority (CDA), on the direction of the federal government, had started preparations to provide accommodation and other facilities to foreign visitors arriving in Islamabad next year for the South Asian Games and other international events, including the

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference.

Fatima Sana says Pakistan will focus on consistent performances at Asia Cup



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan women's cricket team captain Fatima Sana has said the side will approach the upcoming Asia Cup with a tournament-wide mindset, rather than treating any particular match as its main priority.

Speaking to reporters in Lahore on Monday, Fatima said preparations for the continental tournament were progressing positively, and the team was focused on delivering consistent performances throughout the competition. The captain emphasised that every fixture would carry importance for Pakistan, with the team aiming to maintain its focus across the tournament rather than concentrating on a single opponent. Fatima said the squad's familiarity with playing conditions in Dubai could prove beneficial during the competition. She added that the players had analysed their weaknesses from their previous series and were working to ensure those mistakes were not repeated. The Pakistan skipper also discussed her recent experience playing in England's The Hundred, describing the competition as an important step in her development. She said becoming the first Pakistani woman cricketer to participate in the English tournament was a proud achievement and provided valuable exposure to a high level of competition.

New Zealand down Pakistan in WC clash Green-shirts fight back



PEAK POINT

AMSTELVEEN: New Zealand on Monday defeated Pakistan 4-2 in their Group G classification phase match of the FIH Hockey World Cup in Amsterdam.

The Green-shirts recovered from a two-goal down but New Zealand held their nerves to maintain dominance until the end at the Wagener Hockey Stadium.

New Zealand made a fast start, with Dylan Thomas scoring

after just 20 seconds finally converted to give his side an early advantage. Scott Boyde doubled the lead in the first quarter, putting New Zealand in control. Pakistan responded in the second quarter but could not find a way through the New Zealand defence. George Baker extended the lead to 3-0 before halftime.

The momentum shifted dramatically after the interval. New Zealand made a series of penalty corners and

comeback.

New Zealand finished with six penalty corners, converting one, while Pakistan earned ten and scored twice.

Former Olympian Rahim Khan said Pakistan made a big mistake when they replaced Sufyan Khan in the third quarter in which the team got a few penalty corners.

"I don't know why Sufyan was replaced in the third quarter. It was not a good decision from the coach," Rahim said.

"Unless you keep top possession you cannot get more scoring chances," said Rahim, who was part of Pakistan's 1994 World Cup winning team. Pakistan will now face South Africa in 11th to 12th place game on Friday at the same venue.

Pakistani squash juniors secure two gold medals at Japan Junior Open



Pakistan down Algeria in FIVB World Championship

PEAK POINT

ALGERIA: Pakistan advanced to the round of 16 at the FIVB Boys' Under-17 World Championship after a commanding 3-0 victory over Algeria on Monday, closing their Pool E campaign with two wins from three matches.

Pakistan produced an assured performance throughout, winning all three sets by an identical 25-17 score-line as they controlled the contest with strong serving, attacking pressure and disciplined defence. The victory capped a positive recovery for Pakistan, who opened the tournament with a 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei before losing 3-0 to Iran. Fahad Ali was among Pakistan's leading performers, providing consistent attacking threat, while Muhammad Irfan helped maintain the team's composure and structure. Faizan Ullah also made an important contribution as Pakistan maintained control from the opening exchanges. Pakistan quickly established an advantage in

the first set and never allowed Algeria to build sustained momentum, closing it 25-17.

The second set followed a similar pattern, with Pakistan combining aggressive attacks

earlier victory over Chinese Taipei came 25-20, 25-10, 25-23, while their only defeat was against Iran, who won 25-23, 25-22, 25-18.

The result sends Pakistan

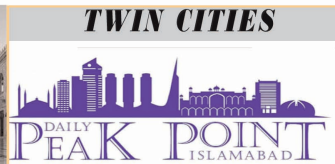


with effective teamwork to take another 25-17 win and move within one set of victory. Algeria attempted to respond in the third, but Pakistan remained composed and finished strongly, securing a third consecutive 25-17 set victory to complete the straight-sets win. Pakistan finished the pool stage with a 2-1 record. Their

into the knockout phase, where they will face Egypt in the round of 16 on Tuesday at 10pm. Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) congratulated the players, coaching staff and team management following the victory and urged the brigade to remain focused ahead of the knockout match.

The Race to the WTC Final: Decisive Test Series to Watch in Late 2026





NA session adjourned till Tuesday due to lack of quorum

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah adjourned the proceedings of the House till Tuesday at 11:00 am due to a lack of quorum. When the Question Hour started, MNA Iqbal Afridi asked the chair to give him the floor. Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.



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Pakistan offers Bangladesh cooperation in legal reforms, digitalisation of justice system

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarrar on Monday said Pakistan was ready to share its experience and expertise with Bangladesh in legal reforms and digitalisation of the justice system and extend cooperation in these areas.

He was talking to High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan Md Iqbal Hussain Khan, who called on the Federal Minister here. The meeting discussed Pakistan-Bangladesh bilateral relations, legal and judicial cooperation, mediation and reconciliation mechanisms and other matters of mutual interest.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the positive developments in bilateral relations and



agreed to further strengthen cooperation and institutional linkages.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarrar said there was considerable scope for enhanced cooperation between the two countries in the fields of law and justice. He said Pakistan and Bangladesh could benefit from each other's experi-

ences in legal reforms, use of modern technology and digitalisation of the justice system.

The Federal Minister stressed the need to expand bilateral cooperation in the legal and judicial sectors, saying that exchange of experiences and expertise could help make the justice systems of both countries more effective.

The Bangladesh High Commissioner thanked Pakistan for facilitating the training of Bangladeshi judges at the International Mediation and Arbitration Centre (IMAC) and appreciated the cooperation extended by the Ministry of Law and Justice in mediation and reconciliation programmes.

He expressed Bangladesh's interest in benefiting from Pakistan's experience in mediation and reconciliation and conveyed a desire to further strengthen cooperation in this area.

The two sides also discussed legal reforms, modern technology in the justice system, mediation and reconciliation mechanisms, exchange of experiences and further opportunities for cooperation.

Opinion & Editorial

Green Theory and Its Relationship with Climate Change

By: **Zaheer Haider Jafri**



The world is currently passing through an era of climate change whose effects are becoming increasingly visible in almost every sphere of life. Rising temperatures, intense heatwaves, unusual rainfall, floods, droughts, declining forests, water scarcity, and air pollution have compelled humanity to question how long the existing model of development can continue. In this context, Green Theory has emerged as an important intellectual perspective that emphasizes a balanced relationship between human beings and the environment. Green Theory fundamentally represents the idea that human development cannot be separated from environmental protection. According to this perspective, natural resources are not merely the property of the present generation; they are also the right of future generations. Therefore, economic development, industrial pro-

duction, and urban expansion should be pursued in ways that do not cause irreversible damage to the natural environment. Under the traditional concept of development, economic growth has often been given the highest priority. Industries were established, forests were cleared, natural resources were excessively exploited, and dependence on coal, oil, and gas for energy increased. Although this process promoted economic activity, it also resulted in higher greenhouse gas emissions. These gases are among the major causes of the rise in global temperatures and climate change. This is where Green Theory becomes directly connected with the issue of climate change. The theory emphasizes adopting a development path that reduces carbon emissions, protects natural resources, and preserves the environment for future generations. In other words, Green Theory teaches us that development and environmental protection are not necessarily contradictory; rather, they can move forward together. The importance of this approach is even

greater for Pakistan. Although Pakistan contributes a relatively small share of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is among the countries highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Extreme heat, floods, droughts, changes in glaciers, and water-related challenges are affecting human life and the economy in different parts of the country. In Pakistan, the application of Green Theory can begin with the energy sector. The country needs to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and move towards clean energy generated from solar, wind, and other renewable sources. Pakistan has enormous potential for solar energy. If solar power is promoted in homes, industries, government buildings, and educational institutions, it can not only reduce carbon emissions but also help address the country's energy challenges. Agriculture is another important area for the practical application of Green Theory. Agriculture has a fundamental role in Pakistan's economy, but climate change has seriously affected this sector. Rising

temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, water shortages, and floods are creating significant risks to agricultural production. Under these circumstances, efficient water use, modern irrigation systems, climate-resilient crops, and environmentally friendly agricultural practices need to be promoted. Green Theory also provides important guidance regarding water conservation. Pakistan's growing population and limited water resources represent a major challenge for the future. If existing water resources are not used carefully, the water crisis could become even more serious with the intensification of climate change. Rainwater harvesting, modern irrigation systems, and measures to prevent water wastage can contribute significantly to addressing this challenge. The protection of forests is another fundamental requirement of Green Theory. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, help regulate temperatures, and play an important role in protecting biodiversity. In Pakistan, it is essential not only to promote tree plantation but also to protect existing forests.

Preventing illegal logging and restoring degraded forests should be made national priorities. Green Theory is not concerned only with the environment; it is also closely linked with the economy. The world is increasingly moving towards a green economy, where renewable energy, recycling, environmentally friendly industries, green technologies, and sustainable agriculture are creating new economic activities and employment opportunities. Pakistan can also invest in these sectors to address climate change while opening new avenues for economic growth. Education and the media also have a vital role in promoting this approach. Without creating environmental awareness among the public, it will be difficult to effectively address climate change. Educational institutions should provide students with practical awareness about environmental protection, water conservation, tree plantation, clean energy, and sustainable lifestyles. The media can also play an effective role

in creating public awareness and encouraging environmentally responsible behavior. There is a need to ensure that Green Theory is not viewed merely as an academic concept but is incorporated into national policy and practical planning. Environmentally friendly policies should be prioritized in every sector, including energy, agriculture, industry, urban planning, water management, forestry, and education. In conclusion, Green Theory is essentially a way of thinking that seeks to establish a balanced relationship between human beings and nature, while climate change is providing humanity with a practical reminder of the importance of this balance. If Pakistan adopts a path of green and sustainable development, it can not only reduce climate-related risks but also help ensure a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future for coming generations.

By: **Muhammad Saddam Tahir** (Student Quaid e Azam university Islamabad)

Pakistan's Growth Is Back. Its Investment Problem Isn't Going Anywhere

Muhammad Saddam Tahir



Pakistan's economy has returned to growth, but not yet to the investment needed to sustain it. It's growing faster its stock market has surged inflation is coming down and its finance minister was on TV recently touting what he called the best GDP figure in four years. If you walk up to anyone at the finance ministry and ask them where the new factories are where new capacity is being built where Pakistan's next decade of jobs are going to be created you're going to get a far less valid answer. This is the hidden story in the Economic Survey 2025-26 an economic rebound that looks good in the numbers but isn't yet being built on anything solid. The number itself is real. This year Pakistan's GDP expanded by 3.7 percent over FY2025 which itself saw growth of 3.18 percent. That still fell short of the government's target of 4.2 percent but the pace has certainly picked up. Agriculture is grow-

ing 2.89 percent aided by some much needed strength in the livestock sector and a significantly better wheat and sugarcane harvest this year. Industry grew 3.51 percent this year led by an impressive comeback in large scale manufacturing which rose to 6.11 percent after actually contracting a year ago. And as always services dominated expanding by 4.09 percent and now accounting for almost 58 percent of the economy's output. But if you peer a layer beneath the headline the image starts to look less inviting. The all important investment to GDP ratio perhaps the best single measure of whether an economy is building capacity for future growth remained stuck at 14.38 percent this year not much different from where it has been stucked for years and way below Pakistan's regional neighbours offer practical lessons. Bangladesh used export-oriented manufacturing, particularly garments, to create jobs and integrate into global markets. India has attracted investment through infrastructure, industrial policies and its large domestic market, while

Vietnam combined trade openness, foreign investment and export-focused manufacturing to build strong global supply chains. Pakistan cannot copy these models, but it can learn from their common approach: creating a predictable business environment, improving infrastructure and skills, and directing investment toward productive, export-oriented sectors. National savings fared even worse coming in at just 14.13 percent of GDP. What all of this translates to in real terms is that Pakistan is not saving or investing enough in its future to grow any faster than this over any significant time. That's the real argument. Growth without investment is borrowing from tomorrow not building today. We can sustain a year or two of growth on remittances that are flowing in strongly inflation that has come down to more reasonable levels and a relatively stable exchange rate and there is genuinely a lot to praise in the Economic Survey on these counts. But an economic rebound driven largely by a jump in consumption and a return in imports rather than

new factories and new capacity being added is not sustainable. While private investment rose a respectable 12.8 percent this year and total investment as measured on a quarterly basis increased from 13.2 percent in GDP in Q1 to 14.7 percent in Q3 of FY2026 an encouraging sign general government investment barely grew rising a insignificant 3.9 percent. However when investment was needed most to help stimulate it the government's capacity expansion efforts went in the other direction. The government could counter that they had their hands tied. The year saw flooding a war in the region and an oil price shock that compelled the State Bank to increase interest rates to 11.5 percent. Under such circumstances, maintaining the fiscal deficit to just 0.7 percent of GDP while increasing the primary surplus to 3.2 percent should not be considered insignificant. Stability was prioritised. It's a valid argument it's hard to invest effectively amid chaos. But stability is merely the point of departure not the destination itself. When your investment to GDP ratio

remains in the mid 14 percent range at a time when the country requires a level close to 20-25 percent just to raise living standards and accommodate millions of young Pakistanis entering the workforce annually it is a problem not an afterthought. With private borrowing for new expansion discouraged by high interest rates and public development spending shrinking when it should be leading this reliance on borrowed money to fill savings gaps is an uneasy approach to building a future economy. The Economic Survey points to the right priorities, but the problem is implementation. The government should broaden the tax base by bringing more undertaxed sectors into the tax net, reduce energy-sector inefficiencies through cost-reflective pricing and targeted subsidies, and link URAAN Pakistan to measurable annual targets for investment, exports and productivity. Each reform should have a responsible institution, a clear timeline and publicly reported progress. Without these mechanisms, reform programmes risk remaining slogans rather than drivers of

investment. This offers a precious window of opportunity and a short one at that to convert stability into sustained investment before the next crisis. It is after all only a matter of time until the next flood or global disruption comes. The real question is whether Pakistan will use this downtime to finally build something. Pakistan does not have an investment problem because it lacks plans; it has one because too many plans fail to translate into predictable policies, productive investment and sustained implementation. The current recovery offers an opportunity to change that. The government should use it to broaden the tax base, fix energy-sector distortions, improve the business environment and make URAAN Pakistan measurable through clear targets and timelines. If these reforms are implemented consistently, higher growth can become sustainable. If not, the recent recovery may prove temporary rather than transformative.

By: **Muhammad Saddam Tahir** (Student Quaid e Azam university Islamabad)

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Federal, Punjab governments agree on coordinated measures for FMD control, DAP availability



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal and Punjab governments on Monday agreed to establish a FMD-free zone along the motorway corridor in Punjab as part of a coordinated strategy to control and ultimately eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease from the province and pave the way for achieving an FMD-free Pakistan.

The consensus to this regard was developed in a meeting, chaired by the Minister for National Food Security

and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Punjab Minister for Agriculture Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, said a news release. The meeting held to review key agricultural and livestock issues, including Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), availability of DAP fertilizer, and the production and export of potatoes, which was also attended by the concerned provincial secretaries and directors general of relevant departments, who participated in discussions

on disease control, fertilizer availability and crop management. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination between the federal and provincial governments to address challenges confronting farmers and livestock owners and to ensure timely policy measures for sustainable growth of the agriculture sector. The initiative would focus on strengthening disease control, vaccination, movement management and surveillance mechanisms along major livestock movement routes. The two sides agreed that effective coordination between federal and provincial departments would be essential for making the designated zone successful and gradually expanding disease-free areas. The meeting was informed that a disease surveillance system was being developed to continuously monitor the prevalence and spread of livestock diseases, enabling authorities to identify outbreaks at an early stage and take timely preventive and control measures.

Gakhar heritage sites to be promoted as international tourist destinations: Khichi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Monday said the government is committed to protect Pakistan's historical and cultural heritage and promote the historic Gakhar-era sites in the Potohar region as destinations for domestic and international tourists, researchers and scholars.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of several historic heritage sites along the Swan River, he said the inclusion of important Gakhar heritage sites on UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List was a major first step towards highlighting the history, cultural heritage and contributions of the Gakhar people at the international level.

The minister inaugurated and opened to tourists several historic sites, including the approximately 450-year-old Mai Qamro Mosque, 350-year-old Tomb of Sultan Muqarrab Khan and nearly 1,000-year-old Pharwala Tomb.

He said the sites had been placed on UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List, marking an important step towards their international recognition, preservation and promotion.

Gakhar heritage sites to be promoted as international tourist destinations: Khichi. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said he was surprised and delighted to learn that such a rich historical and cultural heritage existed in Islamabad and its surrounding areas, noting that there was a common perception that the history and development of Islamabad began only with the establishment of the federal capital in the 1960s.

He said the Gakhars of Potohar had a deep connection with the region's history, culture and identity. After being briefed by the Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM) about historic sites in Bagh Jogian and surrounding areas, including Mai Qamro Mosque, the Tomb of Sultan Muqarrab Khan, Pharwala Fort and Rawat Fort.



Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi inaugurates and opens historic heritage sites in Islamabad, for domestic and international tourists.

Kamal calls for integrated strategy to tackle malnutrition

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal has stressed the need for an integrated strategy to address malnutrition and reduce stunting, saying that health targets cannot be achieved without tackling malnutrition.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Adviser to the Federal Minister for Finance Adnan Pasha. Additional Secretary Health, Director General Health, Director General Population and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

Adnan Pasha briefed the federal minister on a new initiative aimed at addressing nutrition and stunting in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Mustafa Kamal said maternal and child health was directly linked to proper nutrition and called for prioritising measures to address malnutrition. He said around 11,000 mothers die every year in Pakistan during childbirth, while 43 percent of children suffer from stunting due to malnutrition. "Proper maternal nutrition is the foundation.

UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yahya calls on Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Yahya, called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad, today. During the meeting, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the services of Mr. Muhammad Yahya as UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan and said that his contribution towards promoting cooperation between Pakistan and the United Nations was commendable. He stated that Pakistan-UN cooperation is based on mutual trust, partnership and shared objectives. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the United Nations' support for Pakistan's development and the welfare of its people is highly valuable. He emphasized that the role played by the United Nations in addressing humanitarian



issues and crises has always been commendable. He expressed the hope that cooperation between Pakistan and the United Nations would continue to grow and strengthen in the future. Highlighting the importance of women's empowerment, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and Gender mainstreaming Committee are aimed at promoting an enabling environment for women, strengthening their role, and ensuring greater attention to women's issues.

Digital wallets introduced to ensure transparent, secure BISP payments: Rubina Khalid

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid Monday said digital wallets has been introduced to make financial assistance payments to women beneficiaries transparent, convenient and secure, with digital wallet accounts already opened for 90 percent of beneficiaries. Addressing media representatives during her visit to the BISP Central Zonal Office in Lahore, Rubina Khalid said the digital payment system has been introduced on the special directives of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. She said the interoperability system would



enable beneficiaries to withdraw their payments from any authorized agent of BISP's partner banks anywhere in Pakistan. After funds transfer to their digital wallets, beneficiaries would receive an SMS notification with details of the payment and could withdraw the amount by presenting their CNIC and registered mobile number, said a news release. Senator Rubina Khalid said BISP staff would activate digital wallets on SIMs provided to beneficiaries.

WUM Signs MoUs with Asad Zia Hospital and Ihsan Medical Center

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: Women University Mardan (WUM) has signed two separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) — with Asad Zia Hospital, Mardan, and with Ihsan Medical Center, Mardan — to expand clinical training, practical exposure, and research opportunities for students of its Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Both agreements were signed on behalf of WUM by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana Ahmad. The MoU with Asad Zia Hospital was signed by its CEO, Dr. Aiman Zia, while the MoU with Ihsan Medical Center was signed by its CEO, Mr. Bilal Khan. Under both agree-



ments, eligible BS students — including those in their final semester — will be able to undertake supervised clinical internships and practical training placements of four to six weeks at the respective institutions, subject to their capacity and mutual coordination. The MoUs also provide for joint research initiatives, seminars, and workshops, along with structured mechanisms for supervision.

Governor highlights sacrifices of police, former Levies, Khasadar personnel

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faissal Karim Kundi on Monday said the province's police, former Levies and Khasadar personnel had rendered unparalleled sacrifices for peace, stressing that the KP Police should be equipped with modern weapons, technology and adequate resources to effectively combat terrorism.

Addressing a jirga of the tribal districts' business community and former Levies and Khasadar Force representatives at the

Governor House, the Governor said KP Police personnel were receiving lower salaries and benefits than their counterparts in other provinces despite remaining on the frontline in the war against terrorism for more than two decades.

The jirga was attended by Pakistan Borders Trade Council Chairman Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi, All FATA Levies and Khasadar Force Action Committee Chairman Syed Jalal Wazir, former MNA and industrialist Haji Baz Gul Afridi, business leaders and presi-



dents of various chambers of commerce from tribal districts. The participants apprised the Governor of the issues being faced by the business community and former Levies and Khasadar personnel. The Governor said those who had sacrificed

for peace and contributed to strengthening the national economy deserved greater attention, regretting that their concerns had not been adequately addressed.

He said nine years had passed since the merger of the tribal districts with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but many commitments made at the time of the merger had yet to be fulfilled, while development resources were not being utilised effectively. He said overseas Pakistanis and the business community could bring billions of dollars in investment if provided with a peaceful and conducive environment. He also called for modern equipment, including thermal and night-vision technology, to strengthen the police's capacity against militants. Kundi said KP Police per-

sonnel who had played a key role in maintaining law and order had also been overlooked for national awards. He added that the province was facing shortages of wheat and financial resources, and urged that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa be given their due share and employment opportunities. The Governor said he would take the jirga's demands to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after preparing a formal draft of the proposals.