

PM directs swift implementation of business reform law

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the relevant authorities that the implementation of the government's policy initiatives and the Ease of Doing Business Act, 2025 be expedited.

Chairing a review meeting regarding ease of doing business, the prime minister instructed that third-party validation by international organizations be ensured to assess the effectiveness and implementation of the ease of doing business measures.

He said that fully utilizing Pakistan's

vast potential for both domestic and foreign investment remained one of the government's top priorities.

He also directed that a comprehensive report on the implementation of ease of doing business policy measures be prepared and submitted at the earliest.

The prime minister appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Board of Investment, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Industries and Production, and all other relevant institutions for their work on

legislation and policy-making to facilitate business.

The meeting was briefed on the progress made in implementing the reforms and on the future course of action.

Participants were informed that work had been completed on 558 reforms aimed at reducing regulatory requirements, paperwork, and approval procedures for businesses. Of these, 71 policy measures have already been implemented, while implementation of 272 measures is progressing rapidly. The reforms are being introduced across various sectors in seven phases.

Dar concludes China visit after AI moot, FM Wang Yi meeting

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday concluded a two-day "productive" official visit to Shanghai, China, expressing sincere appreciation to the Chinese government and its leadership for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.

"Just concluded a productive visit to Shanghai, China. I express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China and its leadership for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements throughout my

short visit," Deputy Prime Minister Dar wrote on his X timeline.

He commended Chinese President Xi Jinping for his insightful keynote address at the opening ceremony of the World AI Cooperation Organization, in which he aptly observed, "AI is an invaluable asset that accumulates the collective wisdom of humanity" which is a timely reminder that this transformative technology carries both immense promise and a shared responsibility to ensure it serves the common good.

The deputy prime minister thanked Foreign Minister Wang Yi for his warm hospitality and

their productive discussions.

"We reaffirmed our shared commitment to the continued advancement of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, with a special focus on high-quality development under CPEC 2.0, including the Siah Diq mining project, Karakoram Highway (KKH) Realignment Project, as well as other priority areas of bilateral cooperation agreed between our two countries during the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in May 2025," he sharing details of their bilateral meeting.

KP govt has decided to withdraw the ST on Services in Malakand Division: CM Afridi

Grand Jirga convened, discusses imposition of Federal taxes in ex-FATA, and Malakand Division

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: A Grand Jirga convened by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar to deliberate on the imposition of federal taxes in the Merged Districts and Malakand Division. The Jirga was attended by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi, members of the provincial cabinet, senators from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provincial presidents and general secretaries of political parties, elected public representatives, members of the National and Provincial Assemblies from the Merged Districts and Malakand Division, and presidents of traders' unions from the merged districts and Malakand Division. The participants held detailed

deliberations on the imposition of federal taxes in the Merged Districts and Malakand Division, considering a range of proposals and recommendations. All relevant stakeholders



were provided the opportunity to present their views and suggestions with a view to evolving a coordinated and broadly supported response.

Addressing the Jirga, Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi said that primary objective of convening Jirga was to formulate a unified course of action and a collective strategy regarding the imposition of taxes in the

Merged Districts and Malakand Division. The Chief Minister reiterated that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not levying any taxes in the Merged Districts. He

appreciation to all political parties and their leadership for demonstrating unity on matters affecting the province, the Chief Minister said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

all political stakeholders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will stand united with the people of the province and pursue a collective course of action. He added that, if required, public protest would be undertaken and the province's case would also be pursued in Islamabad.

Referring to the broader discussion during the Jirga regarding law and order the Chief Minister stated that the provincial government has prepared a Provincial Action Plan to counter terrorism and clarified that, if implemented, it could help restore peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within four months. He further announced that a separate Jirga on law and order would be convened shortly to deliberate on the pathway to sustainable peace, institutional responsibilities, and the measures required to improve the security situation.

is fostering a political culture in which stakeholders from across the political spectrum come together to pursue solutions to issues of public importance. He announced that a high-level delegation would be constituted to engage the Federal Government on the imposed tax matter. He further stated that if the Federal Government does not reconsider its decision,

further announced that the provincial government has decided to withdraw the Sales Tax on Services in Malakand Division.

He emphasized that the provincial government's decision to withdraw provincial taxes was taken in the larger public interest, noting that public welfare remains the foremost consideration in all government decisions. Expressing

OGRA to announce petroleum prices daily: Ali Pervaiz

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday said the government had decided to introduce a daily petroleum pricing mechanism under which the

Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Malik said, "The Cabinet and the prime minister have decided that OGRA will be given the responsibility of determining fuel prices daily based on international market trends."



"OGRA has been directed to publish not only the international benchmark prices but also every component that contributes to the final price consumers pay at petrol stations, enabling the public to

understand why these price adjustments are necessary clearly," he said.

Malik said the decision to shift daily fuel price determination to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) would remove the government from routine pricing decisions and place responsibility with the independent regulator, whose role is to balance the interests of consumers, the government and the oil industry.

He said the new daily pricing mechanism would be based on the seven-day average of Platts international benchmark prices, ensuring that increases and decreases in global oil prices were reflected automatically in domestic prices.

Grand Jirga against imposition of Federal tax in ex-FATA/PATA reflects unprecedented Unity: Shafi Jan

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Information and Public Relations, Shafi Jan, has said that



Provincial Grand Jirga, convened under the leadership of Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi, marked a historic demonstration of political unity, collective

responsibility, and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the rights and interests of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

together leaders of all major political parties, elected representatives, tribal elders, and members of the business community on a single platform, enabling a united and representative voice on issues of critical importance to the province.

He said the unanimous resolution adopted by the Grand Jirga, with the endorsement of all participating political parties and stakeholders, reflects a shared resolve to protect the constitutional, financial, and developmental rights of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shafi Jan said the resolution expresses deep concern over the prevailing security challenges, displacement, loss of life and property, unemployment, and underdevelopment in the former FATA and PATA regions. It pays tribute to the immense sacrifices made by the people of these areas in the fight against terrorism and in the interest of national peace and stability,

while acknowledging that they continue to bear the burden of insecurity and decades of neglect.

He noted that the resolution recalls the commitments made at the time of the merger, including a ten-year tax exemption, an equitable share under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, development funding through the Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP), the provision of essential infrastructure, and the restoration of lasting peace. However, it observes with concern that these commitments remain largely unfulfilled, while the promised pace of development and sustainable peace has yet to materialize.

The Information Minister said the Provincial Grand Jirga unanimously declared the imposition of taxes on the people, traders, and industries of the former FATA and PATA

ed to establish a Pakistan-China Joint Working Group on border management and security to strengthen coordination and improve operational



effectiveness.

Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan and China would further enhance cooperation in land border management, support security and immigration administration. He reiterated that the Government of Pakistan was implementing a zero-tolerance policy against illegal immigration, unlawful border crossings and smug-

gling, adding that indiscriminate action was being taken against all those involved in such activities.

The minister also announced that a Gilgit-

Baltistan Scouts checkpoint was being established at the Khunjerab Pass to further strengthen security along the strategically important border crossing.

Minister of State Talal Chaudhry said Pakistan and China would work together to effectively curb illegal immigration and other cross-border crimes through enhanced bilateral cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Ease of Doing Business.

24 Indian-sponsored terrorists eliminated in Bannu operations: ISPR

TIMES REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 24 Indian-sponsored terrorists were eliminated during intelligence-based operations launched jointly by the security forces and law-enforcement agencies' personnel in Bannu.

According to an ISPR statement released on Friday, the intelligence-based operations were carried out during the last 24 hours in response to recent terrorist attacks by Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij in Bannu.

The operations were launched "in the backdrop of a recent surge in terrorist activities against police and vehicle-borne suicide bombing in Bannu District, in which Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij targeted law-enforcement agencies and innocent civilians", the ISPR statement said.

"Security forces had initiated extensive joint intelligence-based operations to hunt the perpetrators

of these heinous attacks and their support infrastructure," it added.

The military's media wing said, "In the last 24 hours following the fierce fire exchanges in Bannu district and adjoining areas, 24 khawarij belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij were killed".

The ISPR said weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed Khawarij, who "remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities and the killing of innocent civilians".

"The operations in the area will continue and perpetrators of these heinous and cowardly acts will be brought to justice, as the relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under the vision 'Azme-Istehkam' (as approved by the Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan

will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the statement concluded.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces and law enforcement agencies for killing 24 Indian-backed Fitna al Khawarij terrorists during a successful intelligence-based operation in Bannu and nearby areas.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister said the security forces' timely and effective action against the elements responsible for attacks on police personnel and innocent civilians, particularly in Bannu, was commendable.

"The operations against Fitna al Khawarij and their facilitators working under Indian patronage will be taken to their logical conclusion," the president

said, adding that the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and law enforcement agencies.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said eliminating terrorists and their facilitators remained the government's top priority.

He reaffirmed the government's resolve to foil the nefarious designs of Indian-backed terrorist elements and bring those involved in attacks on security personnel and civilians to justice.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operations against terrorists affiliated with Fitna-ul-Hindustan in Bannu and adjoining areas.

In a statement, he praised the professionalism, bravery and courage of the security forces in the killing of 24 terrorists in Bannu and said that the operations of the forces for establishing peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are commendable.

President, PM pay tribute to security forces for killing 24 terrorists in Bannu

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces and law enforcement agencies for killing 24 Indian-backed Fitna al Khawarij terrorists during a successful intelligence-based operation in Bannu and nearby areas.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister said the security forces' timely and effective action against the elements responsible for attacks on police personnel and innocent civilians, particularly in Bannu, was commendable.

"The operations against Fitna al Khawarij and their facilitators working under Indian patronage will be taken to their logical conclusion," the president said, adding that the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and law enforcement agencies.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said eliminating terrorists and their facilitators remained the government's top priority.

He reaffirmed the government's resolve to foil the nefarious designs of Indian-backed terrorist elements and bring those involved in attacks on security personnel and civilians to justice.

CityNews

Swat Journalists' delegation meets KP CM Sohail Afridi

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SWAT: A delegation of office-bearers of Swat Press Club, Swat Union of Journalists, and senior journalists met with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi and discussed issues faced by the journalist community, their welfare, and professional matters in detail. Provincial



Minister for Housing Dr. Amjad Ali was also present during the meeting. Chairman Swat Press Club Fazal Rahim Khan and President Swat Union of Journalists Shahzad Alam apprised the Chief Minister of various challenges faced by journalists in Swat, including professional difficulties, welfare-related matters, residential facilities, healthcare, and security concerns. The delegation urged the provincial government to take practical and effective steps for resolving the issues of journalists and ensure better facilities for the media community.

Chief Minister Sohail Afridi listened to the concerns and suggestions of the delegation and assured that all possible measures would be taken to address the genuine issues of journalists. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf believes in freedom of the press and that practical steps for the welfare of journalists are among the government's priorities. He added that a strong, independent, and responsible media is the foundation of a democratic society. The Chief Minister said that the media serves as an effective bridge between the state and the public, therefore, providing a conducive working environment and necessary facilities to journalists is the responsibility of the government.

Edu Dept bids farewell to veteran superintendent Ahmad Saeed

TIMES REPORT

DIKHAN: A farewell ceremony was held in honour of Ahmad Saeed, Superintendent at the SDO Female Office, Dera Ismail Khan, on his retirement after 60 years of distinguished service in the Education Department.



The event, hosted at the office of Farooq Hameed, Budget and Accounts Officer, District Education Office (Male), was attended by education officials and colleagues. Speakers praised Ahmad Saeed's honesty, professionalism, dedication, and exemplary public service throughout his career.

Farooq Hameed said Ahmad Saeed served with integrity and commitment, earning respect across the department and leaving an inspiring legacy for future public servants. Assistant District Education Officer (Female) Inaam Ullah Khan Gandapur also lauded his outstanding services and noble character. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of a floral garland to the retiring officer, while participants offered prayers for his health, happiness, and a peaceful, prosperous retirement.

Scholar Haseena Noureen defends Ph.D thesis

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MALAKAND: Ms Haseena Noureen, PhD Scholar at Department of Computer Science & IT, University of Malakand has ceremonially presented her PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof Dr Jamil Ahmad, Chairperson, Department of Computer Science & IT, UoM.



The External Examiners were Prof Dr Niamat Ullah, Department of Computer Science & Software Technology, University of Swat & Dr Farman Ali, University Republic of Korea participated Online.

The Faculty Members of Department of Computer Science & IT, University of Malakand Congratulated Dr Haseena Noureen & Research Supervisor for PhD Public Defense.

Governor Kundi announces health, aviation and energy Projects for DIK

MUHAMMAD REHAN

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the development of Dera Ismail Khan and



southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains his top priority, with significant progress underway on projects in healthcare, education, infrastructure, energy, aviation and public services.

Talking to senior journalist Muhammad Rehan at the Governor House,

the Governor said practical steps are being taken to establish an Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital in DI Khan. As an initial step, a three-day free eye camp will be

held in Kokar from July 22, where around 100 patients will receive examination, diagnosis and treatment daily.

He said work is also progressing on establishing an SIUT (Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation) facility in DI Khan with the sup-

Meeting reviews progress on OGDCL-funded welfare projects

CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: A high-level meeting was held at the Commissioner's Office in Kohat to review the ongoing and proposed development projects being implemented with the support of Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), with participants stressing the timely completion of public welfare schemes and transparent use of development funds.

The meeting was attended by the Member National Assembly Shehryar Afridi, Commissioner Kohat Syed Motasim Billah Shah, former Chairman Tehsil Gumbat Sajid Iqbal, OGDCL Managing Director, the compa-

ny's Regional Coordinator and senior officials from relevant government departments.



Participants reviewed progress on projects in education, healthcare, clean drinking water, infrastructure and other public welfare sectors. Officials were also briefed on the ongoing schemes, proposed development initiatives and projects being implemented under the OGDCL's Corporate Social Responsibility

(CSR) programme. The meeting agreed on practical measures to ensure that all ongoing projects are completed

line with the needs of local communities. They stressed that there should be no compromise on the

quality, pace or transparency of development work. OGDCL officials reaffirmed the company's commitment to continuing its support for public welfare, basic infrastructure and community development projects in Kohat through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

Govt warned against lack of transparency in the award of contracts for projects

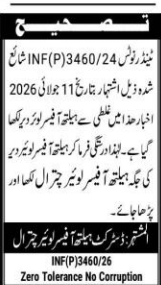
TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Youth from the Tori Mir Ali tribe have warned of launching protest demonstrations, expressing serious concerns over the alleged lack of transparency in the award of contracts for projects being carried out under Mari Energies.

In a joint press statement, tribal youth leaders Malik Waliullah, Malik Bara Khan, and Malik Saleemullah alleged that they had received information suggesting that the selection process for certain contractors was being conducted in a non-transparent manner, raising fears that the rights of the local population could be affected.

They demanded that all contracts be awarded through a transparent, open, and fair bidding process to ensure equal opportunities for all eligible stakeholders.

The statement further said that the local population would not accept any alleged secret agreements or unilateral decisions regarding the award of contracts. The leaders warned that if contracts were distributed without taking the local community into confidence, the youth of Tori Mir Ali would be compelled to launch a protest movement.



INF(P)3460/26
Zero Tolerance No Corruption

WSSCM completes cleaning of 56KM of Drains

CORRESPONDENT

MARDAN: The Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan has intensified its monsoon preparedness by completing the cleaning of 56 kilometres of drains across the city over the past fifteen days. In addition, seven major flood hotspots have been completely cleared to ensure smooth stormwater drainage during the monsoon season.

A special meeting to review the implementation of the Monsoon Contingency Plan was chaired by Chief Executive Officer Engineer Adil Nawaz. The meeting was attended by General Manager Muhammad Khalil Akbar, Deputy Manager Ikram Ullah, and Assistant Manager Amjad Khan.

The meeting was

informed that WSSCM carries out the phased cleaning of 446 kilometres of drainage network and across Mardan City. It was further highlighted that the majority of the city drains have already been cleaned before the



onset of the monsoon to ensure an uninterrupted drainage system during heavy rainfall.

Participants were briefed that major drains in Dagai, Muslim Abad, Hoti, and other union councils were cleaned using heavy machinery,

while smaller drains were cleaned manually. As part of the Monsoon Emergency Plan, WSSCM has introduced a second shift for drain-cleaning operations and constituted a 15 member emergency response team to

address any drainage related emergencies promptly.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Engineer Adil Nawaz directed the concerned officials to ensure the immediate removal of all obstructions hindering

stormwater drainage during rainfall. He directed all field teams to remain on high alert and respond swiftly to any emergency situation to minimize inconvenience to the public.

He reaffirmed that

MF announces Honorary Awards for DC and Education Officials

CORRESPONDENT

CHARSADDA: The Chairman of Musawwir Foundation has announced the nomination of the Deputy Commissioner Charsadda, District Education Officer (Female) Dr. Shaim Akhter, and Assistant Sub-Divisional Education Officer (ASDEO) Ms. Tasawer for the Foundation's Honorary Awards in recognition of their outstanding professional-ism, transparency, commitment to merit, and unwavering adherence to government rules and policies.

CT Scan Services restored at Hayatabad Medical Complex

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The existing CT Scan machine at Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) has been providing uninterrupted diagnostic services to patients for the past ten years. Recently, the machine experienced a temporary technical fault, which was promptly rectified. The CT Scan service has now been fully restored, and patients are once again receiving scans as per routine. To meet the growing demand for diagnostic services and further enhance patient care, the procurement of new state-of-the-art CT Scan machines is in its final stages. Once installed, these advanced machines will triple the CT Scan capacity at Hayatabad Medical Complex, significantly

improving the hospital's ability to serve patients.

During the temporary disruption, HMC implemented alternative arrangements to minimize inconvenience for patients. The administration and teams at the Burns & Plastic Surgery Centre and the Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD) extended full cooperation and played a vital role in ensuring that patients continued to receive timely CT Scan services. Hayatabad Medical Complex sincerely appreciates the support and collaboration of the Burns & Plastic Surgery Centre, the Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD), and all other concerned teams for their commitment to ensuring uninterrupted patient care during this period.

Marble Waste threatens Dallas Nala despite costly rehabilitation

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Millions of rupees spent by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on cleaning and rehabilitating the Dallas Nala along Warsak Road are under threat as nearby marble factories continue dumping waste into the water channel. The situation has also heightened fears of urban flooding during the ongoing monsoon season.

Residents have appealed to Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, and the Provincial Minister for Irrigation to intervene immediately to prevent possible flooding and protect nearby communities.

Secretary Forests, Environment and Wildlife Junaid Khan has also taken notice of the issue and directed the Environmental

Protection Department to initiate action against those responsible.

The provincial government had allocated significant funds in the 2025-26 budget for irrigation and drainage



improvements, including desilting Dallas Nala and constructing protective embankments. Shaheen Housing Society also contributed over Rs20 million for embankment construction, which has been completed.

However, residents say marble factories located along the nala have resumed dumping waste into the channel,

reducing its capacity even before the rehabilitation work was fully completed. They warned that heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas could cause floodwater to overflow into residential neigh-



borhoods. Dallas Nala, which runs parallel to the canal system along Warsak Road, serves as an important drainage channel for one of Peshawar's fastest-growing residential areas. Residents have urged authorities to take strict action against violators to safeguard public infrastructure and prevent potential flood damage.

Seminar on "Understanding Problematic Smartphone Use" held

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MALAKAND: Seminar on "Understanding Problematic Smartphone Use & Its Impact on Mind, Relations and Daily Life" organized at University of Malakand.

The Guest Speaker was Mr Sami ul Haq, PhD Scholar, University of Padova, Italy. He highlighted

that while smartphones are essential tools for learning and connectivity, mindful and balanced use is critical. Besides, he added that excessive and uncontrolled use of smartphones is increasingly linked to mental health challenges, strained interpersonal relations & disruption in academic and daily routines.

The Chairperson, Department of Education, Dr Itbar Khan & Dr Muhammad Faisal, Incharge, Department of Cyber Security also graced the event & discussed intervention models such as digital detox, mindfulness and screen time management. The event concluded with Q & A Session; focused on managing social media addiction, balancing online learning with screen time & role of educational institutions in promoting digital literacy.



KMU, UCL ink Material Transfer Agreement for Rare Genetic Disease Research

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, has achieved another landmark in international research collaboration as the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences (IBMS) successfully signed a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) with the University College London (UCL), UK for the advanced molecular analysis of rare genetic diseases.

Under this agreement, UCL will perform Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) and Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of patients with rare genetic disorders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa free of cost. This collaboration will significantly enhance the diagnosis of previously undiagnosed and complex

inherited disorders, including primary microcephaly, inherited neurodevelopmental disorders, muscular dystrophies, hereditary ataxias, leukodystrophy, metabolic disorders, epilepsy syndromes, Parkinson's diseases and other rare congenital conditions. The initiative is expected to transform the diagnostic landscape for rare diseases in the province, offering hope to countless patients and families.

The collaborative research will be conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Musharraf Jelani, Prof. Dr. Inayat Shah, further strengthening the long-standing research partnership between KMU and UCL and promoting cutting-edge genomic medicine in Pakistan. This

achievement reflects KMU's expanding global research footprint and is fully aligned with the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, whose commitment to research excellence, innovation, and international collaboration continues to elevate the University's standing on the global stage.

Heartiest congratulations to Prof. Dr. Musharraf Jelani, Prof. Dr. Inayat Shah, Dr. Zohaib Khan, the teams at IBMS and ORIC, and the entire KMU family on this remarkable accomplishment. This partnership marks another proud step toward advancing precision medicine, strengthening global scientific collaboration, and improving healthcare outcomes for the people of Pakistan.

Ambassador Moin ul Haque assumes charge as ISSI DG



TWIN CITIES

RTA Dera Intensifies Action Against Transport Violations

TIMES REPORT

DL.KHAN: On the directives of RTA Secretary Shaukat Iqbal, the RTA Monitoring Team in Dera Ismail Khan has intensified enforcement against passenger transport violations on various routes.

The team took legal action against vehicles illegally fitted with LPG cylinders, overcharging passengers, and carrying more passengers than the



permitted capacity. The monitoring team is also ensuring compliance with the government's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), focusing on passenger safety, improved transport services, quality travel facilities, and strict adherence to transport laws and regulations.

The RTA urged all transporters to comply with traffic rules, approved fare schedules, and safety guidelines to ensure safe, reliable, and quality travel for passengers.

Shangla BSN Students Protest, Seek Urgent Academic Reforms

TIMES REPORT

SHANGLA: BSN Nursing students at the University of Shangla stage a peaceful protest on Monday, demanding the immediate resolution of long-pending academic issues, including completion of their registration process.

The students blocked the Alpuri-Leloni Road for nearly an hour, causing temporary traffic disruption. They also urged the provincial government to hand over the Technical College, already approved by the provincial cabinet for the university, to help address academic and infrastructure challenges.

Assistant Commissioner Alpuri Abdul Qayyum held talks with the protesters and assured them that their concerns would be conveyed to the relevant authorities and addressed on priority. Following the assurance, the students ended their protest and reopened the road.

The protesters said the University of Shangla provides educational opportunities for students from underprivileged families, including children of coal miners and labourers, and called on the government to safeguard their educational rights by resolving all pending issues without delay. They warned that if no practical action is taken, they would intensify their peaceful protest campaign.

SSCI Holds Online Training on Digital Civic Collaboration for Youth

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: SheSpeaks Civic Initiative (SSCI), in collaboration with Hamdard University Islamabad, organized an online training workshop for 25 university students under its "Digital Voices: Youth-Led Civic Engagement and Transparency" project.

The session, titled "Digital Platform & Technical Features for Collaborative Civic Learning," was conducted by Dr. Adnan Riaz, Assistant Professor at Allama Iqbal Open University. Participants learned how digital collaboration tools, including breakout rooms, peer-review systems, AI demonstrations, fact-checking platforms, interactive quizzes, and polling features, can strengthen civic learning, teamwork, and youth-led community initiatives.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP, ADDRESS AND NAME OF COMPANY

M/S ROSH NAIN ASSOCIATES the License No. 22157, Category C5 has applied for change of ownership ADDRESS & NAME OF COMPANY with PEC as follows:

OUTGOING Ownership Status (Sole Partnership/ Shareholding)	New/ Incoming Owner(s) Partner(s) Shareholder(s)
Sr No. Name & CNIC No.	Name & CNIC No.
1. ABDUL WAHEED S/O KHALIL UR REHMAN CNIC: 13101-056844-1 1/5% SHARES OUTGOING	SADDAM HUSSAIN S/O MUHAMMAD GULAB CNIC: 16101-710158-7 100% INCOMING

Further, CHANGE OF COMPANY OWNERSHIP CHANGE OF NAME CHANGE OF ADDRESS NEW NAME: JK BROTHERS ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION COMPANY NEW ADDRESS: ARAB KHIL, P/O, KHAS NAWA-BAJOUR Nawagali (This Paragraph Will be optional if required case to case). If any department(s) or person(s) has/ have any objection on this change of ownership, he/ she/ they shall let the Council know in writing within 15 days after publication of this advertisement.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W HIGHWAY DIVISION D.I.KHAN
PHONE # 0966-920558
ADDRESS: CHOWK SHAH ALAM ABAD D.I.KHAN

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the tender earlier advertised in the Daily Mashrig Newspaper vide INF(P) No. 3322/26 dated 05.07.2026 for the scheme titled "AOM&R of all Metalled Roads in District D.I.Khan for the year 2026-27 S/I/I: Emergent Nature Work," it is hereby notified for the information of all prospective firms/contractors that, due to the Holiday on 25.07.2026, the scheduled submission of financial bids is hereby extended on 27.07.2026 instead of 25.07.2026.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W HIGHWAY DIVISION D.I.KHAN
Zero Tolerance no corruption INF(P)3642/26

Governor Kundi assures support for timely assent to KP Hindu Marriage Act 2026

TIMES REPORT

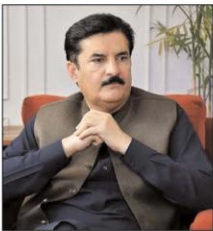
PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has assured a delegation representing minority rights organizations of his full support for the timely processing of assent to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hindu Marriage Act 2026, aimed at safeguarding the legal rights of the Hindu community in the province.

A high-level National Lobbying Delegation (NLD) for Minority Rights, led by Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed, called on the Governor at the Governor House.

The delegation thanked the Governor for the unanimous passage of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hindu Marriage Act 2026 by the provincial assembly and urged him to grant prompt assent to the bill to facilitate its early implementation.

The delegation said the legislation would provide legal recognition and protection to Hindu marriages in the province, ensure compulsory

marriage registration, safeguard the rights of women and children, and facilitate access to legal documentation, including



CNICs, inheritance and other official records through linkage with NADRA.

The delegation comprised Anthony Naveed, Haroon Sarab Diyal, Krishan Sharma, Pushpa Kumari, Romana Bashir, Atif Jamil Paggan and Jai Parkash Moorani.

Governor Kundi welcomed the delegation and acknowledged the importance of the leg-

islation in promoting and protecting the constitutional rights of religious minorities.

He assured the delegation of his full cooperation for the timely processing of the bill and its effective implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, Anthony Naveed said the passage of the legislation reflected the inclusive vision of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and urged early assent so that Hindu citizens could benefit from the legal protections without delay.

Haroon Sarab Diyal said the Act would end decades of legal uncertainty surrounding Hindu marriages in the province and appreciated the role of the Governor, chief minister, speaker and members of the provincial assembly in supporting the legislation.

He said the National Lobbying Delegation would continue to work with the provincial government in framing rules and creating public awareness to ensure the effective implementation of the Act.

Tarbela Auxiliary Spillway operated for first time in Flood Season 2026

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Auxiliary Spillway of Tarbela Reservoir



successfully operated today for

the first time during Flood Season 2026.

The operation commenced at 1100 hours in strict accord-

ing with Standard Operating Procedures. The District Administration, local police, and all departments concerned were informed in advance through an official notification and via the designated Flood Coordination Center.

The spillway operation concluded smoothly at 1430 hours. A total of 242,600 cusecs of water was released into the Indus River downstream of Tarbela Dam. All technical and safety parameters remained well within safe limits throughout the operation.

The relevant authorities and administrative and security departments remained on high alert and ensured necessary precautionary measures for public safety.

Ulema, Mashaikh announce support for gov efforts on peace, national security

BY: APP

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Ulema and Mashaikh, chaired by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Friday announced support for the state's positive steps aimed at promoting peace, religious harmony, social stability and national security in the country.

Addressing the meeting, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said Pakistan gained immense respect after the "Marka-e-Haq" and that the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir for establishing peace were appreciated around the world. He said India's false propaganda was defeated.

The minister said the Pakistani armed forces were presenting testimonies in defence of the country and that the gathering of Ulema was held to acknowledge their sacrifices. He added that the Ulema had always remained at the forefront in protecting the ideological borders of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The meeting resolved to continue full cooperation with the Government of Pakistan in every positive initiative and reaffirmed commitment to the supremacy of

the Constitution and the stability of state institutions.

The participants appreciated



the efforts of the Pakistani armed forces for peace, stability and national unity and expressed their unwavering support.

The Ulema and Mashaikh also expressed complete solidarity with the government and security forces against terrorism, extremism and destructive activities. They paid tribute to the sacrifices of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and security forces for maintaining peace and stability in Pakistan. According to the declaration, the entire Pakistani nation is

indebted to the great sacrifices of the martyrs and ghazis. It stated that terrorism, extremism, sectar-

ianism and violence have no place in Islam, describing Islam as a religion of peace, moderation, tolerance and respect for human life.

The declaration said every act that harms the peace of the state, society and the people is condemnable. The scholars appealed to religious leaders of all schools of thought to promote national unity and religious harmony, saying the national narrative against terrorism would be highlighted through sermons, lessons and religious gatherings.

ITP holds road safety walk to promote traffic law awareness in Islamabad

BY: APP

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) organized a road safety awareness walk to encourage compliance with traffic laws and promote responsible road use among citizens.

An official told APP on Friday that the awareness walk, attended by members of civil society, journalists and students, started from Jinnah Avenue and concluded at Express Chowk.

Following the walk, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Kainat Azhar Khan addressed the media and said violations such as lane discipline breaches, wrong-way driving and riding motorcycles without helmets endangered not only the lives of violators but also those of other road users.

She said strict legal action was being taken against traffic violators, adding that serious violations of traffic laws could prove fatal and must be avoided at all costs.

The CTO Kainat urged citizens to avoid using non-standard number plates, illegal parking and overloading of vehicles, stressing that compliance with traffic regulations was essential for ensuring safer roads.

Kainat said the purpose of organizing road safety workshops and awareness activities

was to build public awareness and promote a culture of respon-



sible driving. She urged citizens to demon-

strate responsible and civilized behavior on the roads by making

adherence to traffic laws a part of their daily lives.

Fatehullah Mian Khel Reviews Development Projects in D.I. Khan

TIMES REPORT

DL.KHAN: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence, and Chairman of the District Social Welfare Committee, Sardar Fatehullah Khan Mian Khel, chaired a high-level meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office to review ongoing development projects across the district.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Hikmatullah Khan, heads of government departments, and other senior officials. Participants reviewed progress on development schemes, public welfare initiatives, and government-funded projects. Departmental heads briefed the meeting on completed and ongoing projects, challenges, and future plans.

Sardar Fatehullah Khan Mian Khel stressed that public welfare and the development of Dera Ismail Khan remain the PPP's top priorities. He appreciated the performance of government departments and emphasized the close coordination among institutions is essential for the timely completion of development projects.



He also praised Deputy Commissioner Hikmatullah Khan for his active supervision of development initiatives and said stronger coordination between the district administration and elected representatives would further accelerate development.

The MNA added that he is making efforts at the federal level in Islamabad to secure approval for major development projects and special funds for Dera Ismail Khan. He expressed confidence that the district would soon receive good news regarding new projects and funding aimed at improving infrastructure, public services, and resolving local issues.

PCTO's National Song "Junoon-e-Azadi" to be released in Aug 2026

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chairman of the Pakistan Culture, Tourism and Arts Council (PCTO), Javed Aziz Khilji, has announced that a unique national song titled "Junoon-e-Azadi" has been prepared on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day 2026 and will be officially released in August 2026.

He said that the national song is an important part of the PCTO Digital Network Project, which aims to promote the spirit of patriotism and high-light Pakistan's culture, tourism, performing arts and national heritage at both national and international levels.

According to Chairman Javed Aziz Khilji, the beautiful national song has been written by renowned writer, poet and researcher Dr. Shahida Shaheen Sardar, who has effectively portrayed the sentiments of love for the country, national unity and harmony through her unique literary style.

He further said that PCTO is working on various national, cultural and literary projects through digital media to promote the positive identity of Pakistan, and "Junoon-e-Azadi" is also an important creative effort in this regard.

Javed Aziz Khilji said that details regarding the official release ceremony and other arrangements will be announced at an appropriate time. He expressed hope that the national song will further strengthen the spirit of patriotism, national pride and attachment to Pakistan's cultural identity, especially among the younger generation.

Call for revisit decision of the Afghan Artisans' Repatriation

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Brick Kiln Association has demanded that the federal government review its decision regarding the repatriation of Afghan migrants associated with the brick kiln industry and formulate a comprehensive policy in this regard.

Speaking to the media yesterday, President of the Peshawar Brick Kiln Association, Haji Muhammad Jahangir Khan, said that most of the workers and skilled artisans employed at brick kilns are Afghans, and if they are deported, brick kiln owners may suffer losses of millions of rupees.

He said that the federal government has launched an operation for the repatriation of Afghan migrants, due to which labourers and skilled workers employed at brick kilns are also being sent back, pushing the industry towards a critical situation.

Haji Muhammad Jahangir Khan said that millions of rupees owed to brick kiln owners are pending against these workers. Therefore, the government should provide them special relief and, if necessary, introduce a visa and passport system to allow them to continue their work legally.

He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is already lagging behind other provinces due to terrorism. If this industry is affected, thousands of families will become unemployed and the province's economic situation will further deteriorate. He urged the Prime Minister, Federal Interior Minister, and other relevant authorities to formulate a comprehensive policy by establishing a clear mechanism for Afghan workers so that they can continue working in Pakistan through legal means.

Editorial & Opinion

The Voice of the Time

DAILY TIMES

Editor-In-Chief Fazli Haq

HeadOffice: 2nd Floor, Flat#1,
Dar-I-Salam Plaza Sikandarpura
Chowk Peshavar City,

Phone: 091-2216407, Fax: 091: 2218687

Regional office: Flat#06 Block-11, 3rd Floor
PHA Appartments, G-7-1, Islamabad
Cell#: +92 321 9111947
E-mails: dailytimespesh@gmail.com

Lahore office: 398-J-2 wadpa town,
Bureau chief :Ghulam Haider Shaikh
09923225300703
Email: haraan.pk@gmail.com

VOL: 36, NO. 205

Justice beyond procedure

The Supreme Court's reminder that procedural law exists "to give voice to human suffering, not to silence it" should never have been necessary.

Yet the fact that the country's highest court found itself correcting lower courts for refusing to rectify obvious inaccuracies in a witness's testimony speaks to a deeper malaise within Pakistan's justice system.

Nearly eight decades after independence, courts should hardly require instruction on one of the most fundamental principles of justice: procedure exists to facilitate justice, not frustrate it.

The case itself illustrates the problem with uncomfortable clarity. A prosecution witness sought correction of discrepancies in her recorded testimony after discovering that her statement had not been accurately transcribed, including an incorrect date of the alleged offence.

Rather than exercising powers already available under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to verify the video recording and rectify any inaccuracies, both the trial court and the Sindh High Court declined to do so.

The Supreme Court rightly concluded that this was an illegality, set aside both orders and directed the trial court to undertake the exercise that should have been performed in the first place.

The legal principle reaffirmed by the Supreme Court is neither novel nor controversial.

Courts exist to administer justice fairly, impartially and according to law. Procedural rules are indispensable because they protect due process, safeguard the rights of all parties and ensure consistency in judicial proceedings. They were never intended to become barriers preventing courts from correcting obvious mistakes that threaten the fairness of a trial. A justice system that becomes excessively preoccupied with technicalities risks losing sight of the very purpose for which it exists.

This is reflected in one of the oldest principles associated with the administration of justice: justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done. Public confidence depends not merely upon correct legal outcomes but upon the visible willingness of courts to ensure fairness at every stage of the judicial process. When litigants encounter rigid procedural formalism instead of a genuine effort to resolve legitimate grievances, confidence in the justice system inevitably suffers.

Unfortunately, this case points towards a broader institutional concern.

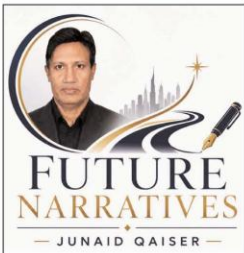
Pakistan's judiciary continues to struggle with delayed proceedings, inconsistent application of procedural safeguards, mounting case backlogs and persistent public perceptions regarding integrity and accountability. While many judges discharge their responsibilities with professionalism and independence, the institution as a whole continues to face criticism that cannot simply be dismissed as public cynicism. Repeated surveys over many years have consistently shown that confidence in the administration of justice remains fragile. That should concern the judiciary as much as it concerns the public.

The Supreme Court's judgment therefore deserves to be viewed beyond the immediate facts of this particular case. It serves as a reminder that judicial authority carries with it a corresponding obligation to exercise statutory powers whenever justice requires it. Declining to correct an apparent error simply because procedure appears inconvenient undermines both fairness and public trust.

Equally important is the emphasis placed by the Supreme Court on timely disposal of the matter. Justice delayed has long been recognised as justice denied, particularly in criminal cases where victims, witnesses and accused persons all remain trapped within prolonged legal uncertainty. Directing the trial court to complete the verification exercise within fifteen working days and conclude the case thereafter reflects an appreciation that procedural fairness and judicial efficiency must operate together.

The judiciary occupies a unique constitutional position. It serves as the final guardian of fundamental rights and the ultimate arbiter of legal disputes. That role demands not only independence from external influence but also an unwavering commitment to fairness, transparency and practical justice within its own processes.

The Supreme Court has now restated a principle that lies at the heart of every credible legal system. The real challenge is ensuring that this principle is applied consistently throughout the judicial hierarchy. Courts should never lose sight of the simple truth that the law exists for people. People do not exist for the law.



The latest escalation between the United States and Iran has once again reminded the world how quickly fragile peace can give way to renewed confrontation. Missiles have crossed borders, military installations have come under attack, and the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's most critical energy corridors — has become the focal point of a dangerous geopolitical standoff. As tensions rise and the rhetoric of retaliation dominates headlines, Pakistan's message stands out for its clarity and wisdom: peace never dies.

Speaking at a weekly briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint and return to dialogue. His remarks came at a time when military exchanges between Washington and Tehran have intensified, threatening not only regional stability but also global economic security. Yet amid the growing uncertainty, Islamabad's position reflects a reality that history has repeatedly demonstrated: wars may begin on battlefields, but they end at negotiating tables. The renewed hostilities are particularly disappointing because they come only weeks after

The Shrinking Playgrounds of Childhood



A generation of young Pakistanis is growing up in a world where playgrounds are disappearing and screens are becoming constant companions. As cities expand and digital devices dominate daily life, childhood is increasingly confined indoors. The consequences extend far beyond recreation.

Poor nutrition, reduced physical activity, and excessive screen exposure are contributing to a generation facing slower physical growth, declining mental well-being, and long-term health risks. Nearly 38 percent of Pakistani children under five are stunted, one of the highest rates in Asia, while average child height has remained largely stagnant for decades. In contrast, countries such as China and Japan have shown that sustained investment in nutrition, school meal programs, and physical education can dramatically improve children's growth and overall health. The World Health Organization recommends no screen time for children under two and no more than one hour per day for those aged two to five. In Pakistan, those limits are routinely exceeded.

Smartphones and tablets have become common sources of entertainment, often replacing outdoor play. Pediatricians increasingly associate excessive screen use with sleep disruption, reduced attention span, behavioral problems, and emotional distress. A 2025 study conducted in Lahore among children aged four to fifteen found that nearly half of those spending more than two hours daily on screens experienced sleep disturbances and behavioral difficulties. Global research has also linked prolonged recreational screen time with anxiety, social withdrawal, and reduced physical activity. While digital dependence grows, the spaces designed for children continue to shrink. Across Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, and other urban centers, public parks and playgrounds have steadily given way to commercial construction and illegal encroachments. Court proceedings and media investigations have documented numerous cases in which land reserved for recreation was converted into buildings or private developments.

Karachi courts have repeatedly ordered authorities to restore playgrounds taken over by developers, highlighting the scale of the problem. With fewer safe places to play, children spend more time indoors, reinforcing sedentary lifestyles that affect both physical development and lifelong health. The nutritional picture is equally alarming. According to UNICEF and the World Health Organization, 37.6 percent of Pakistani children under five are

stunted, reflecting chronic under-nutrition during the most critical years of development. Stunting affects far more than height. It weakens immunity, impairs cognitive development, reduces educational achievement, and limits future earning potential. Persistent rates of malnutrition also indicate wider shortcomings in healthcare, sanitation, and access to balanced diets. Other Asian countries illustrate that these outcomes are not inevitable. China's Nutrition Improvement Program, launched in 2011, expanded free and subsidized school meals to millions of rural students while improving food quality and school kitchen facilities. Official data show that average child height increased by approximately 7.9 centimeters between 1989 and 2015. Japan adopted a nationwide school lunch program in the 1950s and integrated nutrition education and daily physical activity into school life. Over the following decades, Japanese children experienced substantial gains in average height alongside consistently low childhood obesity rates. In both countries, child nutrition was treated as a national investment rather than a welfare expense.

Pakistan is already paying the price for failing to make similar investments. International estimates suggest that undernutrition costs the country roughly two to three percent of its GDP each year through lower productivity, increased healthcare spending, and weaker educational outcomes. The growing mental health burden associated with excessive screen use, including anxiety, depression, poor sleep, and attention disorders,

reflects Pakistan's growing diplomatic relevance and its ability to maintain constructive relations across a diverse range of regional and international actors.

The impact is already being felt. Oil prices have surged in response to renewed uncertainty, creating concerns about inflation and economic instability. Developing countries, particularly those in the Global South, are among the hardest hit. Nations with limited financial resources often struggle to absorb sudden increases in energy costs, which inevitably affect transportation, food prices, manufacturing, and overall economic growth. Pakistan is no exception. Rising international oil prices place additional pressure on an economy already navigating multiple challenges.

Higher fuel costs affect ordinary citizens through increased transportation expenses and rising prices for essential goods. What happens in the Gulf therefore has direct consequences for households thousands of kilometres away.

This broader economic dimension underscores why de-escalation is not merely a regional concern but a global necessity. Stability in the Gulf supports international trade, energy security, and economic growth. Conversely, prolonged conflict threatens supply chains, maritime navigation, and financial markets around the world. Importantly, Pakistan's position is not based on choosing sides. Rather, it is grounded in the principle that peace serves the interests of all parties.

A wider conflict would benefit no one. Gulf states risk becoming theatres of confrontation. Global markets face further instability. Ordinary citizens throughout the region would bear the human and

economic costs of prolonged hostilities. The Islamabad MoU represents such a foundation. While current circumstances have complicated its implementation, the framework itself remains relevant. It offers a practical template for reducing tensions, rebuilding confidence, and addressing the substantive issues that continue to divide Washington and Tehran.

The coming weeks will be critical. Continued escalation risks drawing additional regional actors into the conflict and deepening economic disruptions worldwide. Yet opportunities for diplomacy still exist. Communication channels remain open. Regional mediators continue their efforts.

Most importantly, neither side has completely closed the door to future negotiations. For Pakistan, the path forward is clear. The country must continue advocating restraint, encouraging dialogue, and supporting every credible effort aimed at restoring peace. Such a role is consistent with Pakistan's diplomatic traditions and serves both regional and international interests.

As the conflict enters another dangerous phase, Pakistan's message deserves attention. The noise of war may temporarily drown out the voices of diplomacy, but it cannot silence them forever. Conflicts eventually exhaust themselves. Escalation reaches its limits. And when that moment arrives, nations return to the only place where lasting solutions are found.

The negotiating table remains waiting. The framework for peace still exists. The opportunity for dialogue endures. Because peace never dies; it simply waits for leaders to choose it once again.

Rule of Law: The Only way to Pakistan's Progress & Prosperity



Pakistan stands today at a critical juncture in its history, where the credibility of state institutions, public trust, and the system of governance are all facing severe challenges. Economic hardships, political instability, administrative inefficiency, delays in the delivery of justice, and growing corruption have pushed ordinary citizens to a point where securing even their basic rights often requires a long and exhausting struggle.

This raises an important question in the minds of every patriotic Pakistani: How did our institutions reach this state? Are politicians alone responsible? Has the bureau-

cracy failed to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities? Has the judicial system been unable to provide timely and impartial justice? Has the imbalance in the exercise of powers among state institutions contributed to institutional weakness? The reality is that no single individual or institution can be held solely responsible. The current crisis is the result of decades of accumulated mistakes, weak accountability, poor governance, and the dominance of personal interests over national priorities.

In the early years after Pakistan's independence, state institutions were generally regarded as organized and disciplined. Over time, however, political interference, nepotism, corruption, favoritism, the erosion of merit, and the misuse of authority gradually weakened their foundations. When accountability becomes ineffective and the law is not applied equally to all, corruption ceases to be an individual offense and becomes embedded within the entire system.

Today, one of the greatest hardships faced by ordinary citizens is the prolonged wait for justice, while influential individuals often manage to escape legal consequences through wealth, connec-

tions, or political influence. This has created a widespread perception that the law does not apply equally to everyone—a perception that poses a serious threat to the stability of any state. Similarly, when key public offices are filled on the basis of favoritism, political affiliation, or personal relationships rather than competence, integrity, and merit, institutions inevitably lose their professionalism and effectiveness. The consequences extend far beyond individual organizations, ultimately affecting the entire nation through economic weakness, administrative failure, and growing public dissatisfaction.

The experience of successful nations teaches us that sustainable development is only possible where the rule of law prevails equally for all, the judiciary remains independent and impartial, the executive is accountable, elected leaders operate within constitutional limits, and state institutions perform their duties without exceeding their constitutional mandates. The remarkable progress of countries such as Japan, Singapore, and South Korea is built upon strong institutions, transparent accountability, and unwavering adherence to the rule of law. If Pakistan aspires to become a developed, stable, and dignified

nation, it must strengthen institutions rather than personalities. Accountability must serve as an instrument of national reform rather than political revenge. Justice must be free from discrimination between the powerful and the powerless, and merit must become the guiding principle across both public and private institutions.

The need of the hour is for all pillars of the state—the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and other constitutional institutions—to perform their respective roles within the framework of the Constitution and work collectively toward building a Pakistan where every citizen relies on rights protected by law rather than personal connections, influence, or wealth.

States are strengthened not by weapons but by justice. Nations do not prosper through slogans but through the rule of law, honest leadership, strong institutions, and equal justice for all. If Pakistan is to emerge as a truly strong, prosperous, and respected nation, the law must remain supreme, and state institutions must be safeguarded from all forms of personal and political interests. Only then can Pakistan secure its survival, stability, and a brighter future.

SPORTS

Leclerc says Mercedes still F1 favourites in Belgium

Joe Root stars as England beat India in second ODI to level series 1-1

CARDIFF: Joe Root's superb unbeaten knock, backed by disciplined bowling from Gus Atkinson and Jofra Archer, guided England to a four-wicket victory over India in the second ODI of the three-match series, levelling the contest at 1-1 at Sophia Gardens on Thursday.

Chasing 234, England reached the target in 44.1 overs despite losing six wickets. Root anchored the innings with a match-winning unbeaten 99 off 133 deliveries, striking nine fours and finishing just one run short of a century. Will Jacks contributed 30 off 44 balls, including two fours, while Sam Curran and Gus Atkinson added valuable knocks of 26 and 23, respectively. Wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler scored 17, while captain Harry Brook made a run-a-ball 16.

England suffered an early setback when Ben Duckett was dismissed for a first-ball duck, while fellow opener Jacob Bethell managed just four. For India, Gurnoor Brar was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 2/67 from his 10 overs. Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Shivam Dube and Axar Patel claimed one wicket each.

Earlier, India were bowled out for 233 in 44 overs despite half-centuries from Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer, along with useful contributions from Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma and Bumrah. Iyer top-scored with 66 off 71 balls, hitting five fours and two sixes, while Kohli struck 65 from 66 deliveries, including eight fours.

Gill made 31 off 30 balls, including six fours, while Sharma scored 26 from 47 deliveries, featuring one four and one six. Bumrah chipped in with a quickfire 20 off 13 balls, smashing three fours and a six. However, the lower order failed to provide significant support as Ishan Kishan and Axar Patel were dismissed for one each, Washington Sundar made two, Shivam Dube and Prasidh Krishna fell for ducks, while Gurnoor Brar scored seven.

For England, Archer and Atkinson claimed three wickets each, while Saqib Mahmood took two. Sam Curran and Will Jacks picked up one wicket apiece.

The third and final ODI between England and India will be played at Lord's in London on Sunday, with the series level at 1-1.



FIFA unveils first-ever World Cup champion rings

Tehsil Larjam Wins Commissioner Malakand Cricket Cup 26:Dir Bala District Final

NEW YORK: FIFA has introduced World Cup champion rings for the first time, with the winners of Sunday's final between Argentina and Spain set to receive the special prize alongside football's most famous trophy. The new rings mark a first in World Cup history and follow a long-standing tradition in American sport, where Super Bowl-winning teams are presented with championship rings to celebrate their success. FIFA will award 30 specially designed rings to members of the winning team.

Each ring will feature a miniature FIFA World Cup trophy and a personalised engraving inside the band, making it a lasting reminder of their achievement. Immediately after the final, the winning captain and head coach will receive temporary rings during the trophy presentation. The 30 official rings will then be individually customised to ensure they fit each recipient before being presented at a later date. Supporters will also have the chance to own a piece of history, with FIFA making a further 1,996 replica rings available for fans.

The World Cup final will be played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, where Argentina and Spain will compete for football's biggest prize and become the first team to receive the new champion rings. United States President Donald Trump is also expected to attend the final and present the World Cup trophy to the winners. Although he has not attended any of the tournament's previous 102 matches, including the United States' last-16 defeat to Belgium, FIFA president Gianni Infantino and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt have confirmed his attendance. An air quality warning remains in place across parts of the New York area because of smoke from Canadian wildfires, but there is no indication that it will affect the final or the trophy presentation.

The Upper Dir: The Inter-Tehsil Cricket Tournament organized under the Commissioner Malakand Cricket Cup 2026 concluded in a festive atmosphere at Dir Sports Complex today.

Teams from all tehsils of Dir Bala participated in the week-long event. Throughout the tournament, players displayed high-quality cricket which drew large crowds and created great excitement among youth.

The final match was played between Tehsil Dir and Tehsil Larjam in a 9-over format.

Tehsil Dir batted first and posted a competitive total of 142 runs. In reply, Tehsil Larjam started aggressively and chased the target with excellent batting, securing victory and lifting the District Level Championship Trophy. With this win, Tehsil Larjam has qualified to represent Upper Dir in the upcoming of the Commissioner Malakand Cricket Cup.

The closing ceremony was attended by senior officials including: ADC Finance Dr. Sadiq Ali, ADC Relief Sher Ali Khan, DPO Planning Miraj Gul, District Sports Officer Siddique Ullah, DCA President Royal Shakir, DCA Finance Secretary Ijaz-ul-Haq, and Muhammad Zada.

Trophies, cash prizes, and certificates were distributed to the winning team, runners-up, and best performers of the tournament. Officials lauded the players for their sportsmanship and talent.

Addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized that tournaments like these are essential for channeling youth energy positively, promoting healthy lifestyles, and identifying talent for provincial and national levels. They announced that the district administration will continue to support sports activities across Dir Bala.

A large number of sports lovers, students, and families attended the final. The event was widely hailed as a successful step toward promoting cricket and positive youth engagement in the district.



Donald Trump to attend World Cup final on Sunday

ICC hands Nawaz three-month anti-doping suspension

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump will attend the FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and Spain on Sunday at New York/New Jersey Stadium. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed on Thursday. More than 80,000 people are expected to attend the World Cup final between holders Argentina and European champions Spain, while another 50,000 are expected to watch the game from Central Park in Manhattan.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino on June 23 said that Trump will be on hand to present the World Cup final trophy on July 19.

The global football boss has fostered an increasingly chummy relationship with the US president and, in December, awarded him the inaugural edition of his invented FIFA Peace Prize, as Trump sought out sport's mega-watt spotlight. "We look forward to the final match on Sunday, and I know the president looks forward to attending," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters at a press conference.

"His attendance will cap what has been the most watched, most secure, and most successful World Cup in American history," Leavitt added that she did not know whether Trump had a favourite in the final but encouraged reporters to ask him. "I'm sure he'll have a fun answer for you," she said. The US president will also attend a FIFA reception at the Trump Tower in New York City on Friday, Leavitt added.

The 32-year-old tested positive for Carboxy-THC, classified as a Substance of Abuse under the ICC Anti-Doping Code, following a doping test conducted after Pakistan's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 match against the Netherlands in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 7 February.

Nawaz admitted the anti-doping rule violation and established that the prohibited substance had been used out of competition and in a manner unrelated to sporting performance.

As a result, he was handed a three-month period of ineligibility, backdated to 1 May 2026, the date on which he voluntarily accepted a provisional suspension.

After accepting the sanction and committing to the rehabilitation programme, Nawaz's provisional suspension has now been lifted, having already served two and a half months of the suspension.

Provided he completes the substance of abuse rehabilitation programme to the ICC's satisfaction, Nawaz will not be required to serve the remainder of the three-month period of ineligibility.





Aiden Markram, Laura Wolvaardt headline CSA Awards 2026 winners

JOHANNESBURG: Aiden Markram, Laura Wolvaardt and Simon Harmer emerged as the biggest winners at the Cricket South Africa (CSA) Awards 2026 after outstanding performances across formats, while Lungi Ngidi and Quinton de Kock also claimed multiple honours.

Veteran off-spinner Harmer was named Test Player of the Year following a remarkable red-ball campaign during the awards period from April 2025 to April 2026.

He claimed 30 wickets in just four Tests, including an eight-wicket haul in Rawalpindi to help South Africa draw the series against Pakistan. Harmer then starred in a memorable series whitewash of India, registering match figures of 8-51 in Kolkata and 9-101 in Guwahati.

South Africa women's captain Wolvaardt enjoyed another exceptional year, sweeping the major women's awards by winning Women's Player of the Year, SA Women's Players' Player of the Year and Women's ODI Player of the Year.

The stylish opener was instrumental in South Africa's run to the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup final, finishing as the tournament's leading run-scorer with 571 runs at an average of 71.37, including centuries in both the semi-final and final.

She also topped South Africa's batting charts during the ODI series in New Zealand before scoring 330 runs in five T20s against India to earn the Player of the Series award.

gories, claiming both the SA Men's Player of the Year and SA Men's Players' Player of the Year awards after leading South Africa to success across formats, highlighted by their Fast bowler Ngidi collected the Men's T20 International Player of the Year award and the SA Fans' Player of the Year honour. His delivery to dismiss England captain Jos Buttler in the second ODI was also voted the Best Men's Delivery of the Year.

Matthew Breetzke's breakthrough season earned him the Men's ODI International Player of the Year award, while Dewald Brevis and Kayla Reyneke were named the International Men's and Women's Newcomers of the Year, respectively.

The SA20 awards also recognised the competition's leading performers. De Kock, the tournament's highest run-scorer, was named SA20 Batter of the Season and Betway SA20 Player of the Season (MVP).

Ottneil Baartman received the SA20 Bowler of the Season award after finishing as the leading wicket-taker, while Jordan Hermann was named SA20 Rising Star of the Season.

In the domestic categories, Kyle Simmonds and Mignon du Preez were crowned the men's and women's Most Valuable Players, respectively. Robin Peterson, JP Triegaardt and Sandile Masengemi received the top coaching honours across their respective competitions.

CSA also acknowledged outstanding contributions beyond on-field performances. Arno Jacobs was named CSA Umpires' Umpire of the Year, Lubabalo Gcuma received the CSA Umpire of the Year award, while Simlani Jaftha was honoured with the Makhaya Ntini Power of Cricket Award.





Pakistan, Japan host startup and innovation event to boost AI, Web3 cooperation



WORLD NEWS

U.S. Govt Awards Fulbright Scholarships to 85 Pakistani Students for Graduate Study

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. government has awarded Fulbright scholarships to 85 students and

researchers from Pakistan to pursue master's and Ph.D. degrees at universities in the United States. The Fulbright Program, administered in

Pakistan by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP), is the flagship academic exchange program of the U.S. government.

Jointly funded by the governments of the United States and Pakistan, the Fulbright Program equips Pakistani students with the academic and professional skills needed to address challenges at home and in the broader region.

Through these highly competitive scholarships, Fulbright students gain access to world-class faculty and state-of-the-art research facilities while building ties that foster mutual understanding between the two countries. To prepare participants for their transition to study in the United States, USEFP hosted a two-day pre-departure orientation in Islamabad.

In his remarks at the event, Chargé d'Affaires Andy Halus



dent in this room earned their place through hard work, talent, and determination. As we celebrate 250 years of American inde-



underscored the importance of educational exchange, "Pakistan is privileged to have one of the largest Fulbright programs in the world. It is a direct result of the strength of our partnership and Senator Fulbright's core conviction that when people learn from one another, they forge lasting connections across communities, countries, and cultures.

Educational exchange is among the most powerful forms of diplomacy we have. Every stu-

pendence, we are also celebrating the next chapter of U.S.-Pakistan relations, and you are part of writing it. You will forge new partnerships, champion innovation, and you will shape the course of this relationship for the next 250 years."

The 2026 Fulbright scholarship recipients represent every province of Pakistan and various academic disciplines, including engineering, artificial intelligence, business, finance, public policy, and social sciences.



Among the awardees this year are 71 master's and 14 Ph.D. students, and 6 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Fellows who will begin their academic exchanges this fall. The scholarship covers tuition fees, travel expenses, living stipends, and health insurance.

Welcoming the cohort at the orientation, Dr. Peter Moran, Executive Director of USEFP, emphasized the importance of the exchange experience.

"The Fulbright Program enables academic pursuits in fields of critical importance. But it also promotes engaging with American communities, sharing cultural experiences, and building connections that promote mutual understanding between Americans and Pakistanis."

The impact of the U.S. government's investment in the program extends beyond the scholarship period. Fulbright alumni return to Pakistan with enhanced professional expertise, strengthened research capacity, and a commitment to applying their knowledge to serve their communities and institutions.

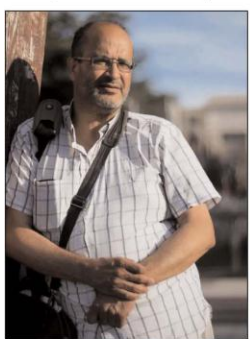
The Fulbright Program in Pakistan is administered by USEFP, a binational commission established in 1950 by the governments of the United States and Pakistan.

Since 2005, nearly 3,000 Pakistanis have received Fulbright scholarships under the U.S. government's commitment to this program, making it the most impactful educational partnership between the two countries.

Morocco-Justice: Ali Lmrabet released after his hearing

TIMES REPORT

CASABLANCA: The King's Prosecutor at the Casablanca Criminal Court announced that the investigation and the necessary tech-



nical assessments would continue.

Ali Lmrabet was released on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. This was decided by the King's Prosecutor at the Casablanca Criminal Court, who

announced the release after reviewing the various documents in the proceedings. In a public statement, the King's Prosecutor also announced that the investigation and the necessary technical assessments would continue.

Ali Lmrabet was brought before the prosecutor's office on Wednesday where he was questioned about the charges against him, in accordance with the provisions of the law, while enjoying all the rights and guarantees provided by law, including his submission to a medical examination.

The public prosecutor clarified that the prosecutor's office has also decided to return the seized items in its possession, namely two computers, a USB drive, and a mobile phone. The appropriate legal measures will be taken once the investigation is complete.

Ali Lmrabet was arrested on Sunday, July 12, 2026, upon his arrival at Tangier airport, is known for his critical stance towards the authorities. The investigation follows online posts "containing defamatory and abusive remarks against individuals and institutions, and contemptuous remarks towards bodies established by law".

Defense Official Receive in Rabat Board of Peace High Representative for Gaza

TIMES REPORT

RABAT: In accordance with the High Instructions of His Majesty the King, Supreme Commander and Chief of General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces (FAR) and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates Nasser Bourita and Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of National Defense Administration Abdelatif Loudi received on Wednesday at the headquarters of the Royal Gendarmerie—in the presence of Lieutenant General, Inspector General of the FAR and Commander of the South Zone, and Lieutenant General, Commander of the Royal Gendarmerie—High Representative for Gaza of the Board of Peace Nikolay Mladenov, leading a high-level delegation of officials from the Board as well as the Commander of the International Stabilization

Force (ISF) in Gaza.

This visit, which forms part of Morocco's efforts to fulfill its commitments as a founding member of the Board of Peace, in accordance with the High Royal Guidelines announced at the inaugural



meeting of the Board of Peace held in Washington under the chairmanship of His Excellency Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, featured signing the Agreement on Morocco's participation in the International Stabilization Force in Gaza, according to a statement from Morocco's National Defense

Administration.

During the meeting, the Moroccan side emphasized that the Kingdom's participation in the ISF reflects deep commitment to the values of peace, cooperation, and international solidarity and will



contribute to the achievement and establishment of peace and security in the Middle East region.

It further highlighted Morocco's experience in UN-led peacekeeping operations, as well as its ongoing commitment—both regionally and internationally—to peace and stability, emphasizing the Royal initiatives launched by

HM the King, particularly regional integration projects with security and social progress impact.

For their part, senior officials of the Gaza Peace Council and the ISF Commander warmly welcomed the Kingdom of Morocco's participation in this peace initiative through its contribution—the deployment of high-ranking FAR officers to the ISF Joint Command, officials from the Royal Gendarmerie and the DGSN, as well as the establishment of a field military hospital.

At the close of the meeting, the two parties inked the Agreement on the Participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in the International Stabilization Force in Gaza, the legal framework covering the technical and operational aspects of this participation and reflects the shared commitment to contribute, through concrete humanitarian and security actions, to building a climate of peace and security in the region, the statement concluded.

Pakistan High Commission London and Silk Road Enterprises Successfully Host International Silk Route Festival 2026 Road Show

TIMES REPORT

LONDON: The Pakistan High Commission, London, in collaboration with Silk Road Enterprises, successfully hosted the International Silk Route Festival 2026 Road Show on 16 July 2026, bringing together distinguished diplomats, business leaders, tourism professionals, entrepreneurs, investors, media representatives, and members of the British-Pakistani community to promote Pakistan's growing opportunities in tourism, trade, investment, culture, and regional connectivity. The Road Show was jointly organised and co-hosted by the Pakistan High Commission, London, and Silk Road Enterprises, led by Ms. Sadaf Khalid Khan, Global Coordinator and Director, Mian M. Hashim Masood, Director, and Prince Shehryar Khan, Director.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Haseeb Bin Aziz, Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom, who warmly welcomed the distinguished speakers, invited guests, and participants. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom while promoting Pakistan as an emerging destination for tourism, business, investment, and cultural exchange. He commended the organisers for bringing together an outstanding panel of speakers and stakeholders committed to advancing Pakistan's international profile. The Road Show featured an impressive panel of speakers including Mr. Faraz Khan, Co-

Founder & Partner of Sustainability and Founder & Director of Seed Ventures; Council (SIFC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Government of



Mr. Christopher Wilton, Global Lead Communications at the Aga Khan Foundation, London; Mr. Momin Saqib, Entrepreneur, Actor and Social Media Activist; and Ms. Farzana Khan, Founder of The Pakistani Dream 2028.

During her keynote presentation, Ms. Sadaf Khalid Khan, Global Coordinator and Director of Silk Road Enterprises, officially introduced the International Silk Route Festival 2026, which will take place on 24-25 October 2026 at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Khan highlighted that the International Silk Route Festival 2026 is proudly supported by the Special Investment Facilitation

Pakistan, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Green Tourism (Pvt.) Ltd., and several other leading public and private sector organisations committed to promoting Pakistan as a premier destination for tourism, trade, investment, culture, and regional connectivity. She noted that this strong institutional support reflects a shared vision of showcasing Pakistan's economic potential and strengthening international partnerships through tourism, investment, and cultural diplomacy.

She highlighted Pakistan's extraordinary tourism potential, from the majestic Karakoram, Himalaya and Hindu Kush mountain ranges to its UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ancient Silk Route heritage, rich cultural diversity, religious tourism, adventure tourism, eco-tourism, and rapidly growing hospitality sector.

She emphasised that Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East makes it an ideal destination for regional trade and investment. She encouraged international stakeholders to explore opportunities in sustainable tourism, hospitality, infrastructure development, renewable energy, technology, and cultural industries through participation in the International Silk Route Festival.

Speaking during the Road Show, Prince Shehryar Khan, Director of Silk Road Enterprises, highlighted Pakistan's tremendous investment potential across multiple sectors.



GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
CLIMATE CHANGE FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
(INTEGRATED SECTOR FDF PROJECT)

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to this Department Invitation for Bids INF(P)/3505/26 dated 10.07.2026 for Civil Works under FDF sponsored Scheme "Strengthening Digital Forest Monitoring, Project Coordination and Forest Governance Systems", the following may be read as under:

- Last date for submission of bids may be read as 31.07.2026 till 1.30 PM and will be opened on same day at 2.00 PM
- Other terms and conditions will remain the same.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
STRENGTHENING OF DIGITAL MONITORING
PROJECT COORDINATION AND FOREST
GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS PESHAWAR
091-9211144

ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION — INF(P) 3652/26

REAR WINDOW

Kundi joins CM's jirga, backs KP govt stance against erstwhile FATA, PATA taxes

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday reaffirmed his



support for the provincial government on all matters relating to the province's rights and interests, saying political consensus on provincial issues would be built before taking up the matters with the federal government.

Addressing a grand jirga convened by the provincial government at the Chief Minister's

House against the federal government's tax imposition in the erstwhile FATA and PATA, the Governor said all political stakeholders

Muslim League (PML), Jamaat-e-Islami, and representatives of the business community. Governor Kundi welcomed the holding

mate rights.

Referring to previous instances of political consensus on issues such as CNG and wheat, the Governor said the government and opposition were once again on the same page to protect the province's constitutional, financial and economic interests.

He said representatives of all political parties had adopted a unanimous stance on provincial issues and would present a strong case before the federation.

Governor Kundi also said the federal government's commitment to provide Rs100 billion annually for the development of the erstwhile FATA had yet to be fulfilled.

He further

must remain united to safeguard the constitutional, financial and economic rights of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The jirga was attended by Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi, leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Pakistan

of the all-parties gathering on the tax issue and thanked the provincial government for bringing together political parties on a common platform.

He said politics should not overshadow the province's larger interests, adding that unity and a joint strategy were essential for securing KP's legiti-

KP Assembly hosts Youth Parliament on Climate Justice

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar, successfully organized the Youth Parliament on Climate Justice at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly under the theme "Empowering Youth Voices for a Sustainable Future." The initiative was funded by UNICEF through the IDS Wing of the Planning & Development Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while IMSciences led the planning, coordination, and implementation of the event.

The event brought together students from universities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to engage in discussions on climate justice, environmental sustainability, and youth participation in

public policymaking. The platform enabled participants to deliberate on climate change challenges and present innovative policy recommendations aimed at building a more sustainable future.

essential to equip young people with opportunities to contribute meaningfully to public policy and sustainable development in the face of growing climate challenges.



tainable future.

Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati, attended the event as the chief guest. In his address, he appreciated the collaborative efforts of UNICEF, the Planning & Development Department, and IMSciences for organizing the timely initiative. He emphasized that such programs are

Other distinguished participants included Member of the Provincial Assembly Ashber Jan Jadoon, Secretary of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Syed Waqar Shah, Additional Director of the Directorate of Training and Capacity Building Muhammad Asif, UNICEF Field Office Radoslaw Rzehak, and Assistant

Chief Akasha Kiran from the IDS Wing of the Planning & Development Department.

At the closing ceremony, Professor Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Joint Director of IMSciences, highlighted the importance of empowering youth to take an active role in addressing climate-related challenges. He reaffirmed IMSciences' commitment to continuing such initiatives that strengthen collaboration among universities, government institutions, and development partners to promote sustainable development.

Commemorative shields were presented to the distinguished guests, and the event concluded with a renewed commitment from all partner organizations to enhance youth participation in climate governance and policymaking.

Militant attack on Barawal Checkpost foiled in Upper Dir

'SYED ZAHID JAN

UPPER DIR: In a late-night incident yesterday, militants attacked Shaltalo Barawal Checkpost located in a remote area of Dir Bala near the Pak-Afghan border. During the exchange of fire, one police official sustained injuries.

According to police sources, police personnel along with local residents responded swiftly and forced the attackers to retreat. The injured official was immediately shifted to DHQ Hospital Dir for medical treatment and is reported to be in stable condition. District Police Officer Upper Dir, Aslam Nawaz, conducted a visit to the highly sensitive border checkposts of Shaltalo and Nasrat Darra. He reviewed the ongoing Search & Strike Operation launched in the area to trace and neutralize any remaining threats.

Training workshop on High-Efficiency Irrigation System Concludes

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: On-Farm Water Management Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under its Irrigated Agriculture Improvement Project, organized a three-day training



workshop on High-Efficiency Irrigation System (HEIS).

The workshop aimed to enhance technical capacity of field officers and equip them with knowledge and skills required for effective implementation of modern irrigation technologies.

Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa on

Agriculture Mian Muhammad Umer attended the closing ceremony as chief guest. Director General On-Farm Water Management Hayat Khan, Project Director Irrigated Agriculture Improvement Project Muhammad Asif, district officers of On-Farm Water Management and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, Mian Muhammad Umer said that modern irrigation systems have become essential in view of climate change, increasing water scarcity, and need to enhance agricultural productivity. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government is taking practical measures to provide farmers with modern agricultural technologies, ensure efficient utilization of water resources and promote sustainable agricultural development.

He further stated that in line with vision of PTI Founding Chairman Imran Khan, provincial government is giving special emphasis to modern agricultural reforms, effective water resource management, and promotion of high-efficiency irrigation systems.

MRI, CT scanner and CATH lab for DHQ Hospital approved

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Mian Khalique Rahman said the provincial government has accelerated efforts to modernize healthcare in Kohat Division, announcing that the site for a 1,000-bed new hospital will be finalized soon in consultation with the elected representatives while an MRI Scanner, CT Scanner and a Cath Lab have also been approved for the Divisional Headquarters Hospital in Kohat.

Chairing a Divisional Health Review meeting at the Commissioner's Office in Kohat on Friday, the Minister said the proposed mega hospital would serve as a major tertiary healthcare facility for Kohat Division and adjoining districts, significantly improving access to advanced medical treatment.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial Information Minister Shafi Jan, DDAC Chairman and Member of the Provincial Assembly Daud Shah Afridi, Commissioner Kohat Syed Mutasim Billah Shah, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nawaz Wazir,

District Health Officers, Medical Superintendents and other senior officials.

Mian Khalique directed the

medicines, diagnostic services and progress on ongoing development projects.

Information Minister Shafi



authorities concerned to complete the Liaquat Memorial Women and Children Hospital within the stipulated timeframe, address operational issues at Type-C and Type-D hospitals, Basic Health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centres (RHCs), restore non-functional X-ray machines and procure additional diagnostic equipment where necessary.

Commissioner Mutasim Billah Shah briefed the meeting that Kohat Division has 289 functional public health facilities, including one Category-A hospital in Kohat and updated participants on staffing,

Jan said strengthening the healthcare system, equipping hospitals with modern medical technology and ensuring timely completion of health projects remained among the provincial government's top priorities.

Following the meeting, the Health Minister visited the under-construction Liaquat Memorial Women and Children Hospital and DHQ Hospital Kohat, where he reviewed construction progress, inspected emergency and other departments, met patients and attendants, and directed the officials to further improve healthcare services.

Submission of survey report and preparation of PC-I ordered

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Irrigation, Riaz Khan, has directed the concerned officials to conduct a comprehensive survey of all affected sites and vulnerable locations along Jab Nallah in Abbottabad and submit the survey report to the Irrigation department within 10 days.

He further instructed that the PC-I for the proposed project be prepared on a priority basis to facilitate the timely commencement of develop-

ment work.

He issued these directions during his visit to Abbottabad on

Provincial Assembly Ahmad Ghani, Member of the National Assembly Ali

Minister during the visit.

The Provincial Minister thoroughly reviewed various sections of Jab Nallah, assessing its current condition, water flow capacity, and environmental concerns obstructing the natural course of the stream. Officials briefed the Minister that during the monsoon season, the rise in the water level of Jab Nallah leads to severe urban flooding, resulting in waterlogging and significant disruption to traffic and daily life in urban areas.



the special instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi. Member of the

Khan Jadoon, senior officers of the Irrigation Department, and other relevant officials accompanied the

DI Khan Wildlife Park Expansion to Promote Eco-Tourism and Wildlife Conservation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, : The foundation stone of the expansion project of the Dera Ismail Khan Wildlife Park was laid during a ceremony held with Member of the National Assembly Faisal Amin Khan Gandapur as the chief guest. Conservator Wildlife, Southern Circle Bannu, Muhammad Niaz, also attended the event, while Project Director Khan Malook Khan briefed participants on the scope and objectives of the development project. —APP

All relevant line deptts asked to establish coordination in ongoing Monsoon season

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: All relevant institutions must remain alert during the monsoon season, Aqib Ullah Khan

able resources be utilized to protect the lives and property of the public. He expressed

review of the arrangements and preparedness for the monsoon season. The Provincial



these views during his visit to the Rescue 1122 and Civil Defence offices in District Swabi, conducted on the directives of the Chief Minister, where he took a detailed

Minister inspected the Rescue 1122 control room, emergency operations, fire and rescue units, water rescue, medical services, vehicles, and modern equipment.

ANP criticises focus on Fazl remarks, says fighting militancy is state's responsibility

M. IZHAR ALI SHAH

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) President Senator Aimal Wali Khan on Friday said the criticism surrounding Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's recent remarks was an attempt to divert attention from the real issue, arguing that combating militancy was the constitutional responsibility of the state, not ordinary citizens. Speaking to reporters, Mr Khan said the debate should not centre on who made a particular statement but on why the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were being asked to take up arms against terrorists.

PML-N Leader Distributes School Bags to Orphaned Children in Mir Ali

SAID AYUB

MIRANSHAH: Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former PK-103 provincial assembly candidate, Malik Liaqat Ali Khan Wazir, distributed specially prepared school bags among orphaned children studying at the Aghosh Centre in Mir Ali, North Waziristan, as part of his welfare initiative.

The distribution ceremony was attended by local elders, social workers, teachers, and community members. Speaking on the occasion, Malik Liaqat Ali Khan Wazir said that caring for orphaned children and ensuring they receive quality education is a shared responsibility of soci-

ety.

He emphasized that education is the foundation of progress and prosperity and reaffirmed his commitment to continuing

dren, particularly in the field of education. The management of the Aghosh Centre appreciated the initiative, stating that such efforts not only encour-



welfare initiatives across North Waziristan. He said he would continue supporting deserving and underprivileged chil-

age children but also promote the spirit of humanitarian service and social responsibility within the community.

Efforts to ensure safe and quality food supply: Dr Israr Khan

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Food Dr. Muhammad Israr Khan on Friday chaired a performance review meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPFS&HFA), where participants reviewed the Authority's ongoing enforcement campaigns, reform initiatives, newly introduced applications under the Management Information System (MIS), and the province-wide special milk inspection drive.

The meeting was attended by Director General KP Food Authority Kashif Iqbal

Jilani, Director Operations Muhammad Yousof, Director Administration Amir Hassan, and other

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Muhammad Israr Khan said the provincial government was fully committed to ensuring the



senior officials, while district field officers joined through video link. The Director General briefed the meeting on the Authority's overall performance, ongoing special campaigns, digital reforms, and future roadmap aimed at strengthening food safety regulations across the province.

availability of safe, hygienic and adulteration-free food for the people. He said the KP Food Authority was carrying out daily inspections, sampling and enforcement operations across the province to eliminate elements involved in food adulteration and safeguard public health.

Committee formed to remove encroachments along Mirpur Drain

ABBOTTABAD: The district administration has constituted a committee to demarcate the natural drainage channel in Mirpur and identify encroachments after inspections revealed that illegal constructions were obstructing the watercourse, causing urban flooding during heavy rains.

Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Sarmad Saleem Akram, Additional Assistant Commissioner, Kamran Ali Shah visited Mirpur to inspect drainage, encroachments, drinking water supply, and sanitation issues following complaints from local residents. —APP