



THE WORLD
AMBASSADOR

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THE AGRICULTURE REVOLUTION

How PM Shehbaz Sharif Plans to
Transform Pakistan's Economy Through
Farming and Livestock

Romania and Pakistan
Strengthen Strategic Dialogue
on Emerging Security
Challenges

The
49 Percent

Pakistan, China Revive CPEC
with Renewed Focus on Gwadar



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Welcome to this latest edition of The World Ambassador. As we navigate an era defined by rapid geopolitical shifts and deep economic transformation, the need for clear, analytical journalism has never been more critical. This issue brings you a comprehensive look at the diplomatic, economic, and social forces shaping our collective future.

In our cover stories, we examine Pakistan's deliberate pivot toward proactive economic diplomacy. From Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's outlined trade goals to the concrete progress on a Pak-US Reciprocal Trade Agreement and the revitalized focus on Gwadar under CPEC, the message is clear: sustainable growth lies in robust international partnerships.

Beyond commerce, we confront the structural and ethical challenges of our time. Our "Articles & Opinions" section tackles the pressing realities of climate change as it edges closer to a point of no return, alongside an urgent call to address the rising global health crisis of cancer. Furthermore, as artificial intelligence reshapes industries overnight, our feature on ethical AI governance explores how Pakistan can harness this technology responsibly.

We also celebrate the enduring strength of our communities. From heritage preservation efforts in Sindh to the vibrant cultural appeal of Peshawar, these pages remind us that progress is meaningless without preserving the history and humanity that anchor us.

We hope these articles offer you valuable insights, challenge your perspectives, and spark constructive dialogue. Thank you for your continued engagement with our work.

With warm regards,

Abid Siddique Chaudhry
Editor



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Editorial

Every era presents humanity with defining challenges and remarkable opportunities. Today, we are witnessing a period of unprecedented transformation driven by technological innovation, shifting geopolitical realities, climate change, economic uncertainty, and rapid advances in science. These changes are reshaping how nations govern, businesses operate, and societies interact. In such a dynamic environment, progress depends not only on economic strength but also on informed leadership, responsible policymaking, and international cooperation.

As we present this edition of The World Ambassador, we remain committed to providing thoughtful journalism that goes beyond headlines. Our mission is to present balanced perspectives on diplomacy, public policy, business, education, technology, health, and sustainable development. We believe that informed dialogue encourages better decisions and contributes to stronger institutions and more resilient societies.

The world today is more interconnected than ever before. A scientific breakthrough in one country can improve healthcare across continents. Innovations in digital technology can create opportunities for entrepreneurs regardless of geographical boundaries. International trade, climate action, and public health require nations to work together because many of today's challenges cannot be solved in isolation. Dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect remain the strongest foundations for lasting peace and shared prosperity.

Among the most significant developments of our time is the rise of artificial intelligence. AI is transforming industries, education, agriculture, healthcare, finance, and public administration. It has the potential to improve productivity, enhance decision-making, and accelerate economic growth. However, technological progress must always be accompanied by ethical responsibility. Transparency, accountability, data protection, and human oversight should guide the development and use of AI. Technology should complement human intelligence rather than replace the values of empathy, integrity, and fairness that define successful societies.

Education continues to be the foundation of national development. Countries that invest in quality education and skills development are better prepared to compete in the global knowledge economy. As industries evolve, education systems must equip students with critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy, and problem-solving abilities. Technical and vocational education also deserves greater attention, enabling young people to acquire practical skills that meet the changing demands of the labour market. Lifelong learning has become an essential requirement in a world where knowledge evolves faster than ever before.

For Pakistan, investing in its youth is one of the most important national priorities. With one of the world's youngest populations, the country possesses tremendous human potential. Empowering young people through education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and meaningful employment opportunities can transform this demographic advantage into sustainable economic growth. Equally important is ensuring that women and

marginalized communities have equal access to education, technology, healthcare, and economic opportunities, creating a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Economic development is closely linked with international cooperation. Strong diplomatic relations encourage trade, investment, technology transfer, and cultural exchange. Pakistan's growing engagement with regional and global partners reflects the importance of building mutually beneficial relationships based on trust and shared interests. Economic diplomacy has become a powerful tool for attracting investment, expanding exports, and strengthening national competitiveness in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Health and social protection remain essential pillars of sustainable development. A healthy population contributes more effectively to economic growth and social stability. Continued investment in healthcare systems, disease prevention, nutrition, food security, and social welfare programmes is critical to ensuring that development benefits all segments of society. Recent global health challenges have reminded us that resilience begins with strong public institutions capable of protecting the wellbeing of citizens.

Climate change is another defining challenge of our generation. Extreme weather events, water scarcity, environmental degradation, and food insecurity require immediate and coordinated action. Sustainable development demands responsible management of natural resources, investment in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and environmentally conscious public policies. Protecting the environment is not only a moral obligation but also an economic necessity for future generations.

At The World Ambassador, we believe responsible journalism plays an essential role in promoting informed public discourse. In an age where misinformation spreads rapidly, credible media must remain committed to accuracy, objectivity, and professional ethics. Journalism should encourage understanding rather than division and contribute positively to democratic values and constructive dialogue.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our readers, contributors, researchers, and partners for their continued trust and support. Your confidence inspires us to uphold the highest standards of editorial excellence while providing a platform for ideas that encourage progress and cooperation.

As you read this edition, we invite you to reflect on the opportunities that lie ahead. The future will be shaped not only by technological innovation or economic growth but by our collective commitment to knowledge, ethical leadership, international collaboration, and human development. By investing in people, embracing innovation responsibly, and strengthening partnerships across borders, we can build a future that is more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous for generations to come.



Pakistan Targets Global Trade Growth: Ishaq Dar Outlines Economic Diplomacy Goals

The French Ambassador to Pakistan hosted the Polio Oversight Board at his residence to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



BY ABID SIDDIQUE CHAUDHRY

Oversight Board at his official residence, marking a collaborative effort to strengthen the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The event brought together essential international stakeholders to address the final phases of global polio eradication, with a specific focus on regional challenges.

The meeting was attended by numerous representatives from donor countries and various international organizations. The assembly highlighted the continued diplomatic and financial commitment required to eliminate poliovirus transmission in the world's remaining endemic regions.

The Polio Oversight Board serves as the top decision-making and oversight body for the GPEI, a public-private partnership working alongside national governments to eliminate the disease. The informal meeting at the French Residence allowed international partners to discuss strategic priorities in a collaborative environment.

Key operational areas discussed by the initiative's partners include donor coordination to align international funding and sustain immunization campaigns amidst a narrowing strategic window, technical benchmarks to review subnational plans and localized strategies for systematically reaching under-

immunized children, and cross-border collaboration to evaluate ongoing synchronized efforts between neighboring endemic regions to halt virus transmission. Navigating the Final Phases of Eradication As the GPEI operates under its extended strategy, maintaining momentum remains critical. The high-level delegation previously emphasized that the upcoming months are vital for securing long-term gains and preventing potential resurgences of the virus.

The hosting of the Polio Oversight Board by the French Embassy underscores France's active role in global health diplomacy. By facilitating dialogue between international donors and health agencies, the event reinforces the collective determination to achieve a polio-free world.



French Ambassador Hosts Polio Oversight Board at Islamabad Residence

The French Ambassador to Pakistan hosted the Polio Oversight Board at his residence to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

BY ABID SIDDIQUE CHAUDHRY

The French Ambassador to Pakistan recently hosted an informal gathering of the Polio Oversight Board at his official residence, marking a collaborative effort to strengthen the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The event brought together essential international stakeholders to address the final phases of global polio eradication, with a specific focus on regional challenges.

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Canadian High Commissioner Tarik Ali Khan Welcomes Punjab Industries Minister to Discuss Strategic Investments

High Commissioner Tarik Ali Khan hosted Punjab Industries Minister Shafay Hussain to explore commercial sectors ahead of a trade delegation to Ontario.

BY ABID SIDDIQUE CHAUDHRY



The High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, Mr. Tarik Ali Khan, officially welcomed the Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Investment, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, for a high-level diplomatic meeting in Islamabad. The strategic session focused on expanding bilateral trade corridors, stimulating economic growth, and identifying fresh investment avenues between Canada and Pakistan's most populous province. The meeting served as an essential precursor to an upcoming milestone in provincial diplomacy. Minister Shafay Hussain finalized plans to deploy a specialized Pakistani trade delegation to Ontario, Canada, aiming to establish direct business-to-business (B2B) linkages with Canadian market leaders.

During their cordial discussions, both officials reviewed actionable growth frameworks across multiple commercial industries. High Commissioner Tarik Ali Khan emphasized Canada's strong interest in diversifying its trade relationships with dynamic Pakistani markets, particularly through the Industries, Commerce, and Investment Department (ICID) of Punjab. The strategic talk mapped out high-yield collaboration opportunities across several priority sectors, including information technology (IT) and digital infrastructure expansion, sustainable agriculture and advanced food processing technologies, textiles and manufacturing export scaling frameworks, and technical education and vocational training partnerships.

The planned trade delegation to Ontario marks a proactive shift toward micro-targeted economic statecraft. By engaging directly at the provincial level, Punjab intends to showcase its lucrative special economic zones (SEZs) directly to North American investors. High Commissioner Tarik Ali Khan noted in an official statement that it was a pleasure to welcome Minister Shafay Hussain and discuss opportunities in several sectors before the delegation heads to Ontario.

The Government of Punjab is actively digitizing its investment pathways to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). With Canada hosting a vibrant, highly influential Pakistani diaspora, both leadership circles are confident that this upcoming trade mission will yield tangible trade agreements, joint ventures, and sustainable economic partnerships.

Azerbaijan Assumes PUIC Presidency with Unwavering Support from Pakistan Parliament

Senators Ashraf Ali Jatoi and Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur attended the 20th PUIC Session as Azerbaijan assumed the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Presidency.

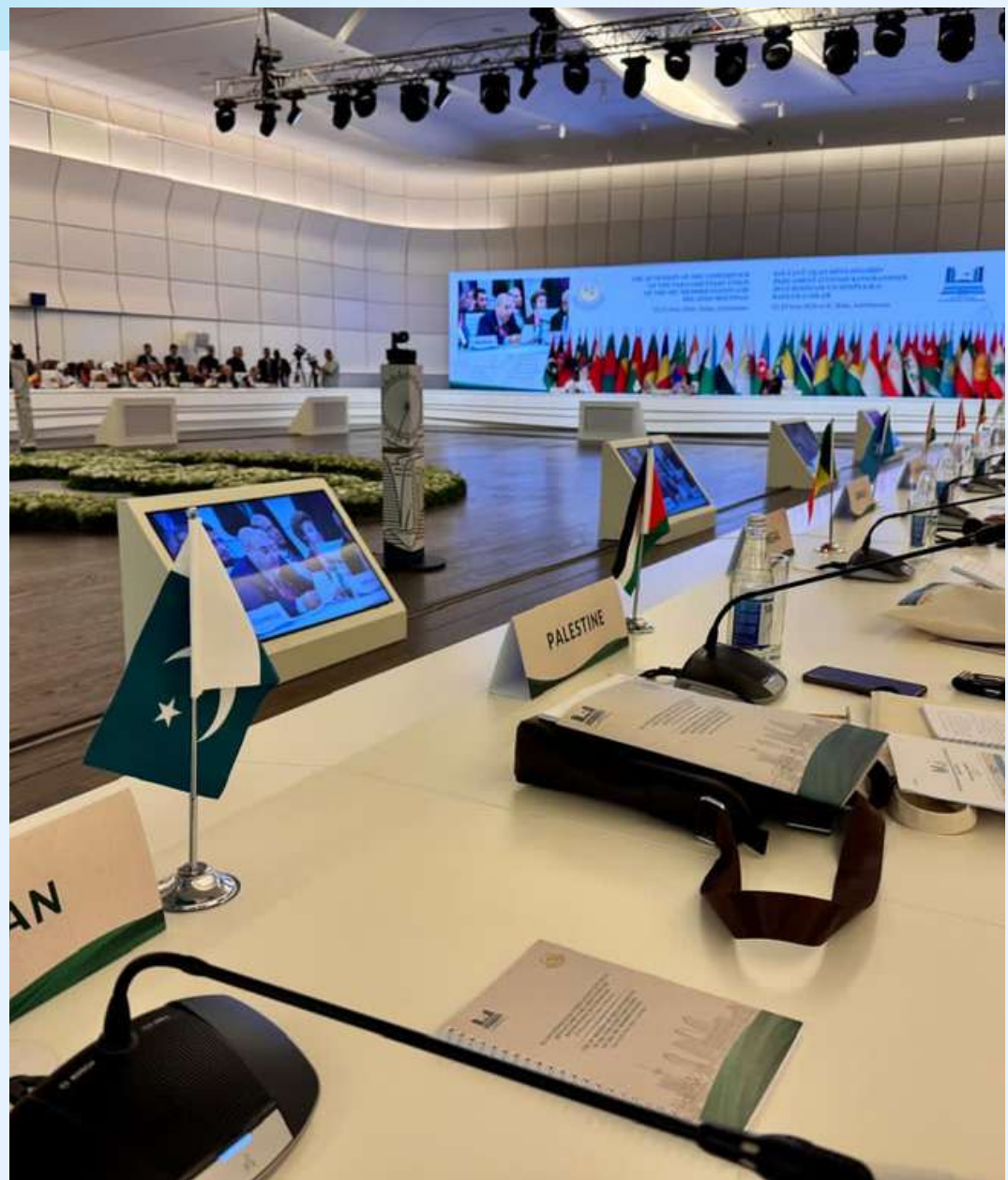
BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

A high-level Pakistani parliamentary delegation comprised of Senator Ashraf Ali Jatoi and Senator Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur officially attended the 20th Session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC). The key diplomatic summit marked a significant transition in regional leadership as the Milli Majlis (Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan) formally assumed the prestigious rotating Presidency of the union.

The presence of the senior lawmakers underlines Islamabad's deeply rooted commitment to legislative collaboration among Islamic nations. Speaking on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan, the senators extended their warmest congratulations to the brotherly Republic of Azerbaijan for taking the helm of the influential geopolitical body. The Pakistani lawmakers explicitly reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Baku's leadership term, aiming to foster unity, counter rising Islamophobia, and drive collective socio-economic initiatives across the OIC landscape.

The 20th PUIC Session focused heavily on enhancing security, cultural integration, and sustainable economic legislative frameworks among member states. By engaging actively in these strategic high-level sessions, the Pakistani delegation prioritized fortifying the iron-clad brotherly alliance between Islamabad and Baku, standardizing parliamentary policies to protect shared cultural and political interests globally, and utilizing the PUIC platform to advocate for peace and stability across mutual borders.

The transition to Azerbaijan's presidency is widely viewed by regional analysts as an opportunity to inject fresh momentum into the union's legislative goals, backed firmly by longtime strategic allies like Pakistan.



Romania and Pakistan Strengthen Strategic Dialogue on Emerging Security Challenges

Romanian Security Expert Visits Islamabad to Advance Academic and Policy Cooperation in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The Embassy of Romania in Islamabad welcomed Mr. Flavius Caba-Maria, President of the Middle East Political and Economic Institute (MEPEI), Romania, during his official visit to Pakistan, reaffirming the growing commitment of both countries to strategic dialogue and international cooperation.

During the meeting, discussions focused on the rapidly evolving regional and global security environment, with particular emphasis on the theme "Non-Traditional Security Challenges Across a Changing Regional Landscape." The exchange of views highlighted the increasing significance of addressing emerging security threats—including cyber security, climate-related risks, transnational crime, and hybrid challenges—through stronger international partnerships, constructive dialogue, and collaborative policy initiatives.

As part of his visit, Mr. Caba-Maria participated as a distinguished speaker at the CAMEA (ISSI)–FES International Conference, titled "Pakistan in a Transforming Geopolitical Environment." The one-day conference brought together leading policymakers, scholars, and security experts to examine regional geopolitical developments, evolving security dynamics, and the broader challenges shaping today's international order.

Representing Romania, Mr. Caba-Maria shared valuable insights on regional security issues and contributed to discussions on the importance of strategic cooperation, resilience, and multilateral engagement in addressing contemporary global challenges.

Romania continues to strengthen its partnership with Pakistan by promoting academic collaboration, strategic dialogue, and policy exchanges. Such engagements reflect the shared commitment of both countries to fostering mutual understanding and enhancing cooperation on issues of regional and international significance.

As global security challenges become increasingly interconnected, initiatives like these play a vital role in building trust, encouraging knowledge-sharing, and supporting collective efforts toward peace, stability, and sustainable development.



Pakistan Seeks Stronger Agricultural Partnership with Germany to Drive Modernization and Livestock Development

High-Level Talks Focus on Agricultural Innovation, Food Security, Biotechnology, Climate Resilience, and Expanding Bilateral Investment Opportunities

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening agricultural cooperation with Germany, seeking strategic partnerships to modernize its farming sector, improve livestock productivity, and enhance food security through innovation and technology.

The commitment was highlighted during a high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, with German Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Ina Lepel. The discussions focused on expanding bilateral collaboration in agriculture, livestock development, research, food security, biotechnology, and technology transfer.

Welcoming the German delegation, the federal minister praised the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Germany and acknowledged the valuable cooperation that has existed between the two countries in the agricultural sector. He emphasized that global challenges such as food insecurity, climate change, and sustainable agricultural development require stronger international partnerships and collaborative solutions.

Rana Tanveer Hussain noted that agriculture contributes nearly 25 percent to Pakistan's economy, yet improving per-acre productivity remains one of the country's most pressing challenges. He stated that the government is prioritizing agricultural research, the promotion of certified high-quality seeds, farm mechanization, and the development of climate-resilient crop varieties to increase productivity and ensure long-term food security.

Highlighting the importance of the livestock sector, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of Pakistan's agricultural economy, the minister identified significant opportunities for cooperation with Germany in livestock breeding, modern reproductive technologies, animal nutrition, and the local production of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccines. He also invited German institutions and private companies to invest in dairy modernization, agricultural machinery, food processing industries, and the establishment of modern slaughterhouses.

The minister informed the delegation that Pakistan is preparing to introduce its first National Biotechnology Policy, a milestone expected to promote agricultural innovation, scientific research, and foreign investment. He further emphasized the need for collaboration in strengthening traceability systems, improving food safety standards, and ensuring compliance with the



World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements to facilitate greater access to international markets.

German Ambassador H.E. Ina Lepel welcomed Pakistan's efforts to modernize its agricultural sector and reaffirmed Germany's commitment to expanding cooperation in agriculture, climate adaptation, livestock development, and scientific research. She also expressed support for Pakistan's forthcoming Biotechnology Policy, noting that several German companies have shown strong interest in exploring investment opportunities in the country.

During the meeting, Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Animal Husbandry Commissioner, highlighted the long history of agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and Germany. He stressed the importance of joint research initiatives, capacity building, and collaboration in advanced livestock breeding technologies. Dr. Andrabi noted that importing high-quality embryos and semen from Germany could significantly improve indigenous livestock breeds and increase overall productivity.

The meeting also reviewed opportunities for cooperation in agricultural research, mechanized farming, climate-smart agriculture, livestock genetics, efficient water management technologies, food quality assurance, and value-added agricultural products.

At the conclusion of the discussions, both Pakistan and Germany reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in support of sustainable agricultural development, enhanced food security, technological innovation, and mutually beneficial economic growth.



Pakistan Highlights Global Partnership and Sporting Pride in Washington

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh presents the official 2026 World Cup football to World Bank President Ajay Banga, celebrating national craftsmanship on the global stage.



BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh presents the official 2026 World Cup football to World Bank President Ajay Banga, celebrating national craftsmanship on the global stage.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, recently reaffirmed the vital importance of the country's enduring partnership with the World Bank during a high-level meeting in Washington. Emphasizing the value of long-term collaboration, the ambassador stressed that sustained cooperation on both current and future initiatives remains essential for driving meaningful development outcomes across Pakistan.

The diplomatic session took a celebratory turn when Ambassador Sheikh presented World Bank President Ajay Banga with the "Triunda," the official match ball manufactured in Pakistan for the FIFA World Cup 2026. President Banga warmly commended the premium quality of Pakistan's sporting goods, singling out the precision and craftsmanship of the tournament football. Describing the selection of the Pakistan-made football as a landmark achievement and a profound source of national pride, Ambassador Sheikh noted that the country continues to use the unifying power of sports to bring the international community closer together. He credited the global reputation of Sialkot, Pakistan's premier manufacturing hub, for consistently producing

world-class sports equipment that commands international respect.

The ambassador concluded by stating that the global community's continued trust in Pakistan's industrial capabilities provides immense encouragement for the sector. This milestone highlights the manufacturing industry's unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest international quality standards on the world's grandest athletic stages.



Pakistan Padel Team Welcomed in Manila Ahead of Asia Pacific Cup 2026

Ambassador Dr. Asima Rabbani hosts a diplomatic reception for the squad as they prepare to face regional rivals in Taguig.

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The Embassy of Pakistan in the Philippines warmly welcomed the Pakistan Padel Tennis Team to Manila ahead of the highly anticipated Asia Pacific Padel Cup (APPC) 2026. The elite regional tournament runs from June 25 to 28, bringing together top athletes from across the Asia-Pacific region.

Her Excellency Dr. Asima Rabbani, the Ambassador of Pakistan to the Philippines, hosted a special dinner at the diplomatic residence to honor the arriving contingent. During the reception, the Ambassador extended her warmest best wishes to the players and coaching staff, encouraging them to fly the national flag high during the four-day competitive event. The gathering highlights Pakistan's growing presence in international racket sports and emphasizes the crucial role of sports diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Philippines.



The tournament takes place at the state-of-the-art Play Padel McKinley facility in Taguig, Metro Manila. The Pakistani squad faces fierce competition in Group A, squaring off against strong regional contenders including South Korea, Thailand, and traditional rivals India. Padel tennis—a fast-paced sport combining elements of tennis and squash—is currently experiencing explosive growth globally, with the APPC 2026 serving as the premier stage for talent development and regional integration across the Asia-Pacific circuit.

Chairman Senate Bids Farewell to Bulgarian Ambassador

Yousaf Raza Gilani lauds Ambassador Irena Gancheva's role in strengthening Pakistan–Bulgaria relations

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani attended a farewell luncheon hosted by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in honour of the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Pakistan, H.E. Irena Gancheva.

On the occasion, Chairman Senate praised Ambassador Gancheva for her significant contribution to strengthening Pakistan–Bulgaria relations during her tenure. He acknowledged her efforts in promoting diplomatic, parliamentary, economic, trade, cultural, and people-to-people cooperation, noting that her services would be remembered with appreciation.

Gilani also conveyed his best wishes to the leadership and people of Bulgaria, expressing confidence that the friendly relations between the two countries would continue to expand in the years ahead.

The luncheon was attended by State Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Muhammad Aoun Chaudhry, MNA Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani, ambassadors from various countries, and other distinguished guests.

On the sidelines of the event, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also



exchanged views on Pakistan's political and economic situation, public welfare initiatives, Centre–province cooperation, and other issues of national importance.

The 49 Percent



Empowering women is an economic and governance necessity for the Muslim world.

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

When 57 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) gathered in Pakistan for the 9th Ministerial Conference on Women, the rhetoric was predictably elevated. Yet beneath the diplomatic pleasantries lies a stark economic reality. As Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Pakistan's Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, noted upon assuming the conference chairmanship, women account for nearly 940 million people across the OIC landscape—just under half of its total population. For these economies to thrive, sidelining half of their available workforce is no longer a viable strategy.

The summit, themed around the socio-economic and political empowerment of women, arrives at a critical technological juncture. In an era dominated by artificial intelligence and shifting industrial paradigms, the digital divide risks becoming a permanent barrier to equality. The conference agenda

rightly emphasized that tech integration must serve as a bridge to economic inclusion rather than an isolator, offering new pathways for female literacy, entrepreneurship, and financial independence.

For its part, Pakistan used its domestic record to demonstrate what structured legal framework adjustments can look like. National initiatives like the National Gender Policy Framework and specialized Gender-Based Violence Courts represent necessary institutional infrastructure. The country's public and private sectors increasingly feature female leadership across the judiciary, parliament, and civil services. However, as the delegation acknowledged, national potential remains capped across the region wherever legal protections fail to translate into daily safety and economic mobility.

Ultimately, the utility of such multilateral summits is rarely found in the declarations signed at their conclusion. It is found in whether

the consensus built around digital access, legal reform, and human rights alters policy back home. With nearly a billion lives hanging in the balance, translating these regional frameworks into domestic growth is both a moral imperative and an economic urgency.



A Bond Forged in Grief: Pakistan's Leadership Pays Tribute to Qatar's Late Father Amir

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif leads a high-profile delegation to Doha to offer condolences and honor a legacy of deep-rooted friendship.

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif traveled to Doha on Monday for a day-long visit to personally convey Pakistan's condolences following the passing of Qatar's Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Accompanied by a senior delegation—including former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and Information Minister Atta Ullah Tarar—the Prime Minister met with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to express solidarity on behalf of the Pakistani people and government.

During the meeting, PM Sharif paid tribute to the late Father Amir's visionary statesmanship, highlighting his pivotal role in transforming Qatar and promoting regional peace. He fondly recalled the late leader's warm affection for Pakistan and his memorable visits to the country over the years. Reaffirming Pakistan's steadfast support during this time of grief, Sharif prayed for the departed soul and offered strength to the Royal family and the Qatari nation.

Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani thanked the Pakistani leadership for traveling to Doha, calling the gesture a true reflection of the enduring, brotherly bonds shared by the two nations.



Leading the Digital Frontier: Pakistan's Parliament Becomes World's First Gender-Responsive AI Assembly

National Assembly partners with UN Women for a pioneering AI bootcamp, setting a global benchmark for ethical technology and inclusive lawmaking.

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The National Assembly of Pakistan has marked a historic milestone by becoming the first parliament in the world to formally integrate gender-responsive Artificial Intelligence into its research and legislative processes.

The achievement was highlighted during the inauguration of a two-day AI Bootcamp organized by UN Women. Opening the event, Secretary National Assembly Saeed Ahmed Maitla emphasized that the initiative is central to Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's vision to transform the Secretariat into a technologically advanced, paperless, and knowledge-driven institution.

This digital leap builds upon Pakistan's first on-premises AI-enabled parliamentary system and the digital transformation of the Speaker's Office. By leveraging generative AI models, the initiative aims to enhance parliamentary research, track post-legislative impacts, and foster more inclusive, human-rights-oriented laws. Secretary Maitla clarified that AI is designed to complement, not replace, human wisdom and parliamentary judgment.

UN Women Country Representative Jamshed M. Kazi praised the National Assembly's leadership for embracing cutting-edge innovation while safeguarding democratic values. He noted that AI offers unprecedented opportunities to improve policy analysis, committee support, and citizen engagement.

The bootcamp brings together officers from the Directorate General of Research and the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). Building on a successful Training of Trainers program, the session equips parliamentary staff with advanced digital skills to better support lawmakers in analyzing bills, identifying public needs, and championing gender-responsive governance.



OIC Adopts the Islamabad Declaration to Champion Women's Rights and Digital Inclusion

Member states commit to socio-economic growth, STEM education, and launch a landmark digital inclusion initiative for women across the Muslim world.

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) concluded its Ninth Ministerial Conference on Women with the adoption of the Islamabad Declaration. Hosted under the patronage of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, this agreement represents a major step forward, uniting member states under a shared vision to advance the socio-economic, political, and digital empowerment of women and girls across the Muslim world.

Through the new declaration, participating ministers and delegates pledged to dismantle the barriers that hold women back from fully participating in public and economic life. Member states committed to expanding access to quality education, leadership development, and vocational training. To secure financial independence for women, the agreement calls for more inclusive financial systems—including Islamic finance and microfinance—alongside targeted support to help women-led small and medium enterprises access capital and

global trade opportunities.

Recognizing that the future of work is digital, the conference placed a strong focus on bridging the digital gender divide. The declaration urges nations to expand affordable digital infrastructure, especially in rural areas, and actively promote women's participation in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and artificial intelligence. To turn this vision into reality, the conference launched the Islamabad Initiative on Women's Digital Inclusion. This voluntary platform will offer training programs, scholarships, and mentorship to equip women and girls with essential tech skills, cybersecurity awareness, and digital entrepreneurship tools.

Beyond economic and technological growth, the declaration addresses the safety and dignity of women. It calls for robust national measures to combat all forms of violence, including modern threats like cyber harassment, online abuse, and tech-facilitated exploitation. The document also demands enhanced

global cooperation to fight Islamophobia and hate speech targeting Muslim women, while reaffirming solidarity with the women and girls of Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

While the adoption of the declaration and its accompanying omnibus resolution represent a significant diplomatic milestone, OIC Assistant Secretary-General Ambassador Dr. Tarig Ali Bakheet reminded delegates that the true test lies ahead. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Bakheet emphasized that success will be measured by how effectively member states implement these policies to create measurable, positive changes in the daily lives of women and girls. As Pakistan assumes the chairmanship of the Ministerial Conference, it will work closely with the OIC General Secretariat to drive this ambitious agenda forward.



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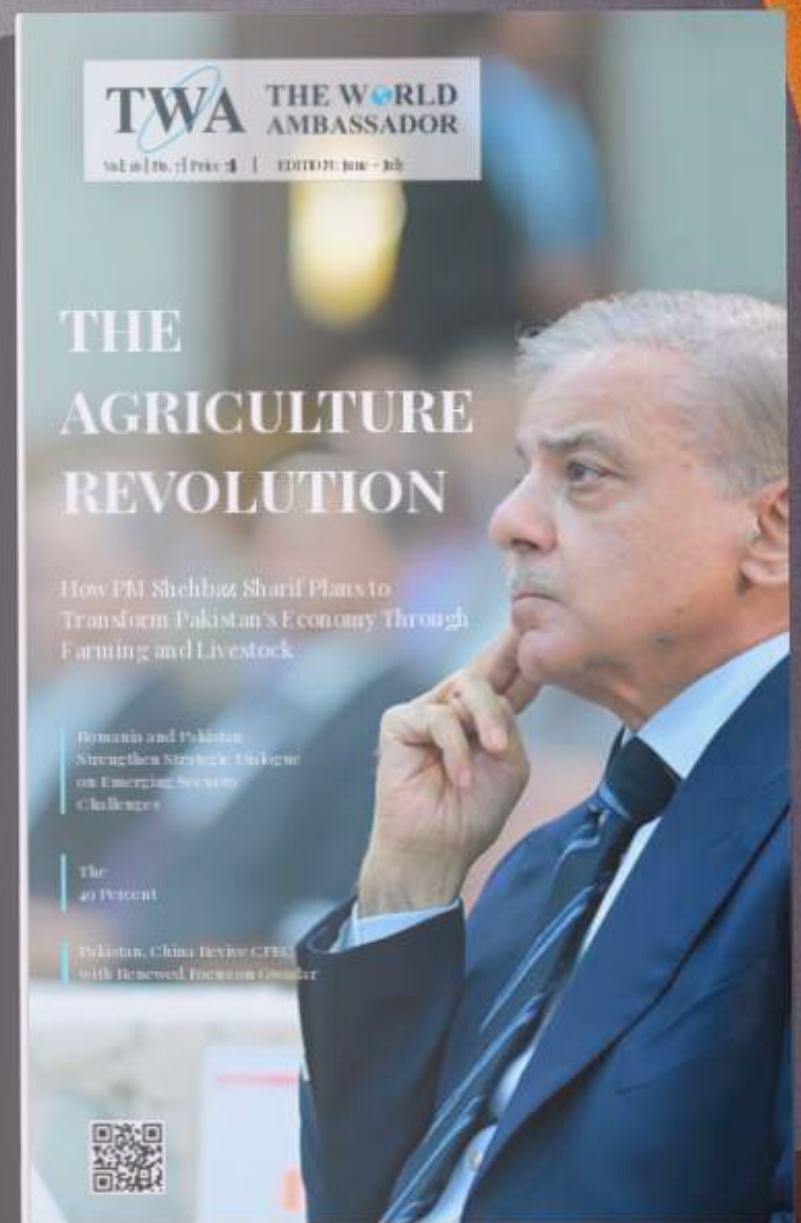
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EU-Pakistan Business Forum Opens New Chapter in Economic Partnership

First-Ever High-Level Forum in Islamabad Aims to Boost Investment, Innovation and Sustainable Growth

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The European Union, in partnership with the Government of Pakistan, inaugurated the first-ever High-Level EU-Pakistan Business Forum in Islamabad, marking a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral economic and investment relations.

The two-day forum has brought together nearly 1,000 participants, including senior government officials, European and Pakistani business leaders, investors, financial institutions, and industry experts. As the world's largest single market, a leading source of global foreign direct investment (FDI), and Pakistan's largest export destination, the European Union sees the forum as an important platform to expand economic cooperation beyond trade.

The initiative aims to transform the already strong trade relationship into greater investment flows, technology partnerships, innovation-driven collaboration, and sustainable industrial development.

Opening the forum, European Union Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Raimundas Karobolis highlighted the importance of the longstanding economic partnership between the EU and Pakistan.

"The European Union enjoys strong economic relations with Pakistan. It is a source of pride for me to say that the European Union is the top export destination for Pakistan. The purpose of the forum is not just to celebrate our trade relations, but to deepen, diversify, green, and transform them into long-lasting investments. Through this, our mutual prosperity will thrive."

Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb outlined the government's efforts to strengthen Pakistan's macroeconomic stability through structural reforms, emphasizing that the country is well-positioned to attract international investors under the vision of "Pakistan Means Business."

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar also addressed the inaugural session, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment for foreign investment.

A major highlight of the opening ceremony was the launch of the EU-Pakistan Business Network, a platform representing more than 300 European companies operating in Pakistan. The network will serve as the collective voice of European businesses, promote policy dialogue, and support new investors seeking opportunities in the Pakistani market.

The forum also showcased investment opportunities under the European Union's Global Gateway Initiative,

the EU's flagship international investment strategy aimed at mobilising €400 billion worldwide between 2021 and 2027. A dedicated plenary session featured Peteris Ustubs, Director for Asia and the Pacific at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Thouraya Triki, Director at the European Investment Bank, and Hans Bogaard, Director of Agribusiness, Food and Forestry at FMO, the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank.

Panel discussions throughout the event are focusing on key growth sectors, including agribusiness, digital innovation, fintech, green logistics, sustainable textiles, and responsible mining, highlighting new opportunities for collaboration between European and Pakistani businesses.

The forum has also scheduled more than 600 business-to-business (B2B) meetings, reflecting strong interest from companies on both sides in establishing joint ventures, strategic partnerships, and long-term investment projects. Several financial agreements and collaborative initiatives are expected to be announced during the event.

Representing a combined market of more than 700 million people, the High-Level EU-Pakistan Business Forum provides a strategic platform for dialogue, investment, and commercial partnerships, reinforcing both sides' commitment to building a stronger, greener, and more resilient economic future.





Prison Reform Conference Overshadowed by Political Debate

Islamabad Declaration Commits Provinces to Prison Reforms Amid Focus on Political Prisoners

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

A national conference on prison reform concluded in Islamabad with all four provincial governments endorsing the Islamabad Declaration, committing to modernise Pakistan's prison system through coordinated reforms. However, discussions were largely overshadowed by political narratives, as the chief ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa focused on the treatment of political prisoners alongside broader prison reforms.

Held under the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC), the conference brought together the country's judicial leadership and provincial chief ministers to address overcrowding, poor prison conditions, and the need for rehabilitation.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi described prisons as a reflection of the country's criminal justice system, stressing that meaningful reform requires cooperation between the judiciary and provincial governments. He welcomed the provinces' commitment to implementing the National Prison Reform Action Plan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi called on the judiciary to ensure better facilities for former Prime Minister Imran Khan, including access to personal doctors, regular family visits, and improved conditions at Adiala Jail. He argued that constitutional rights should be upheld for all prisoners and maintained that prison reform should begin with equal treatment for everyone.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz shared her own experience of imprisonment, saying it had shaped her commitment to improving prison conditions. She highlighted the severe overcrowding in Punjab's prisons and outlined ongoing reforms aimed at enhancing inmate welfare and emergency response systems.

The Islamabad Declaration acknowledges the challenges facing Pakistan's prisons, including overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, limited rehabilitation opportunities, and a large number of undertrial prisoners. It commits the provinces to improving prison conditions, expanding rehabilitation programmes, strengthening coordination across the justice system, and implementing practical reforms to create a more humane and efficient correctional system.

While the conference ended with a unified commitment to prison reform, critics questioned whether the declaration would translate into meaningful action, arguing that the real challenge lies in implementing existing laws rather than announcing new commitments.

5th Pakistan Tourism and Hospitality Investment Summit Opens in Birmingham

Business leaders and diplomats highlight investment, trade, and tourism opportunities to strengthen Pakistan-UK economic ties

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The 5th Pakistan Tourism and Hospitality Investment Summit and Smart Expo was inaugurated in Birmingham, bringing together business leaders, investors, diplomats, and members of the Pakistani diaspora to promote trade, tourism, and investment between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Organised by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, the summit was held at the Quaid-e-Azam Grand Hall in Birmingham and attracted a large gathering of entrepreneurs, investors, and representatives from various sectors.

Chairman of the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Fahad Barlas inaugurated the event, while Lord Mayor of Birmingham Chaudhry Zaker Ullah, Consul General of Pakistan Fahad Amjad, Dr. Nasir Awan, Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Founder Chairman M. Khurshid Barlas attended as distinguished guests.

Addressing the gathering, Lord Mayor Chaudhry Zaker Ullah described such forums as vital for strengthening bilateral trade and encouraged overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan and contribute to the country's economic development.

Consul General Fahad Amjad said the summit represents an important milestone in Pakistan-UK relations, noting that initiatives of this nature help expand cooperation in trade, business, and diplomacy between the two countries.

Speaking at the event, Fahad Barlas and M. Khurshid Barlas stressed the importance of promoting Pakistani products in international markets, attracting foreign investment, and enhancing Pakistan's global image. They highlighted opportunities in sectors including tourism, information technology, real estate, and mining, while emphasizing the need to create stronger links between overseas investors and Pakistan's economy. Participants concluded that international business forums provide an effective platform for showcasing Pakistan's investment potential, strengthening economic partnerships, and encouraging the overseas Pakistani community to play a greater role in the country's development.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of honorary shields to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields.



Pakistan, US Make Progress on Reciprocal Trade Agreement

Washington talks move closer to finalising a deal aimed at expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation

BY FATIMA ABID

Pakistan and the United States have made significant progress in negotiations on a Reciprocal Trade Agreement during high-level talks held in Washington, D.C., with both sides expressing optimism about concluding the agreement in the near future.

According to Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi, the negotiations were conducted in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, with both countries working to resolve outstanding issues and build consensus toward an early agreement.

The Pakistani delegation was led by Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul and included Secretary for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Nadeem Chaudhary, Joint Secretary Tariff Policy Mohammad Ashfaq, and representatives from other relevant ministries who participated virtually.

The negotiations, held from July 9 to 10, focused on strengthening Pakistan-US trade relations, facilitating greater bilateral commerce, and creating new opportunities to diversify and expand trade between the two countries.

Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul described the discussions as positive and welcomed the substantial progress achieved during the latest round of negotiations, expressing confidence that the agreement would further enhance economic cooperation between Pakistan and the United States.

BISP, ADB Review Progress on Social Protection Programmes

Meeting focuses on expanding technology-driven welfare initiatives, education, health, and future collaboration.

BY AAMIR MALIK

Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, chaired a high-level meeting at BISP Headquarters with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Joint Review Mission to assess progress on projects under the Integrated Social Protection Development Program (ISPDP), its additional financing, and BISP's Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programmes for health and education.

Senator Rubina Khalid appreciated ADB's longstanding partnership and reaffirmed BISP's commitment to delivering transparent, technology-driven, and inclusive social protection services. She also emphasized continued cooperation on data security, the Benazir Hunarmand Programme, and education and awareness initiatives.

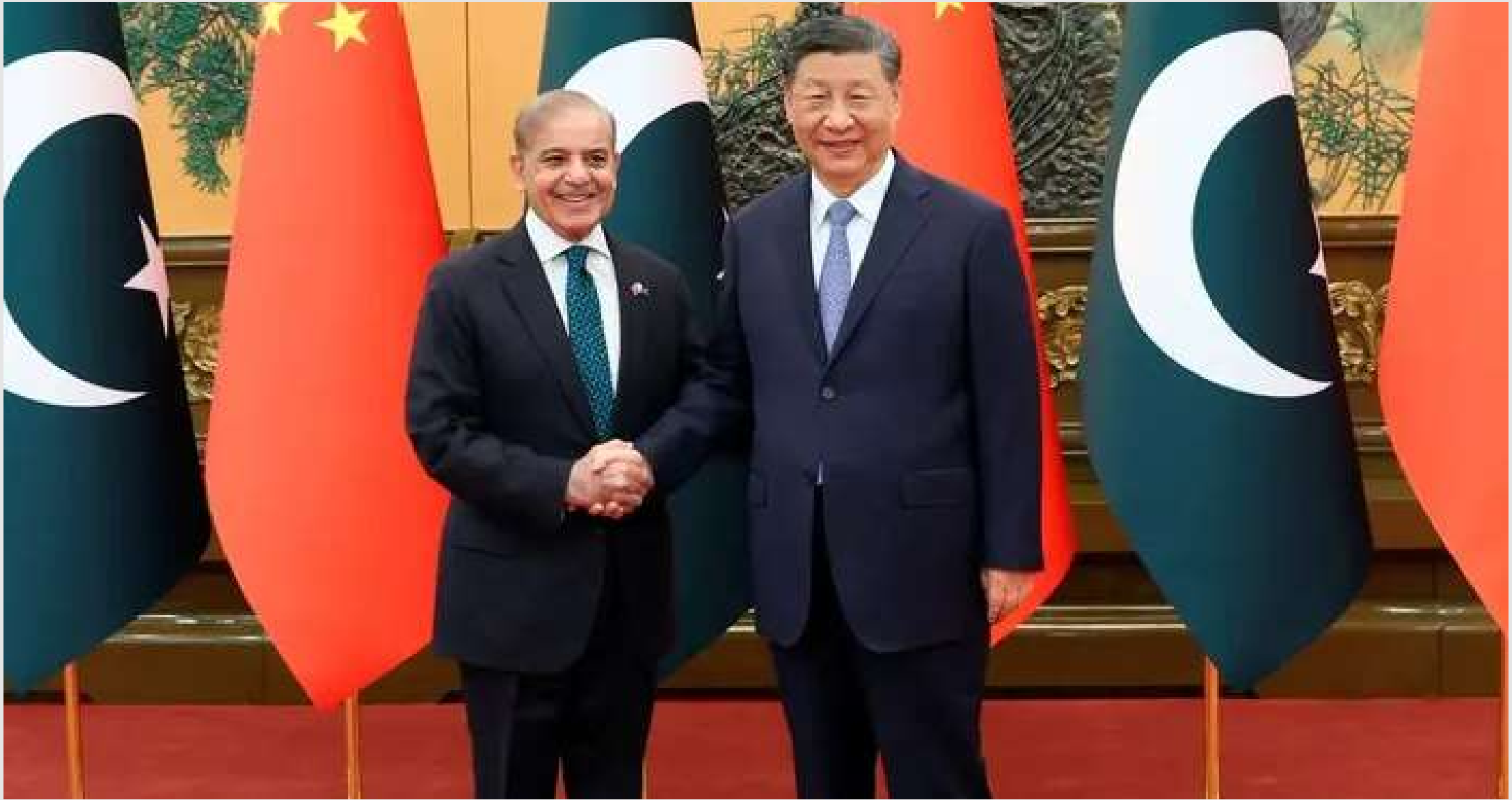
The review covered programme implementation, monitoring frameworks, technical assistance, adolescent girls' nutrition interventions, and future implementation plans. The ADB delegation praised BISP's progress and reaffirmed its continued technical and financial support to strengthen Pakistan's social protection system.

The meeting was attended by senior ADB officials, Additional Secretary BISP Dr. Asmat Nawaz, and BISP's Director Generals.



Pakistan, China Revive CPEC with Renewed Focus on Gwadar

Leaders pledge to accelerate infrastructure, trade, technology, and security cooperation during PM Shehbaz Sharif's Beijing visit



BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Pakistan and China have agreed to accelerate the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a renewed commitment to transform Gwadar Port into a major regional trade and connectivity hub.

The announcement came in a joint statement issued after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's four-day official visit to China, during which he held meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and advancing the high-quality development of CPEC. The two sides agreed to improve transport infrastructure, upgrade the Karakoram Highway, enhance operations at the Khunjerab Pass, strengthen logistics networks, and encourage third-party participation in CPEC projects.

Gwadar Port remains central to the renewed partnership, with both governments aiming to expand its role as a gateway for regional trade linking South Asia, Central Asia, and China.

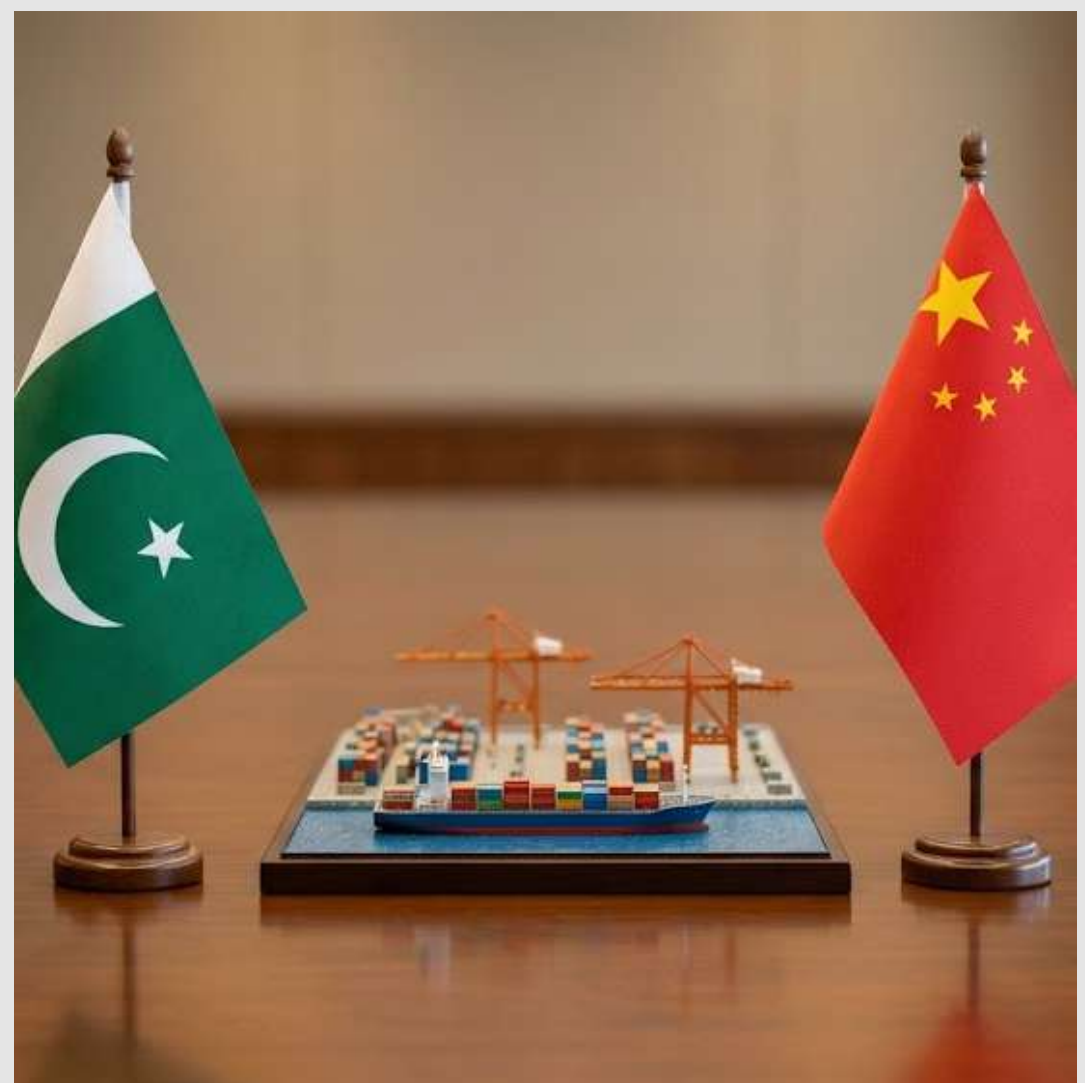
The joint statement also outlined broader cooperation in emerging sectors, including artificial intelligence, the digital economy, renewable energy, scientific innovation, information technology, water resource management, and maritime affairs, reflecting a shared commitment to modernising Pakistan's economy.

On the security front, Pakistan and China agreed to deepen counterterrorism cooperation through a proposed China-Pakistan Security Partnership while reaffirming joint efforts against terrorism and

supporting regional peace and stability.

Pakistan reiterated its firm support for the One-China Policy, while China reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security.

The latest agreements signal renewed momentum for CPEC and highlight both countries' intention to strengthen economic cooperation, expand regional connectivity, and unlock new investment opportunities through one of their most significant strategic partnerships.



PM Shehbaz Sharif Positions Agriculture and Livestock as Pillars of Economic Revival

Government to Fund FMD Vaccine, Expand China Training Programme, and Modernize Livestock Sector

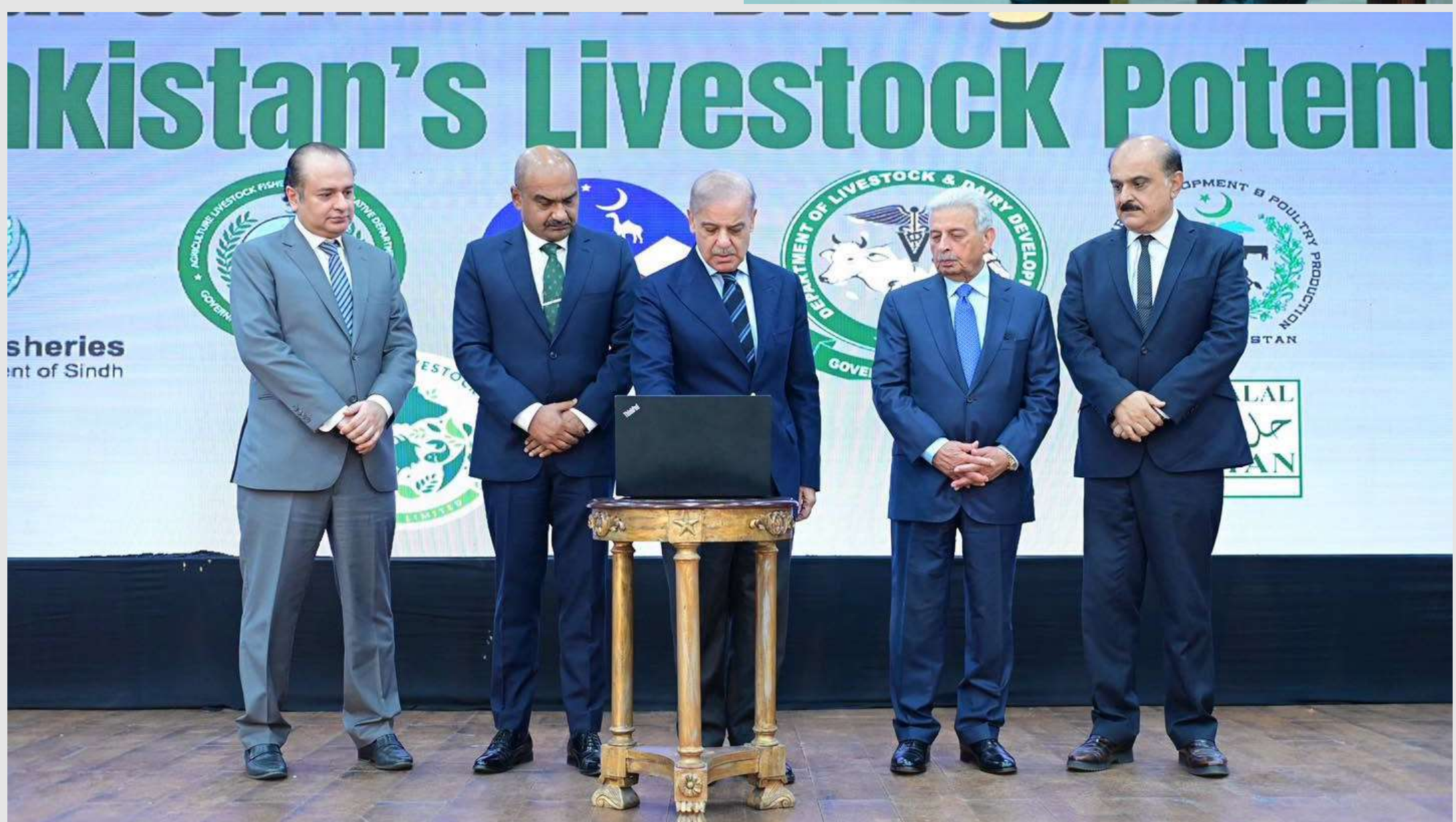
BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has described agriculture and livestock as the fastest route to Pakistan's economic recovery, urging the adoption of modern technology, scientific research, and value-added production to unlock the sectors' full potential.

Speaking at the national seminar "Harnessing Pakistan's Livestock Potential," the prime minister announced 100 percent federal funding for the development of a locally produced Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine, calling disease control essential for boosting livestock exports. He also highlighted Pakistan's position as the world's fourth-largest milk producer and stressed the need to expand dairy processing and value-added meat exports.

To accelerate modernization, the government will strengthen cooperation with China to upgrade the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and send 1,000 additional agriculture graduates for specialized training. The prime minister also inaugurated the Pakistan Animal Identification and Traceability System, aimed at improving disease surveillance, livestock productivity, and export standards.

Shehbaz Sharif concluded by emphasizing that agriculture and livestock can become powerful engines of economic growth, job creation, food security, and export expansion through innovation, investment, and stronger collaboration between federal and provincial governments.



Pakistan-France Trade and Investment Forum Strengthens Economic Partnership

Business leaders and policymakers meet in Paris to expand bilateral trade, investment, and commercial cooperation

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The Pakistan-France Trade and Investment Forum was held in Paris, bringing together government officials, business leaders, industry experts, and representatives of trade organisations from both countries to strengthen economic cooperation and promote new investment opportunities.

The forum was organised following an understanding reached between French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in 2024 to build a stronger economic partnership between Pakistan and France. It aimed to connect businesses, encourage dialogue, and showcase Pakistan's trade and investment potential.

More than 70 French and Pakistani companies participated in the event, representing sectors including agriculture, information technology, textiles, energy, and tourism.

Opening the forum, Pakistan's Ambassador to France, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, highlighted Pakistan's improving economic outlook and its growing appeal as an investment destination. She outlined the government's investor-friendly policies and institutional support mechanisms, encouraging businesses from both countries to develop joint ventures and long-term commercial partnerships.

French business leaders, including Thierry Pflimlin,



Chairman of the France-Pakistan Business Council at MEDEF International, Patricia Glasel, Vice President of the Conseillers du Commerce Extérieur de la France (CCEF), and Ardavan Amir-Aslani, welcomed the growing momentum in bilateral economic relations. They highlighted emerging opportunities for trade and investment and stressed the importance of stronger private-sector collaboration to unlock the full potential of the Pakistan-France economic partnership.

The forum concluded with sector-specific breakout sessions and business-to-business (B2B) meetings focusing on textiles, agriculture and dairy, and information technology, providing participants with opportunities to explore practical avenues for future collaboration and investment.

Pakistan-France Trade and Investment Forum Strengthens Economic Partnership

Business leaders and policymakers meet in Paris to expand bilateral trade, investment, and commercial cooperation

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The Pakistan Business Association Korea (PBAK) has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hanpass, one of South Korea's leading remittance companies, marking a significant step toward strengthening financial services and business cooperation for the Pakistani community in South Korea.

A high-level PBAK delegation, led by Chairman Mudassar Ali Chaudhry (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) and President Rahim Shah, visited Hanpass headquarters, where the agreement was formally signed. The partnership is expected to enhance secure and convenient financial services for Pakistani students, factory workers, entrepreneurs, and families residing in South Korea while promoting business networking and community welfare initiatives.

During the ceremony, Hanpass presented a special commemorative shield to Chairman Mudassar Ali Chaudhry in recognition of his outstanding services to the Pakistani community and his national contributions, for which he has been awarded Pakistan's Tamgha-e-Imtiaz.

Hanpass Chief Executive Officer Mr. Lee Gun-Joo reaffirmed the company's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the Pakistani community through trust, innovation, and long-term collaboration.

The event was also attended by senior PBAK officials, including Mian Muhammad Shakeel, Haji Muhammad Kazim, Muhammad Asghar Bangi, Dildar Hussain Kashif, Dr. Mian Sabir Hussain, Chaudhry Mustansar Javed, Hafiz Junaid Ali, and Rafaqat Ali.

The Pakistan Business Association Korea reiterated its commitment to serving the Pakistani diaspora by promoting trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and stronger economic relations between Pakistan and South Korea. The partnership with Hanpass is being viewed as an important milestone in building a more prosperous future for the community and enhancing bilateral commercial ties.

UN Reaffirms Support for International Criminal Court Amid US Criticism

United Nations says the ICC remains a vital pillar of international justice despite renewed calls from Washington to dismantle the court

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The United Nations has reaffirmed the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in ensuring accountability for serious international crimes, following renewed calls from the United States to dismantle the tribunal.

Speaking at the UN's regular press briefing, UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric described the ICC as a "critical cog" in the international justice system. While noting that the Court operates independently of the United Nations Secretariat, he emphasized that it plays a vital role in holding individuals accountable for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.

His remarks came after reports that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio advocated abolishing the Court, arguing in a Wall Street Journal opinion article that the United States had never accepted the authority of an international tribunal that could override its Constitution or judicial system. Rubio said Washington was launching a diplomatic campaign centred on the principle of national sovereignty.

The United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, the 1998 treaty that established the ICC, and has long opposed the Court's jurisdiction over its citizens. The latest criticism follows US sanctions imposed last year on several ICC officials in connection with investigations into alleged war crimes involving US forces in Afghanistan and Israeli actions in Gaza.

Responding to questions about the US position, Dujarric stressed that international law, the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were created by sovereign member states and have provided protection and justice to millions of people worldwide. He added that these principles, which the UN Secretary-General has repeatedly defended, are increasingly under pressure and must continue to be upheld.

The exchange underscores continuing tensions between advocates of international justice and governments that argue for greater national sovereignty over international legal institutions.



Pakistan, UNDP Reaffirm Commitment to Sustainable Development Partnership

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal seeks greater support for SDGs, climate resilience, and development financing during meeting in New York



BY AAMIR MALIK

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal met with UNDP Administrator Alexander De Croo in New York to discuss Pakistan's development priorities and ways to further strengthen the longstanding partnership between Pakistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

During the meeting, the minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to its partnership with UNDP and appreciated the organization's continued support in advancing the country's national development agenda. He highlighted that Pakistan's development strategy, under the Uraan Pakistan initiative, is centred on five key pillars: exports, digitalisation, environment, energy, and equity.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal acknowledged UNDP's longstanding collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, particularly its support for localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through SDG Support Units and its role in facilitating the 2025 SDGs Policy Dialogue for Action.

The discussions also focused on Pakistan's SDG Plus Programme, which aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening provincial ownership and implementation. The minister informed the UNDP Administrator that the National Economic Council had decided to conduct quarterly reviews of provincial performance on key social indicators to improve accountability and human development outcomes. In response, Alexander De Croo welcomed Pakistan's efforts to strengthen institutional mechanisms for SDG implementation and reaffirmed UNDP's commitment to supporting the country's

sustainable development agenda.

Highlighting Pakistan's economic challenges, Professor Ahsan Iqbal noted that debt servicing obligations and limited fiscal space continue to constrain development efforts. He expressed hope that UNDP would continue supporting Pakistan in mobilising development and climate finance, particularly through SDG-aligned investment initiatives.

The minister also underscored Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, appreciating UNDP's assistance in post-flood recovery following the devastating 2022 floods. He called for expanded cooperation in climate resilience, including Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) mitigation projects, as well as programmes focused on poverty reduction, employment generation, and sustainable livelihoods.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal further expressed concern over the decline in UNDP's core funding, emphasising that reforms within the UN development system should reinforce support for programme countries. He stressed that UNDP's core development mandate should remain strong and continue to align with Pakistan's national priorities.

Welcoming the forthcoming visit of the Crown Prince of Norway, who also serves as a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, the minister said the visit would help draw greater international attention to Pakistan's development agenda. He also extended an invitation to Alexander De Croo on behalf of the Prime Minister to visit Pakistan.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation at the country level and within the United Nations system to advance Pakistan's sustainable development objectives.

Pakistan Calls for De-escalation at UN Security Council Meeting on Yemen

Islamabad condemns Houthi missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and urges dialogue to prevent further regional instability

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Pakistan has called for restraint and dialogue to ease tensions in Yemen and the wider Middle East during an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, convened following reports of unauthorized Iranian flights to Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

Addressing the 15-member Council, Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, warned that further escalation would undermine prospects for peace and worsen the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

"Any further escalation risks undermining prospects for peace and deepening the suffering of civilians," he said, urging all parties to resolve their differences through diplomacy and sustained efforts toward de-escalation.

Pakistan also strongly condemned the Houthi ballistic missile attacks on Saudi Arabia, reaffirming its solidarity with the Kingdom and expressing support for its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Ambassador Jadoon reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Yemen in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

The Security Council meeting was requested by Yemen's internationally recognised government, which accused the Houthis and Iran of violating UN resolutions through unauthorized flights between Tehran and Houthi-controlled airports. The session followed reports of renewed military activity, including airstrikes on Sanaa International Airport and missile attacks targeting Saudi Arabia.

Briefing the Council, UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East Khaled Khiari stressed that there is no alternative to an inclusive, Yemeni-led political process, warning that unilateral actions would only deepen divisions and prolong the conflict.

Yemen's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Abdullah Ali Fadhel Al-Saadi, described the unauthorized flights as a dangerous violation of Yemen's sovereignty and called on the Security Council to uphold international law and prevent further interference in the country's internal affairs.

Pakistan reiterated that a comprehensive and lasting peace can only be achieved through a UN-facilitated, Yemeni-owned political process, while urging all parties to maintain dialogue and avoid actions that could further destabilise the region.



Celebrating 75 Years of Pakistan–China

Diplomatic Relations

A Special Report on an Enduring Strategic Partnership Shaping Regional Stability and Shared Prosperity

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

The year 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, celebrating one of the world's most enduring and trusted bilateral partnerships. Built on mutual respect, strategic trust, and unwavering support, the relationship has evolved into a model of all-weather cooperation, adapting to changing global realities while remaining firmly rooted in shared values and common interests.

Over the past seven and a half decades, Pakistan and China have expanded their partnership beyond traditional diplomacy to encompass strategic cooperation, economic development, regional connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as the flagship of this relationship, driving infrastructure development, energy security, industrial growth, and regional integration while contributing to Pakistan's long-term economic transformation.

Beyond economic cooperation, the partnership continues to strengthen collaboration in defence, regional peace, education, culture, technology, agriculture, public health, and sustainable development. Emerging areas such as green growth and digital innovation are creating new opportunities to deepen bilateral engagement and address shared global challenges.

This Special Report brings together the perspectives of distinguished scholars, diplomats, policymakers, and subject experts to examine the evolution of Pakistan–China relations, highlight key achievements, and explore future avenues of cooperation. It reflects on a partnership that has remained resilient through decades of geopolitical change and underscores the enduring value of trust, mutual respect, and shared vision in advancing regional stability and common prosperity.



Europe Records Hottest June as Climate Finance and Heat Warnings Intensify

UN agencies warn that rising temperatures and marine heatwaves highlight the urgent need for climate resilience and global action

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Western Europe experienced its hottest June on record in 2026, while the month ranked as the second warmest globally, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). The record-breaking temperatures were driven by unprecedented sea surface temperatures, intensifying heatwaves, drought conditions, and wildfires across several European countries.

Spain, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic all recorded exceptional temperatures, with several countries setting new national or June records. Spain's Fabra Observatory in Barcelona registered 40.5°C, while parts of France exceeded 43°C, triggering widespread heat alerts and increasing wildfire risks.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned that such extreme heat events are becoming more frequent and intense as a result of climate change. Officials stressed that prolonged high daytime and nighttime temperatures significantly increase health risks, particularly for older people, children, outdoor workers, and those with underlying health conditions.

The report also highlighted record sea surface temperatures across the western Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean, contributing to widespread marine heatwaves and worsening drought conditions. According to climate experts, Europe has warmed by approximately 2°C over the past five decades, making it one of the fastest-warming regions in the world.

In response, the WMO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and international partners are expanding early warning systems and heat-health action plans to help governments reduce the human, economic, and environmental impacts of extreme heat. Through initiatives such as Early Warnings for All and the Global Heat Health Information Network, the agencies aim to improve preparedness and strengthen climate resilience as global temperatures continue to rise.

Pakistan and Spain Deepen Agricultural Partnership to Boost Trade and Food Security

High-level meeting focuses on technology transfer, agricultural exports, and the creation of a Joint Working Group to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

BY AAMIR MALILK

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain met with Spanish Ambassador Carlos Aragón Gil de la Serna to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in agriculture, food security, trade, and multilateral engagement.

The meeting reaffirmed the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Spain, with both sides expressing their commitment to strengthening agricultural partnerships and exploring new trade and investment opportunities.

The Spanish Ambassador congratulated Pakistan on becoming a full member of the International Olive Council (IOC), while the Minister thanked Spain for its valuable support in securing the membership. The Ambassador also acknowledged the positive contribution of nearly 150,000 Pakistanis living in Spain and noted Pakistan's favorable trade balance, driven largely by textile exports.

Highlighting Spain's expertise in precision farming, irrigation, olive cultivation, and water management, Rana Tanveer Hussain invited Spanish companies and institutions to collaborate with Pakistan through technology transfer, research, and capacity-building



initiatives to modernize the country's agricultural sector. The Minister also proposed establishing a Pakistan–Spain Joint Working Group on Agriculture to promote cooperation in research, investment, food security, and trade. Spain welcomed the proposal. He further invited Spain to increase imports of Pakistani rice, ethanol, potatoes, and maize, emphasizing that stronger agricultural trade would benefit both countries. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to expanding bilateral relations, enhancing agricultural cooperation, and strengthening economic ties.

Russian Traveler Returns to Peshawar, Highlighting City's Enduring Charm

Solo visitor Polina's second journey reflects Peshawar's growing appeal as a destination of culture, history, and hospitality

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

One year after her first visit, Polina, a traveler from Russia, has returned to Peshawar—this time as a solo explorer, reaffirming the city's growing reputation as one of Pakistan's most memorable cultural destinations.

Polina first visited Peshawar in August 2025 as part of a group tour. Drawn back by the city's unique character and welcoming atmosphere, she has returned to experience its rich heritage once again.

Reflecting on her journey, she described Peshawar as a place that leaves a lasting impression on its visitors.

"There's something special about Peshawar that keeps calling people back. Perhaps it's the warmth of its people, the centuries-old stories hidden within its historic streets, the aroma of traditional food, the colourful bazaars, or the genuine hospitality that makes every visitor feel at home."

Her return serves as a powerful endorsement of Peshawar's tourism potential. From its historic landmarks and vibrant markets to its centuries-old traditions and renowned hospitality, the city continues to attract visitors seeking authentic cultural experiences.

For tourism authorities, repeat visitors like Polina are a testament to Peshawar's enduring appeal. When travellers choose to return, they offer the strongest recommendation of all—demonstrating that the city's history, culture, and welcoming spirit leave a lasting mark long after the journey ends.



Sindh CM, Federal Minister Discuss Heritage Preservation and Cultural Institutions

Murad Ali Shah and Aurangzeb Khan Khichi review matters related to Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board and National Library's regional office

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Aurangzeb Khan Khichi at the Chief Minister House to discuss matters concerning the preservation and promotion of Pakistan's cultural heritage.

The meeting focused on issues related to the Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board (QMMB), including the management and maintenance of the mausoleum of the nation's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Both leaders also reviewed matters concerning the Regional Office of the National Library of Pakistan, highlighting the importance of strengthening literary and cultural institutions in Sindh.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation between the federal and provincial governments to preserve Pakistan's historical landmarks, promote cultural heritage, and improve public access to national institutions dedicated to education, research, and history.



AIOU, Chinese Education Firm Partner to Advance Skills and Technology-Based Learning

New collaboration aims to strengthen academic exchange, research, Chinese language education, and industry-focused training

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and TANG Chinese International Education & Technology (Pvt.) Ltd. have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to enhance academic collaboration and promote skills- and technology-based education between Pakistan and China.

The agreement was signed by Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of AIOU, and Mr Song Jianying, Chief Executive Officer of TANG Chinese International Education & Technology (Pvt.) Ltd., Pakistan.

Under the partnership, both institutions will collaborate on joint academic programmes, faculty and student exchanges, research initiatives, advanced skills training, Chinese language education, and stronger university-industry linkages to better prepare students for the global job market.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood said that equipping young people with modern technology and practical skills is essential for meeting future challenges. He noted that the collaboration would help introduce innovative, industry-oriented academic programmes aligned with evolving global workforce demands.

The Vice Chancellor also expressed hope that the partnership would lead to the establishment of a Chinese Language and Culture Centre at AIOU. He noted that the university already operates language centres for Turkish, Japanese, and Russian, and said a Chinese centre would further strengthen educational, cultural, and people-to-people ties between Pakistan and China.

Mr Song Jianying described AIOU as an ideal partner for promoting technology-driven education in Pakistan, expressing confidence that the collaboration would create new opportunities for academic, research, and technological cooperation while equipping students with internationally competitive skills.

Dr Saima Nasir, Director of the Quality Enhancement Cell, said the agreement reflects AIOU's commitment to expanding international partnerships and will provide valuable academic and research opportunities for both students and faculty.

The signing ceremony was attended by the university's deans, professors, heads of academic departments, and other senior officials.



وزن کم کریں۔ قدرتی طور پر

سفوف مہزل

فوائد:

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CM Maryam Nawaz Pays Tribute to Malala Yousafzai on Malala Day

Punjab chief minister reaffirms commitment to girls' education, empowerment, and equal opportunities

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to Malala Yousafzai on Malala Day, praising her courage and lifelong commitment to promoting education, particularly for girls.

In her message, the chief minister described Malala as "the daughter of Pakistan" and a global symbol of peace, knowledge, and resilience. She said Malala's unwavering struggle for girls' education continues to inspire young people around the world and demonstrates the transformative power of education in building a better society.

Maryam Nawaz said Malala's efforts have conveyed a powerful message to the international community that educating girls is essential for achieving peace, progress, and sustainable development. She expressed confidence that Malala's contributions to education would continue to leave a lasting impact.

Reaffirming the Punjab government's commitment to women's empowerment, the chief minister said concrete measures are being implemented to expand educational opportunities, protect the rights of girls, and improve their welfare across the province. She added that barriers to education must be removed to ensure every girl has access to quality learning and the opportunity to contribute to the country's future.

The chief minister concluded by saying that Malala Yousafzai's determination remains an enduring inspiration, proving that education has the power to transform individuals, communities, and nations.



BY WASIF ALI KHAN

Cancer: The Growing Global Health Emergency and Pakistan's Urgent Challenge

Cancer is no longer a disease that affects only a limited section of society. It has emerged as one of the greatest public health challenges of the 21st century, threatening lives, economies, and healthcare systems across the globe. The latest Global Status Report on Cancer 2026, jointly released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), presents an alarming picture that demands immediate global attention.

According to the report, 92 percent of the world's population is expected to be affected by cancer in some form during their lifetime, while one in every five people will develop cancer. These projections underline the magnitude of a crisis that is rapidly expanding beyond the capacity of many healthcare systems, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

The report reveals that 20.6 million new cancer cases are diagnosed globally every year, while the disease claims nearly 10 million lives annually—equivalent to more than 26,000 deaths every single day. Cancer has now become the second leading cause of death worldwide, surpassed only by cardiovascular diseases.

If current trends continue, the number of new cancer cases is projected to rise to 35 million annually by 2050, representing an increase of more than 40 percent. Experts attribute this surge to several interconnected factors, including population growth, ageing populations, environmental pollution, unhealthy lifestyles, tobacco use, obesity, poor dietary habits, physical inactivity, and certain infectious diseases that increase cancer risk.

For Pakistan, the situation is particularly concerning. Every year, an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Pakistani children are diagnosed with cancer. Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women, with over 30,000 new cases annually, leading to more than 15,000 deaths each year. Cervical cancer has also emerged as the third most common cancer among Pakistani women, with approximately 5,000 new cases reported annually.

One of the greatest challenges is the lack of timely diagnosis and equitable access to quality treatment. In many developing countries, including Pakistan, healthcare infrastructure remains insufficient to meet the growing burden of cancer. Patients often face delayed diagnosis, limited availability of specialised oncology centres, shortages of trained medical professionals, and inadequate access to life-saving medicines and advanced treatment technologies such as radiotherapy.

The disparities are even more evident in childhood cancer. While survival rates exceed 80 percent in many high-income countries due to early diagnosis and modern treatment facilities, they remain below 30 percent in many low-income nations. This stark contrast highlights the urgent need for stronger healthcare investment and international cooperation.

Cancer is not merely a medical issue—it is also a significant economic and social challenge. The financial burden of treatment forces countless families into hardship. According to global surveys, nearly 45 percent of cancer patients experience severe financial distress, while more than half struggle with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. The disease affects not only patients but also caregivers, employers, and national economies through reduced productivity and increased healthcare expenditure.

Prevention remains one of the most effective weapons against cancer. Health experts estimate that a substantial proportion of cancer cases can be prevented through healthier lifestyles. Avoiding tobacco products, reducing alcohol consumption, maintaining a balanced diet, engaging in regular physical activity, protecting against excessive sun exposure, receiving recommended vaccinations such as HPV and Hepatitis B, and participating in routine screening programmes can significantly reduce cancer risk.

Early detection is equally crucial. When diagnosed in its initial stages, many cancers can be treated successfully with far better survival outcomes and lower treatment costs. Unfortunately, public awareness about cancer symptoms and screening remains limited in many developing countries, resulting in late-stage diagnoses when treatment options become more difficult and expensive.

Governments, healthcare institutions, civil society organisations, and international partners must work together to strengthen cancer prevention and control strategies. Investment in cancer research, expansion of diagnostic and treatment facilities, improved health insurance coverage, nationwide awareness campaigns, and equitable access to affordable medicines are essential components of an effective national response.

The findings of the WHO and IARC report should serve as a wake-up call rather than merely another collection of statistics. Without decisive action, cancer will continue to impose an ever-growing human and economic toll. However, with sustained commitment, public awareness, early detection, and stronger healthcare systems, millions of lives can be saved.

Cancer may be one of humanity's greatest health challenges, but it is not an unbeatable one. The choices governments make today—and the health decisions individuals make every day—will determine whether the world can slow this growing epidemic and protect future generations from its devastating impact.



**BY Muhammad Siddique
Umrani**

Terrorism in Balochistan, External Conspiracies, and the Need for National Unity

As a columnist, I belong to Balochistan, and as a tribal chief, I bear a great responsibility to make my brothers aware of the facts and to urge them that, at this critical time, national unity is of utmost importance. Rather than allowing ourselves to be divided, we must understand the realities and play our role in strengthening the State of Pakistan. In this regard, I present a few facts.

Pakistan, particularly Balochistan, has long been facing the grave challenges of terrorism from Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij. Since suffering a major defeat on the border front in May 2025, India has realized that it can never win a direct war against Pakistan. Therefore, together with its allied countries, India has initiated a systematic plan to destabilize Pakistan through a handful of hired individuals. The recent incidents in Ziarat and Hanna are clear evidence of this. These terrorist incidents have once again demonstrated that anti-Pakistan elements have intensified their efforts to disrupt the country's peace, stability, development, and prosperity. Their primary objective is to create fear and mistrust between the state and the people while keeping Balochistan in a constant state of instability.

Terrorism has no religion, sect, ethnicity, or political justification. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and several other banned militant organizations use misleading slogans and deceptive ideologies, but it is the ordinary citizens of Pakistan who have suffered the most from their terrorist activities. From targeting mosques, markets, highways, passenger vehicles, government installations, and security forces to murdering innocent laborers and travelers, every form of terrorism is contrary to human, moral, and legal principles.

For years, the TTP has targeted Pakistan's security forces, police, public places, and state institutions. Likewise, in Balochistan, the BLA and other banned militant groups have repeatedly attacked security forces, development projects, key installations, highways, and ordinary civilians. In some incidents, they have even identified passengers by their identity before brutally killing them. Such acts represent neither any nation nor any province or people; they only promote terror, hatred, and chaos.

Those who commit terrorism in the name of Balochistan are, in reality, causing the greatest harm to Balochistan itself. Whenever travelers are killed on highways, laborers are targeted, or schools, development projects,

or national installations are attacked, the direct victims are the peace, economy, investment, and employment opportunities of Balochistan. The terrorists' objective is precisely to halt development and keep ordinary citizens trapped in fear and insecurity.

Terrorist organizations do not confine themselves to armed attacks alone. They also attempt to mislead young people through fear, disinformation, propaganda, and emotional slogans. Our enemy forces are creating false narratives around local issues in an effort to turn the youth against their own country and society. Therefore, the fight against terrorism is being waged not only on the battlefield but also on intellectual and informational fronts.

It must also be clearly understood that peaceful protest and terrorism are two entirely different things. Every citizen has the constitutional right to express their views within the framework of the Constitution. However, it cannot be acceptable for any TikToker or Twitter politician to address public gatherings and spread hatred against the state or state institutions, mislead young people, or publicly express goodwill and prayers for banned militant organizations, terrorist attacks, or the killers of innocent people. Pakistan's Constitution and laws provide every citizen with a lawful path, but no supporter of terrorists can ever be a well-wisher of Balochistan.

It is equally important to understand that the Pakistan Army, under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, is fighting terrorism with full strength, determination, and national resolve. In Balochistan, officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, Police, and intelligence agencies are risking their lives day and night to protect the people and maintain peace. Under the leadership of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Corps Commander Balochistan Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Khan, Inspector General FC Balochistan (North) Major General Atif Mujtaba, Inspector General FC Balochistan (South) Major General Bilal Safdar, GOC 33 Division Major General Shehryar Ahmed, GOC 44 Division, and GOC 41 Division, organized operations against terrorist networks are continuing. I would also like to mention that in the recent past, the then Inspector General FC, Major General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum, fought with a highly effective strategy that broke the backbone of the terrorists, making Balochistan a peaceful province, and God willing, we will once again witness a peaceful Balochistan in the near future.

It is also worth mentioning that, based on timely and accurate intelligence, successful operations against terrorists, their networks, and their facilitators are progressing rapidly. The primary objective of these operations is to secure the people of Balochistan, national installations, highways, and development projects while eliminating the infrastructure of terrorism from its roots. In this struggle, countless officers and

personnel of the Pakistan Army, FC, Police, and other law enforcement agencies have sacrificed their lives.

We must never forget that the soldiers of our security forces are not merely men in uniform. They are also sons, brothers, husbands, and fathers. They perform their duties in harsh weather, rugged mountains, and dangerous areas, risking their lives so that ordinary citizens may live in peace. Pakistan's war against terrorism has been written with the blood of thousands of martyrs and unparalleled sacrifices.

It is also worth mentioning that the State of Pakistan has made its position clear: those who renounce violence and weapons and choose to live peacefully within the framework of the Constitution and the law are welcome to return to the national mainstream. However, those who continue terrorism, shed the blood of innocent citizens, target national installations, and carry out armed attacks against Pakistan for money or foreign interests must face decisive action in accordance with the law.

The youth of Balochistan, in particular, need to understand that the TTP, the BLA, or any other terrorist organization does not represent their bright future. The future of Balochistan lies not in guns and explosives but in education, skills, business, employment, political and social participation, and making meaningful contributions to Pakistan's development. Terrorist organizations offer young people not life but death, not prosperity for families but destruction, and not development for Balochistan but further instability.

Pakistan's enemies seek to divide the nation on the basis of language, ethnicity, province, and sect. The most effective response to these conspiracies is national unity. Baloch, Pashtuns, Sindhis, Punjabis, Saraikis, Kashmiris, and all other nationalities are part of Pakistan's beautiful national identity. The overwhelming majority of the people of Balochistan are patriotic, peace-loving, and eager for development, and it is contrary to reality to regard a handful of terrorist groups as representatives of the entire province or the Baloch nation.

Today, political and tribal leaders, religious scholars, intellectuals, journalists, youth, and every segment of society must adopt a clear and unequivocal stance against terrorism. Every civilian or soldier martyred in a terrorist incident is first and foremost a human being and a Pakistani. Remaining silent over their blood or attempting to justify terrorism only damages the cause of peace.

Balochistan is an important and proud part of Pakistan. Its land is rich in natural resources, strategic importance, and talented young people. Anti-Pakistan elements seek to keep this province trapped in fear and insecurity through terrorism, but the combined sacrifices of the people of Balochistan and Pakistan's security forces will, God willing, crush the evil designs of these handful of terrorists.

Pakistan has fought a long war against terrorism, during

which the nation, the Armed Forces, Police, Frontier Corps, Levies, and other institutions have made extraordinary sacrifices. Even today, our soldiers remain deployed on frontlines, mountains, highways, and borders to defend the homeland. The sacrifices of these martyrs and veterans are a national asset and the guarantee of Pakistan's secure future.

The need of the hour is for the entire nation to unite against terrorism. Differences of opinion have their place, but there can be no compromise on Pakistan's security, the lives of innocent people, and national peace. Terrorism is defeated not only through force of arms but also through national awareness, unity, and the rejection of terrorist narratives. Therefore, national unity is essential for collective progress, lasting peace, and the eradication of terrorism.



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BY ALISHA ABID

Climate Change Is Approaching a Point of No Return

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is an unfolding reality. Rising temperatures, devastating floods, prolonged droughts, melting glaciers, and record-breaking heatwaves have become familiar headlines across the world. Yet the latest United Nations Scientific Advisory Board Brief on Earth System Tipping Points warns that an even greater danger lies ahead: the Earth may be approaching irreversible climate thresholds from which there is no turning back.

According to the report, Earth system tipping points are critical limits in the planet's climate and natural systems. Once these limits are crossed, even small increases in global warming can trigger dramatic changes that continue on their own, regardless of future efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In other words, nature could reach a stage where it begins changing itself.

Scientists caution that while uncertainty remains about exactly when these tipping points will be reached, the risks rise significantly with every fraction of a degree of global warming. Evidence suggests that several major Earth systems are already under severe stress.

Among the most concerning are the continued melting of Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, the widespread loss of coral reefs, the possible transformation of parts of the Amazon rainforest into dry savanna, and the weakening of deep ocean circulation systems that regulate global climate. Any one of these changes would have profound consequences, but the UN warns that they could also trigger one another in a dangerous chain reaction, creating what scientists describe as "destabilizing cascades."

The report makes it clear that climate change is no longer simply an environmental issue. It is a threat to food security, water supplies, biodiversity, public health, and global economic stability. Even without crossing these tipping points, millions of people are already suffering the consequences of more frequent and intense climate disasters.

Pakistan knows these realities all too well. From catastrophic floods and extreme heatwaves to shrinking glaciers and growing water scarcity, the country has repeatedly experienced the harsh impacts of climate change despite contributing only a tiny fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions. These events highlight the urgent need for stronger climate resilience alongside global efforts to reduce emissions.

The United Nations stresses that governments cannot

afford to wait for complete scientific certainty before taking action. Instead, countries must invest in climate adaptation, strengthen disaster preparedness, protect forests and ecosystems, expand renewable energy, and improve scientific monitoring to better understand emerging risks.

Perhaps the report's most important message is that time is running short, but hope remains. Every reduction in greenhouse gas emissions lowers the risk of crossing irreversible tipping points. Every investment in clean energy and climate resilience strengthens our ability to protect future generations.

Climate change is no longer about preventing tomorrow's crisis—it is about responding to today's emergency. The choices made by governments, industries, and individuals over the next decade will determine whether humanity can avoid the most dangerous consequences of a warming planet.

The warning from the United Nations is both clear and urgent: the Earth is approaching critical limits. Whether we act decisively now or delay until it is too late will shape the future of life on our planet for centuries to come.



What If the Brain Makes Decisions Earlier Than We Thought? A Discovery That Could Transform Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence has long been inspired by the human brain, yet scientists still know surprisingly little about how the brain actually makes decisions. A groundbreaking study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is now challenging decades-old assumptions and could open the door to a new generation of smarter and more energy-efficient AI systems.

Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the research, led by Professor Yurii Vlasov of The Grainger College of Engineering, suggests that decision-making begins much earlier in the brain than scientists previously believed. Rather than waiting for information to reach higher brain regions, early sensory areas may already be actively involved in shaping decisions.

For decades, neuroscientists believed the brain processed information like an assembly line. Sensory signals were thought to travel step by step through increasingly complex brain regions until reaching the frontal cortex, where decisions were finally made. This model has also influenced many modern artificial intelligence systems, particularly convolutional neural networks.

The new findings paint a far more dynamic picture.

Using mice navigating a virtual reality environment, researchers monitored neural activity and discovered that the primary somatosensory cortex (S1)—one of the brain's earliest sensory processing regions—showed signs of decision-related activity. Instead of merely passing information forward, this region was continuously influenced by feedback from higher brain centres.

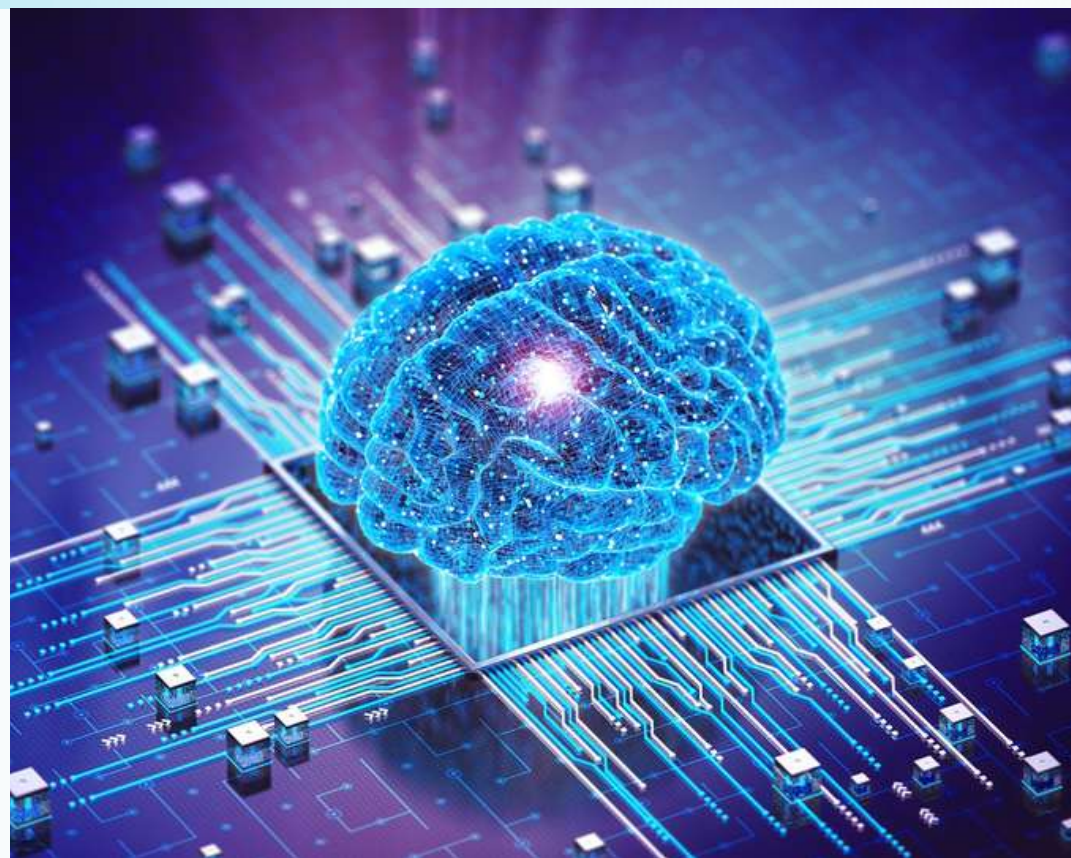
This suggests that the brain functions less like a one-way highway and more like a network of constant two-way communication, where different regions exchange information throughout the decision-making process.

The discovery is significant because the human brain performs extraordinarily complex tasks while consuming only about 20 watts of power—less electricity than many household light bulbs. By comparison, today's most advanced AI models require enormous computing resources and consume vast amounts of energy.

Professor Vlasov believes evolution may hold the key to building more efficient intelligent machines.

"We want to learn from a billion years of evolution," he says. "Can we understand how biological intelligence is organized and use those principles to make AI more effective, less power hungry, and more intelligent?"

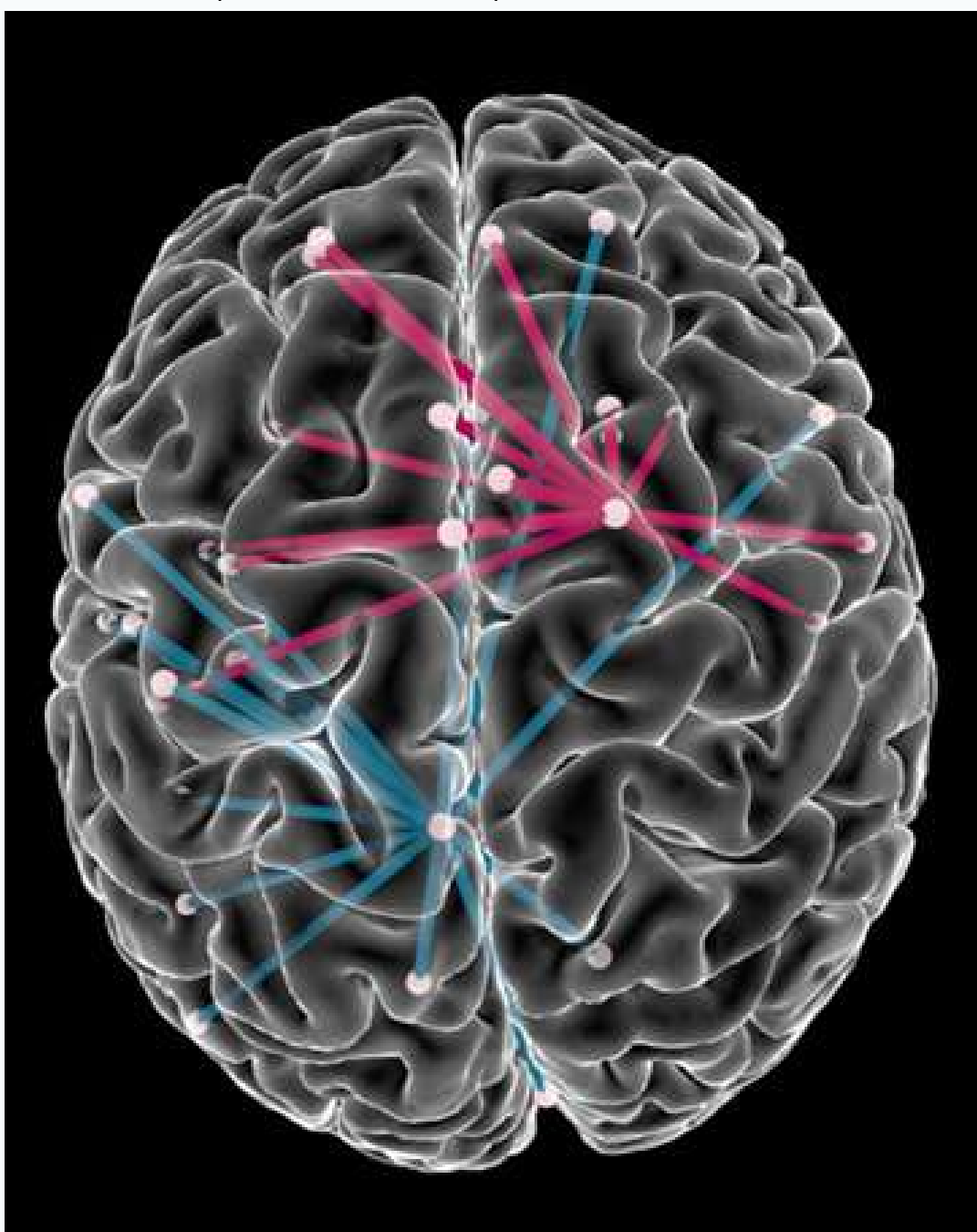
The researchers caution that their work is not an



immediate blueprint for next-generation AI. Instead, it offers valuable clues about how biological intelligence organizes information, potentially inspiring future AI architectures that rely on feedback loops rather than simple linear processing.

The team now plans to study the precise timing of these neural interactions and develop improved technologies to observe how different brain regions communicate during decision-making.

As artificial intelligence continues to reshape industries, economies, and daily life, understanding the remarkable efficiency of the human brain may prove to be one of science's greatest advantages. Sometimes, the smartest way to build the future is to learn from nature's oldest and most sophisticated computer—the human brain.



UNFPA Calls for Greater Investment in Pakistan's Youth on World Population Day

New global survey highlights young people's aspirations, challenges, and the need for stronger education, employment, and reproductive health policies.

BY AAMIR MALIK

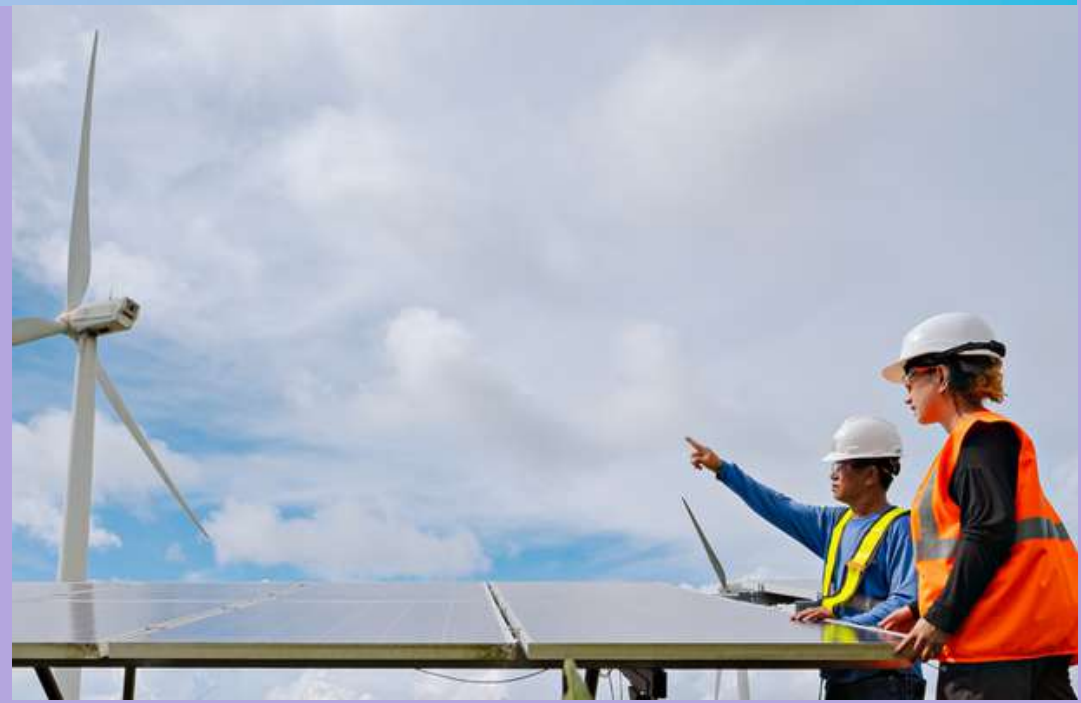
Marking World Population Day 2026, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) urged Pakistan to place young people at the center of its national development agenda, emphasizing their role as future leaders, innovators, and drivers of economic growth.

The appeal accompanies UNFPA's global report, *Lives, Choices and Futures*, based on responses from over 100,000 young adults across 73 countries, including more than 1,700 participants from Pakistan. The survey found that while 76% of Pakistani respondents are optimistic about the future, many remain concerned about economic insecurity, conflict, inequality, and environmental challenges.

The findings also reveal that many Pakistanis aspire to have larger families than they currently do, with financial stability, employment, healthcare, housing, and gender equality identified as key factors influencing decisions about marriage and parenthood.

With nearly one-third of Pakistan's 257 million people aged between 10 and 24, UNFPA stressed that investing in youth education, digital connectivity, employment opportunities, and reproductive health services is essential for sustainable development. The organization also highlighted the importance of protecting girls from child marriage, promoting gender equality, and expanding access to quality healthcare.

UNFPA reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Government of Pakistan and development partners to ensure every young person has the opportunity to realize their full potential and contribute to the country's future.



World Youth Skills Day 2026 Highlights Need for Future-Ready Skills

UN calls for greater investment in digital, AI, green, and vocational skills to prepare young people for a changing world of work.

BY ALISHA ABID

Observed annually on 15 July, World Youth Skills Day highlights the importance of equipping young people with the skills needed for employment, entrepreneurship, and decent work. This year's theme, "Skills for a Shared Future," emphasizes preparing youth to thrive in an era shaped by artificial intelligence, the green transition, and rapid technological change.

The United Nations and its partners stress that future-ready skills extend beyond technical expertise to include digital literacy, AI, green competencies, social-emotional learning, and civic engagement. These skills are considered essential for helping young people adapt, innovate, and contribute to more inclusive and sustainable societies.

Despite progress, youth unemployment remains a global challenge. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global youth unemployment rate fell to 13% in 2023, its lowest level in 15 years. However, millions of young people—particularly women—remain outside employment, education, or training, while many others work in informal or insecure jobs.

The UN also highlighted the critical role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in improving employability, supporting entrepreneurship, and preparing workers for emerging green and digital economies. Expanding access to quality skills training, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged youth, is seen as essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for greater investment in inclusive education and skills development, stating that closing the global skills gap is key to creating decent jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and unlocking the full potential of younger generations.

OIC Marks World Environment Day with Global Call for Climate Action

Member States and Leading Institutions Unite to Strengthen Environmental Cooperation Ahead of COP31

BY ABID SIDDIQUE CHAUDHRY

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye, commemorated United Nations World Environment Day on 29 June 2026, bringing together representatives of OIC Member States, Observer States, and key OIC institutions to reaffirm their commitment to climate action and sustainable development.

Held under the 2026 global theme, "A Global Call for Climate Action," the event highlighted the urgent need for collective efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and the sustainable management of natural resources. World Environment Day, observed annually on 5 June, was established by the United Nations in 1972 to promote global environmental awareness and action.

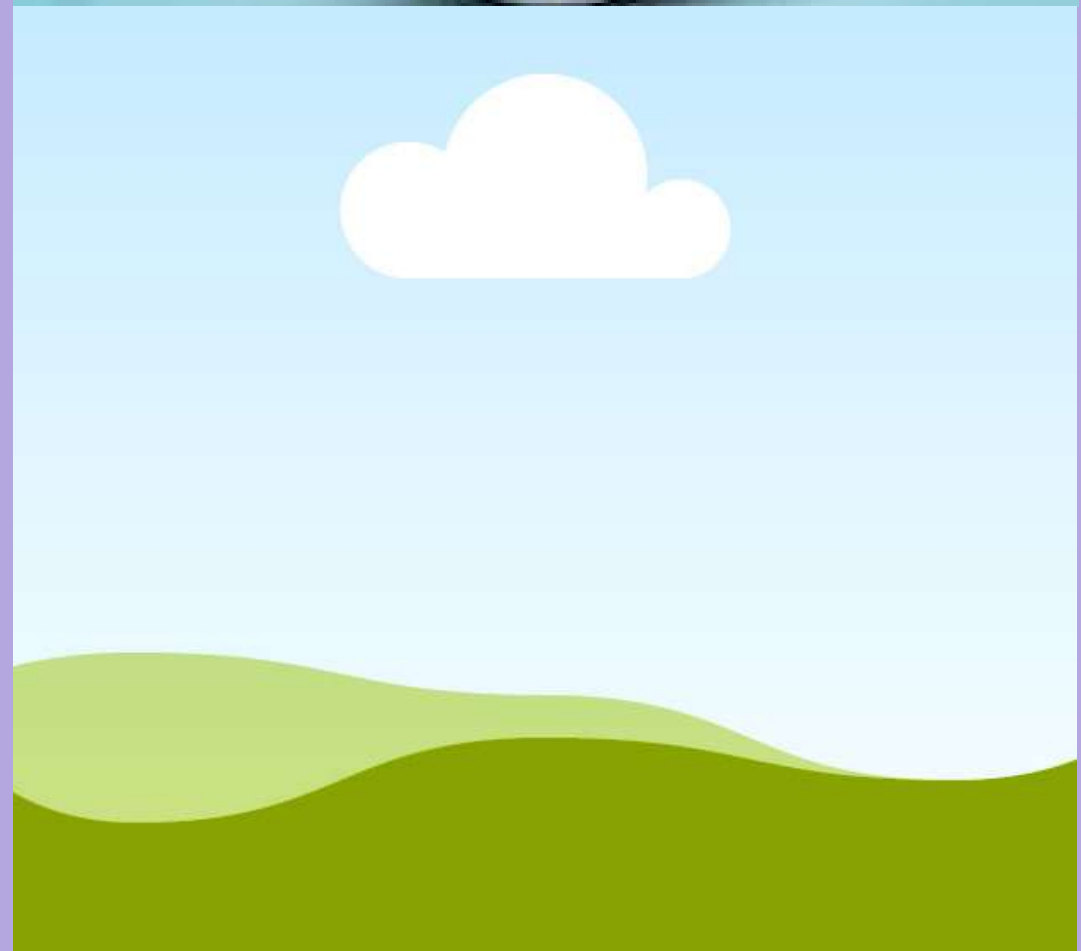
The event featured distinguished speakers, including H.E. Ambassador Aftab Khokher, OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Science and Technology; H.E. Ambassador Cenk Uraz, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the OIC; Ambassador Berik Aryan, Director-General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS); Dr. Zehra Selcuk, Director-General of SESRIC; Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH; representatives of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

The speakers emphasized that environmental protection has become one of the defining global challenges of the 21st century and called for stronger cooperation among OIC Member States to accelerate climate resilience, promote green growth, expand renewable energy, and protect ecosystems. They noted that these efforts directly support the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals relating to climate action, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and biodiversity conservation.

Participants also highlighted the significance of the upcoming COP31 Climate Conference, scheduled to be hosted by Türkiye in Antalya in November 2026, describing it as a landmark opportunity for OIC countries to strengthen collaboration and present a unified voice on global climate issues.

Representatives of several Member States shared their national initiatives on environmental protection, the green economy, and clean energy while expressing appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat and the

Permanent Mission of Türkiye for organizing the event. The gathering concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing sustainable development, enhancing regional cooperation, and building a greener, more resilient future across the Islamic world.



WhatsApp Developing Direct Cloud Backup Option for iPhone Users

New feature will allow chat backups to be stored on WhatsApp's servers instead of relying solely on Apple's iCloud.

BY MAZHAR HUSSAIN

WhatsApp is developing a new cloud backup feature for iPhone users that will allow them to store chat backups directly on WhatsApp's servers instead of Apple's iCloud. According to WABetaInfo, the feature is currently under development and is not yet available, even for beta testers.

At present, WhatsApp chat backups on iPhones are stored in iCloud, where Apple provides only 5GB of free storage shared across device backups, photos, documents, and other apps. As a result, WhatsApp backups containing photos and videos can quickly consume the available space.

The upcoming feature will give users the option to choose between backing up their chats to iCloud or WhatsApp's own cloud storage. iCloud will remain the default backup option, and users who prefer it will not need to change their existing settings.

The new backup system is expected to offer greater flexibility, improved privacy, and additional storage options for iPhone users.



Experts Call for Ethical AI Governance to Drive Pakistan's Development

Speakers urge government, academia, and industry to adopt artificial intelligence through strong governance and human oversight.

BY TECH DESK

Experts have called for the responsible integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into Pakistan's governance, education, and industrial sectors, emphasizing that AI should be guided by clear ethical principles, robust governance, and institutional preparedness.

The recommendations were made during the launch of three books on AI and technology governance organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Islamabad. Addressing the event, SDPI Executive Director Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Sajid Amin Javed stressed that AI can accelerate economic growth, improve governance, and strengthen research and higher education if implemented responsibly.

Author and technology governance expert Azhar Zia-ur-Rehman highlighted the growing importance of ethical AI frameworks, noting that regulations such as the European Union's AI Act demonstrate the need for

responsible adoption. He said successful AI implementation begins with a clear understanding of existing institutional systems and processes.

Other speakers, including Dr. Zafarullah Qureshi, emphasized that universities must focus on managing AI effectively rather than debating its adoption. They also warned that AI's success depends on high-quality data and sound data governance.

The event concluded with a consensus that while AI will play an increasingly significant role in shaping the future, human leadership, accountability, and ethical oversight must remain at the core of its development and use.



Oxford University Begins Human Trials of New Ebola Vaccine

Candidate vaccine targets Bundibugyo strain and could be deployed within weeks during future outbreaks.

BY HEALTH DESK

Oxford University has launched the first human clinical trial of a new vaccine designed to protect against the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, which has caused deadly outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Phase I trial will assess the vaccine's safety and immune response in 50 healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55 in the United Kingdom.

Named ChAdOx1 BDBV, the vaccine is based on the same technology used in the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, enabling rapid production and deployment if needed during future Ebola outbreaks.

In preparation for potential emergency use, 620,000 vaccine doses have already been stockpiled, while an additional 4,000 research doses have been supplied to support the ongoing clinical trial at Oxford.



Next Six Months Critical for Global Polio Eradication, Says National EOC

International delegation reaffirms support for Pakistan's anti-polio campaign and praises frontline health workers.

BY THE WORLD AMBASSADOR

A high-level delegation from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Polio Oversight Board visited Pakistan and met with officials at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to review the country's progress in eliminating polio.

During the meeting, the delegation received a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan's latest strategies and achievements in the fight against the disease. The NEOC emphasized that the next six months will be decisive for eradicating polio in Pakistan and worldwide.

The visiting delegation expressed confidence in Pakistan's polio eradication programme, commending the government's strong leadership and continued commitment to ending the virus. It also stressed the importance of strengthening routine immunization to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

The delegation met with frontline female health workers, acknowledging their dedication and vital contribution to Pakistan's polio eradication efforts. Their commitment was described as a cornerstone of the country's progress toward achieving a polio-free future.





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