



SBP working on exchange, interest rates for stability: says FinMin



CM Maryam orders adoption of Japanese technology for Punjab sewage, waste treatment



Law Minister calls for reforms in justice system amid rising gender-based violence cases

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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PM pledges full support for KP flood victims, announces cabinet's one-month salary

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday pledged the federal government's complete support for flood-hit communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, announcing the donation of one month's salary from the federal cabinet to aid relief efforts.

Chairing a meeting to review ongoing relief efforts by federal government in flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister directed the federal institutions to intensify efforts to assist rain and flood-affected people in various districts of KP. "In this hour of calamity, there is no federal or provincial government; we

must ensure the assistance and rehabilitation of affected people," the prime minister said adding that "Helping our distressed Pakistani brothers and sisters is our national responsibility". He said this was not a time for politics but for service and healing the wounds of the people. The prime minister stressed that the federal government will also provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased and affected individuals under the Prime Minister's relief package. Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan will oversee relief and rehabilitation operations in affected areas while the relevant federal ministers will personally monitor the restoration of electricity, water, roads, and other facilities in affected areas.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review ongoing relief efforts by federal government in flood affected areas of KP, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

DPM, UK Minister review full spectrum of bilateral relations, reaffirm shared commitment for deepening cooperation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Monday met with the UK's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, Rt. Hon Hamish Falconer, here at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). During the meeting, both sides reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening cooperation across political, economic, climate, and people-to-people domains, whereas they also exchanged views on regional and global developments, a DPM's Office news release said. The DPM/FM highlighted Pakistan's commitment to economic reforms, and shared Pakistan's perspective on regional developments, including peace and stability in South Asia. He underscored the importance of the just and peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir Dispute, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The two leaders appreciated the positive trajectory of Pakistan-UK ties and expressed satisfaction with on-going collaboration in areas of mutual interest. They also underscored the importance of maintaining regular high-level engagements to build on existing momentum and to explore new avenues for strategic cooperation.

Mohsin Naqvi pays surprise visit to NADRA Center, passport office

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to NADRA Center Kot Abdul Malik and Passport Office Shahdara on Monday. He reviewed the process of issuing CNICs, other documents, and passports. NADRA Center Kot Abdul Malik was closed due to renovation, while two mobile vans were present but the internet was down and long queues of citizens were seen. NADRA staff informed that the reason for the queues was the system outage. Citizens complained that proper guidance.

Gilani calls for collective action against climate change threats

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday said that climate change is a pressing reality, and although Pakistan contributes less than one percent to global emissions, it remains among the most vulnerable countries, facing floods, melting glaciers, and droughts. He was speaking at the Ethiopia-Pakistan Green Dialogue: Lessons from Ethiopia's Green Legacy, held at the COMSTECH Auditorium.

The event was organized by COMSTECH in collaboration with the Ethiopian Embassy.

Gilani praised Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative as a successful global model of reforestation and sustainability.



He said both Pakistan and Ethiopia share similar challenges and can work together through South-South cooperation.

Highlighting Pakistan's role in climate diplomacy, he recalled its leadership in pushing for the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 and advancing climate finance discussions at COP29.

He suggested practical

cooperation through joint task forces, parliamentary exchanges, and research partnerships, while also inviting Ethiopia's parliamentary leadership to the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference in Islamabad next year.

The Senate Chairman said parliament has already passed important laws like the Pakistan Climate

Fresh monsoon rains pound KP, Punjab as nationwide death toll tops 650

SIDRA SADOZAI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is grappling with one of its most devastating monsoon spells in years, as unrelenting rains and swelling floodwaters engulf large parts of the country.

At least 657 lives have lost and over 920 people injured nationwide in rain-related incidents since 26 June, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), with cloudbursts, lightning strikes, flash floods and collapsing homes wreaking havoc on communities.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) remains the worst-hit province, where remote mountainous districts such as Buner have become the epicentre of tragedy. Meanwhile, the



search is still on for many of those missing as Rescue 1122 officials a day earlier said they had recovered 373 bodies from the flood-hit areas across KP with majority of them from Buner district. "The Rescue 1122 has recovered 373 bodies from all the flood-hit districts of the province till Sunday while rescue and search

operation was still underway," spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Bilal Ahmad Faizi told The News. Meanwhile, fresh rains gripped parts of the country on Monday, compounding the misery of millions. In Mardan, heavy showers drenched the city and its outskirts, while Nowshera recorded thunderous rain-

fall across different localities. Cloudburst and landslides wreaked havoc in Swabi, submerging several houses and leaving at least four people dead. According to hospital sources, two women and two children died and seven people were injured when the roof of a house collapsed in Sarkoi village due to cloudburst-triggered flash flood, while landslides have also occurred at various places due to the mountainous area. In Swat's Mingora, torrential downpours paralysed daily life, while near Malakand also recorded significant rainfall.

US closely monitoring Pakistan-India after ceasefire: Rubio

PEAK POINT



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that Washington continues to closely watch developments between Pakistan and India, even after the ceasefire that ended the recent deadly clashes. The secretary of state pointed to the relations between Pakistan and India while discussing how fragile ceasefire arrangements can be, highlighting the difficulties of sustaining true agreements in conflict zones.

Speaking in an interview on Sunday, Rubio noted: "Every single day we keep an eye on what's happening between Pakistan and India, what's happening between Cambodia and Thailand. Ceasefires can fall apart very quickly, especially after a three-and-a-half-year [Russia-Ukraine] war like what we're facing now."

He added that while Washington continues to push for a truce in Ukraine, lasting peace can only be ensured through a negotiated settlement rather than temporary halt in hostilities. Earlier this year, Pakistan and India narrowly averted a dangerous escalation. On May 7,



SPORTS



Pakistan's Ashab Irfan lifts Johns Creek Open squash title in US



ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ashab Irfan won the Johns Creek Open title in the United States on Monday, overcoming Malaysia's Nathan in the final to conclude an impressive campaign.

After dropping the first game, Ashab made an impressive comeback to win three consecutive games in just 40 minutes. The final scoreline read 8-11, 11-2, 11-2, 11-6 in favor of the Pakistani star.

The tournament, which boasted a prize purse of \$12,000, saw Irfan deliver a stellar performance.

This victory marked Ashab's third PSA (Professional Squash Association) title of the year.

It is pertinent to mention that Ashab had advanced to the final of the Johns Creek Open on Sunday, while compatriot Asim Khan was ousted in the semi-finals.

In the semi-final, Irfan defeated Brazil's Diogo Gobbi 3-1 in a 53-minute encounter, with game scores of 11-7, 14-12, 4-11, and 11-5.

Meanwhile, top-seed Asim suffered a surprise defeat against Malaysia's Nathan Chua, losing 3-1 with scores of 11-9, 4-11, 11-7, and 11-9.

Earlier on Saturday, both Pakistani players had delivered

impressive performances to reach the semi-finals.

Asim overcame Egypt's Omar El Kattan 3-1 in a 46-minute quarter-final, with game scores of 10-12, 11-3, 11-3, 13-11. Ashab dominated Mexico's Cesar Segundo 3-0 in his quarter-final, winning 11-3, 11-8, 11-3.

Both players had also secured their quarterfinal berths with strong second-round performances on Thursday.

Top-seed Asim defeated Egypt's Kareem Badawi 3-1 in 45 minutes (11-3, 11-6, 5-11, 11-8), while second-seed Ashab Irfan dismantled the United States'

Christopher Gordon in just 20 minutes (11-2, 11-4, 11-4), showcasing aggressive shot-making and high-paced play.

However, Pakistan's Ahsan Ayaz and Muhammad Huzaifa Ibrahim were eliminated earlier. Seventh-seed Ayaz lost a five-game thriller against Omar El Kattan, falling 11-4, 10-12, 9-11, 11-8, 8-11 in 58 minutes.

Huzaifa Ibrahim bowed out in the round of 16, defeated by Brazil's third-seed Diogo Gobbi 9-11, 11-3, 11-4, 11-6 in 47 minutes, despite winning the opening game.

Poor performers face axe as PCB chief orders finalisation of central contracts

PEAK POINT

L A H O R E : Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Moinuddin Khan has directed the



board to finalize and announce the new central contracts for players before the national team departs for the UAE later this month.

The consultation process for new central contracts is currently underway as the previous contracts officially expired on June 30, leaving several players awaiting clarity on their future with the national setup.

Sahibzada Farhan, Hasan Nawaz, Fakhar Zaman, Faheem Ashraf, spinner Sufiyan Mubeen, and Mohammad Harris are likely to secure the central contract.

Meanwhile, Hasan Ali, Khushdil Shah, Hussain Talat, and Mohammad Nawaz are also likely to receive new contracts.

Amateur golfers shine at Hot Weather Independence Cup 2025

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: The Hot Weather Independence Cup 2025, a prestigious two-day amateur golf tournament, concluded here with 55 talented golfers, including both boys and girls, competing in various categories.

Babar told to raise strike rate, improve spin game for T20 return



MUHAMMAD USMAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former white-ball captain Babar Azam has been advised to work on his strike rate and ability against spin bowling if he is to be considered for future T20 Internationals, head coach Mike Hesson

said on Monday. Babar remained a crucial part of Pakistan's plans in Tests and ODIs, but the 30-year-old has not featured in a T20I since Pakistan's tour of South Africa late last year. He was left out of the squad for next month's Asia Cup, as selectors opted to give opportunities to emerging players including Sahibzada Farhan. "There's no doubt Babar's been asked to improve in some areas around taking on spin and in terms of his strike rate," Hesson said. "A player like Babar has an opportunity to play in the BBL and show he's improving in those areas in T20s. He's a good player not to consider," he said. Pakistan will begin their Asia Cup Group A campaign against Oman in Dubai on September 12 before meeting arch-rivals India at the same venue two days later.

he's working really hard on. But at the moment the players we have, have done exceptionally well.

"Sahibzada Farhan has played six games and won three player-of-the-match awards."

Babar should use the Big Bash League in Australia to improve his 20-overs batting and stage a comeback, Hesson said. "A player like Babar has an opportunity to play in the BBL and show he's improving in those areas in T20s. He's a good player not to consider," he said.

Pakistan will begin their Asia Cup Group A campaign against Oman in Dubai on September 12 before meeting arch-rivals India at the same venue two days later.



PESHAWAR: Corps Commander Lt Gen Oma Ahmed Bukhari HI(M) presenting a shield to executive Director Administration City University & Information Technology Muhammad Ayoub Sethi during the closing ceremony of the Hot weather Independence Cup match organized by KP Golf Association and sponsored by City University of Golf & Information Technology at PAF Golf Club.

Hosts China rule the roost as World Games conclude

PEAK POINT

CHENGDU: China swept two gold medals in breaking on Sunday while Zhang Hao and Zhu Siyi added two more when they reigned supreme in the roller sports event on the final day of The World Games as the hosts topped both the gold and overall medal tables for the first time. China has achieved its best-ever performance at the global showpiece, China's delegation officials announced on Sunday.

China's 321 athletes competed in 152 events across 28 sports, capturing 36 gold, 17 silver and 11 bronze medals. The tally marks the country's best record since it began participating in The World Games, said Zhang Xin, deputy head of the delegation, at a press conference. Held from Aug 7 to 17 under the slogan "Boundless Sports, Countless Wonders," this year's Games was the first to take place on the Chinese

mainland. China sent a 489-member delegation, its largest in the event's history. "China won gold medals in 18 sports, 45 athletes stood on top of the podium, and broke two world records," Zhang said, adding, "10 Chinese para-athletes showed their quality of tena-

Japanese dancers and Xiangyu — also known as Lithe-ing — as the lone Chinese. The 20-year-old defeated Hiroto Ono (B-Boy Hiro10) before overcoming Isshin Hishikawa (B-Boy Issin) in the final, with the home crowd on their feet throughout the contest,



cious, winning five golds and one silver at the Games."

In the breaking event at the Chengbei Gymnasium, China's Guo Pu and Qi Xiangyu claimed the women's and men's titles, respectively. The men's semi-finals featured three

cheering passionately for the local favorite. In the women's event, China showed even greater dominance as Guo Pu, whose stage name is B-Girl Royal, faced her national team-mate Liu Qingyi (B-Girl 671) in the final, winning in three rounds to claim the gold.



PESHAWAR: A group photo of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Lacrosse Association players after match.



Pakistan, Nepal can broaden collaboration in gender equality, SDGs, climate change: Romina

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians from Nepal and Pakistan on Monday vowed to boost synergies for joint efforts and experience sharing in areas of gender mainstreaming and climate justice as both the nations face similar challenges due to climate change, environmental degradation, and disaster resilience. Pakistan, Nepal can broaden collaboration in gender equality, SDGs, climate change: Romina

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan

jointly hosted a welcome lunch and interactive session with visiting Nepali parliamentarians and officials and their Pakistani counterparts, focusing on advancing gender-responsive budgeting, climate justice, and regional cooperation on sustainable development, said a press release.

Dr. Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director SDPI, welcomed the Nepali delegation and extended warm regards from SDPI's Executive Director Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri. He underscored the importance of mainstreaming gender in development planning and



stressed that "no justice is complete without gender justice."

In her special remarks, Romina Khurshid Alam, Prime Minister's Coordinator

for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, highlighted the importance of joint regional action. "Pakistan and Nepal can broaden their collaboration in

diverse areas, particularly gender equality, SDGs, and climate change," she said.

Recalling her work with the Asian Forum for Population Development, she emphasized the need for synergies across South Asia, noting that children and youth must be central to any gender matrix. "Women are change-makers and leaders, and we must lead this drive together," she added, proposing the creation of a South Asian Parliamentarians' Group to foster knowledge sharing and joint solutions.

Head of the Nepali delegation, Nagina Yadav, Nepalese Parliamentarian

hailing from Nepali Congress Party expressed gratitude to SDPI for hosting the dialogue and voiced solidarity with Pakistan over the tragic losses from recent cloudbursts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Nepal is also facing the same risks from climate-induced disasters. Women and children are the most vulnerable and should be prioritized in development initiatives," she said. She underscored cultural affinities between Pakistan and Nepal, expressing confidence that joint initiatives would deliver impressive regional impacts.

TİKA distributes 15,000 hot meals to Flood victims in Pakistan



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) has launched a relief initiative to support families affected by the recent devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of the

hardest-hit provinces of Pakistan. Under this initiative, TİKA will distribute a total of 15,000 hot meals to flood-affected communities. On the first day, 2,000 hot meals were delivered — 1,000 in Buner and 1,000 in Swat. This food assistance program will continue for

one week, providing vital relief to families in need. Through this humanitarian effort, TİKA reaffirms Türkiye's unwavering solidarity with the brotherly people of Pakistan, extending timely support during a period of hardship and loss.

PAF joins relief operations in flood hit parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Upholding its legacy of responding to the nation's call during times of natural calamities, Pakistan Air Force, extended vital support to ongoing relief operations in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In this regard, a total of 48 tons of relief goods arranged by an NGO were airlifted from Karachi to Peshawar through an Air Eagle B-737 aircraft. By establishing an air bridge, PAF has ensured the swift trans-

portation of urgently needed supplies to support relief efforts in the flood-hit districts of Buner and Shangla. The consignment comprising essential dry ration will be distributed among affected families in close coordination with National Disaster Management Authority. This humanitarian mission reflects Pakistan Air Force's enduring commitment to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the nation, not only in safeguarding the aerial frontiers of the country but also in providing timely assistance to fellow countrymen in times of crisis.

Opinion & Editorial

Censorship as Colonization: The Banning of Books in Kashmir



Sidra Sadozai
Resident Editor
Daily Peak Point
Censorship is never neutral. It is a tool of power, a conscious effort to impose control, silence critics, and obliterate past events. Censorship has evolved into a continuation of colonization in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In addition to the military presence, curfews, and barbed wire, the Indian government is currently suppressing journalists, banning books, and rewriting history in an effort to destroy Kashmiri memory, culture, and identity. This intellectual repression aims to colonize the future rather than just control the present.

Kashmiri authors. It is an effort to substitute state propaganda for Kashmiri narratives and establish silence as the only acceptable language. Erasure as Banning Indian authorities have been systematically removing books from Kashmiri libraries and educational institutions in recent years, particularly since the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019. Works that express Kashmiri identity, question the official narrative, or document violations of human rights are considered "anti-national."

Not even children's textbooks are exempt. All historical allusions to Kashmir's autonomy, culture, or political conflicts have been removed. The Hindutva-driven ideology of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is now reflected in school curricula, depriving young Kashmiris of their collective memory. This ban is an act of erasure rather than censorship. It is the willful erasure of a people's cultural heritage, memory, and right to tell their own story. Resistance through Words Modern authors like Agha Shahid Ali and poets like Habba Khatoon and Mahjoor made sure that the Kashmiri struggle was immortalized by capturing the beauty and suffering of the Valley. However, these statements pose a threat to an occupying force. Mass graves, enforced disappearances, torture, and sexual violence by security forces are among the realities they expose that India wants to hide. They serve as a reminder to the world that Kashmir is a homeland with a history and a people who are calling for independence, not just a "territory."

India wants to eliminate this tool of resistance by outlawing books. However, history demonstrates that words have always prevailed over empires. The Criminalization of Truth and Journalists In Kashmir, censorship goes far beyond books. Persecution of journalists is also unrelenting. Local journalists are labeled as "terrorists" or "anti-national" if they dare to report on violations of human rights. Journalism is criminalized through the use of laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Intelligence agencies summon editors, raid newsrooms, and make publications self-censor. It is difficult for independent journalism to thrive in this fear-based environment. But the truth comes through even when no one speaks. Journalists from Kashmir still run the risk of being imprisoned for reporting on the day-to-day conditions of occupation. Their bravery is evidence of the timeless impact of words.

The Dominance Project of Hindutva Hindutva ideology is at the core of this censorship. Kashmir is seen by the BJP and its supporters as a civilizational endeavor rather than merely a territorial dispute. They seek to incorporate Kashmir into a Hindu nationalist narrative in which difference is erased and dissent is treason. This narrative is not consistent with Kashmiri literature, which has strong ties to Sufi traditions, Muslim identity, and a history of resistance. It needs to be silenced as a result. India is attempting to impose cultural hegemony—a traditional act of colonization—by outlawing books. Because of this, censorship in Kashmir cannot be viewed as a stand-alone policy. It is a component of a larger plan to eradicate Kashmiri identity and substitute the Hindutva ideal of India for it.

Global Hypocrisy The international community's silence regarding this censorship is arguably its most unsettling feature. When it comes to India, Western governments that make a big deal out of press freedom and censorship in nations like China or Russia keep quiet. Human rights are subordinated to strategic alliances and economic partnerships. However, the prohibition of books in Kashmir is a worldwide issue rather than a regional one. Cultural genocide occurs when literature is suppressed. Ignoring Kashmir runs the risk of establishing a risky precedent in which strong governments can silence entire populations without consequence. Colonization through Censorship India's actions in Kashmir amount to mental colonization rather than censorship. New Delhi is trying to occupy Kashmiri consciousness itself by criminalizing truth, rewriting history, and restricting access to literature. Because it aims to alter a people's perception of themselves, their history, and their future, this type of colonialization is more pernicious than military rule. However, history shows us that these attempts are always unsuccessful. Through censorship, the British were unable to eradicate Indian nationalism. Black writers' voices could not be silenced by South Africa's apartheid government. Furthermore, India's military might is insufficient to eradicate Kashmiri identity through book bans.

Pakistan, GGGI explore carbon markets and green growth partnerships



SIDRA SADOZAI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik met with Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI) Country Representative Laura Jalasjoki on Monday to explore new avenues of cooperation, including carbon markets and nature-based solutions.

During the meeting, Jalasjoki

briefed the minister on GGGI's work in pursuing low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. She emphasized the organization's mission to promote inclusive green growth across diverse sectors.

Dr. Malik underscored that Pakistan's top priority is advancing solutions that deliver both climate adaptation and mitigation, especially in agriculture, one of the country's

most climate-sensitive sectors.

"Green growth partnerships must focus on long-term sustainability and measurable impact," he said, stressing that cooperation with international partners is vital for a resilient economic transition.

The two sides also discussed the potential of carbon markets as a financing tool for sustainable development.

Dr. Malik highlighted the need for international support to bridge the viability gap in carbon market mechanisms, while welcoming GGGI's technical assistance in helping Pakistan access and benefit from such opportunities.

The minister further noted that Pakistan is committed to expanding its adaptation and mitigation capacity, particularly through agriculture and nature-based solutions. "We are determined to accelerate the transition toward a green and resilient economy," he reaffirmed.

SBP working on exchange, interest rates for stability: says FinMin

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has stated that the State Bank of Pakistan is working on the exchange rate and interest rate, and the situation is expected to improve further.

The federal finance minister inaugurated the Job and Education Expo at the Expo Center, Karachi, organized by the Pakistan Hindu Council. At the expo, around 120 stalls were set up by various institutions and companies for students.

Speaking to the media, Aurangzeb expressed gratitude to the organizers, saying that he had the opportunity to meet the country's future leadership here. He noted that both public and private institutions were present at the job fair, but the absence of the corporate sector was felt.



He said that technology is the path to the future. Youth should work with their hearts and minds, and always strive for excellence. Speaking about the Independence Day celebration of the "Marka-e-Haq," the finance minister said that followers of all religions in the country commemorated it with great spirit. Online marketplace for Pakistani handicrafts and products. He added that the corporate sector needs to step forward. Interest rate should not be made the single-point agenda. In order to promote working capital.

CM Maryam orders adoption of Japanese technology for Punjab sewage, waste treatment

PEAK POINT

JAPAN: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Monday ordered the adoption of modern Japanese technology and methodology in managing sewage and waste treatment in the province.

Pakistan generates millions of tonnes of solid waste annually, but only a small fraction is treated. Inadequate sanitation in urban areas leads to recurring floods, waterborne illnesses and the resurgence of preventable diseases such as cholera, dengue and polio. The chief minister is currently on a five-day visit to Japan. A statement from her office said CM Maryam issued the order during a visit to Japan's largest wastewater treatment plant in Yokohama today.

"Japan's modern technology and methods will be used for sewage and waste management in Punjab," the statement quoted her as saying. The statement added that she inspected the waste treatment systems of

Asahi, Yokohama City, Kanagawa, Washimaku and Yodogawa.

According to the statement, the chief minister was given a detailed briefing on methods of collecting garbage and wastewater, along with waste disposal systems of Japanese cities.

She was apprised by the authorities that Yokohama was "the second largest city in Japan in terms of population" and that its Solid Waste and Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 1.5 million litres of wastewater daily. "Yokohama Waste Treatment Plant is also operating several plants that generate energy from waste. This energy is used for heating systems for the local population," the statement cited the Japanese authorities as saying, adding that the plant was an "ideal institution for disposal of waste using modern technology and methods". "Despite being an industrial city, Yokohama is at the top of [the] highest environmental standards," they said.



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz attends a meeting at Yokohama Town Hall in Yokohama, Japan.

PML-N leader urges govt to declare Swat a Disaster-hit area

PEAK POINT

SWAT: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Provincial Deputy General Secretary and former Tehsil Nazim, Fazal ur Rehman Nono, has demanded that the government immediately declare Swat a disaster-hit area following the recent heavy rains and floods that devastated Mingora and other parts of the district. In a press statement, Nono said the calamity had wreaked havoc across Swat, leaving victims in dire circumstances. He urged the federal and provincial governments to take emergency measures for the immediate relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected families. He stressed the need for a coordinated policy and transparent action plan to ensure that no deserving family is deprived of assistance. "Relief agencies must expedite their efforts and address the concerns of victims who are facing severe hardships," he said. Nono called on both the central and provincial leadership to play an active role in supporting Swat's flood victims and ensuring a swift and fair rehabilitation process.

Ministerial meeting on food security and agriculture cooperation held in Tehran

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain led a delegation at the high-level Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation held in Tehran, achieving a major breakthrough in transforming Pakistan-Iran trade relations in the agriculture sector. The minister was accompanied by the Director General, Department of Plant Protection (DPP), and the Joint Secretary, MNFSR. The meeting was co-chaired by his Iranian counterpart, Gholamreza Nourozi, and attended by senior representatives of key ministries, research institutions, and trade authorities from both countries, said a press



release issued on Monday. Rana Tanveer Hussain secured Iran's agreement to source a major portion of its rice imports from Pakistan. Both government procurements and private sector imports will now rely primarily on Pakistani rice, opening a consistent and stable export market for Pakistan.

Addressing longstanding challenges faced by fruit exporters, the minister obtained firm assurances for resolving hurdles in mango exports.

ADC Swat visits Flood-hit areas, distributes NFIs to affected families

HAROON SIRAJ

SWAT: Additional Deputy Commissioner (Relief) Swat, Syed Noman Ali Shah, visited the flood-affected areas of Mingora city Landikass, Bangladesh, Mulla Baba, Sharifabad, and Khyal Kor Model School to review the situation and meet the affected families. During the visit, the ADC listened to the grievances of the victims and assured them of full cooperation from the district administration. He also distributed non-food items (NFIs) among the flood-hit families, including blankets, foam, tents, mosquito nets, and hygiene kits, to help meet their immediate needs. ADC Shah



directed officials of the relevant departments present at the site to make the relief operations more effective and organized, ensuring that no family is left without assistance. Talking to this correspondent, he said that the district administration is utilizing all available resources in line with the provincial government's directives.

Defence Minister outlines aviation safety gains, airfare policy, and airspace closure impact

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, has addressed Parliament on key developments in the country's aviation sector, including airline fare regulation, safety and service quality reforms, the financial impact of airspace closures, and operational management at major airports. His statements highlighted the government's preference for competitive market pricing over fare caps, significant safety oversight improvements by the Pakistan Civil Aviation

Authority (PCAA), and revenue losses resulting from strategic airspace restrictions during recent tensions with India. On the issue of excessive airline fares, the minister said Pakistan does not impose direct fare caps, noting that global best practice supports healthy market competition to keep prices reasonable. Airfares are determined by supply, demand, and service quality, with PCAA monitoring pricing patterns to ensure they remain within reasonable limits except in peak or last-minute booking scenarios. He cautioned that fixed fare models

could distort the market, raise average prices, and force the government to subsidize airline losses — an unfeasible option given current economic conditions. Airlines are instead encouraged to increase domestic capacity to meet seasonal demand. Addressing aviation safety, Asif said Pakistan has achieved a notable improvement in its ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme score, reaching 84.69% in 2024 from 72.31% in 2021. This progress has restored international confidence, leading the European

Commission and UK Civil Aviation Authority to lift previous bans on Pakistani carriers. Engagement with the US Federal Aviation Administration is underway to regain Category 1 status and resume direct flights to the United States. Service quality improvements under the National Aviation Policy 2023 include stricter performance monitoring, enforcement of passenger rights, and mandatory compensation for delays or cancellations. The minister also detailed the financial implications of Pakistan's April-May 2025

airspace closure to Indian aircraft following heightened tensions over the Indus Waters Treaty and military operations. The restriction, affecting 100-150 Indian flights daily, reduced transit traffic by around 20%, with the Pakistan Airports Authority recording an estimated revenue shortfall of Rs. 4.1 billion for the April-June 2025 period. While acknowledging economic losses, Asif stressed that sovereignty and national security take precedence over revenue concerns, noting that Pakistani aircraft remain banned from Indian

airspace as well. In operational matters, Asif confirmed that the Airport Security Force manages baggage scanning machine maintenance at most major airports, while fourteen high-standard scanners at Islamabad Airport are maintained by the Pakistan Airports Authority. A previous two-year service agreement with OEM agent M/s Karsaz cost PKR 168.56 million; current maintenance is handled in-house. Questions on the Open Sky Policy's impact on PIA, land allotment for martyrs' heirs, female recruitment in the Pakistan Army.