

**Educational Institutions
In Winter Zone To
Remain Closed From
August 19 To 25**

ABBOTTABAD (News Desk) – The Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday announced the closure of all public and private colleges and universities located in the province’s winter zone. In Hazara division, the educational institutions of districts Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, and Kohistan will remain closed from August 19 to August 25, 2025. According to the notification, the decision has been taken as a precautionary measure in light of potential cloudbursts, heavy rains, flooding, and landslides, in order to protect the lives of students, teachers, and staff. The department has further directed the administrations of educational institutions to ensure that the academic process continues where possible, through online classes or assignments.

**Green Tractor
Scheme Phase II
Applications Open
Till Sept 1**

GUJRAT (News Desk) – Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) Muhammad Athar Latif said that the second phase of the Green Tractor Scheme has been launched and online applications will be received until September 1. He stated that the scheme, initiated on August 14, provides a subsidy of Rs1 million per tractor of 75 horsepower or above for farmers owning seven acres or more. Under the “Kisan Khushal, Punjab Khushal” programme, 20,000 tractors will be distributed with billions of rupees in subsidies. Farmers have been urged to apply through the official portal (<https://gts.punjab.gov.pk>) or contact agriculture officials for guidance.

**PM Shehbaz
Reiterates
Commitment For
Polio-free Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that the government’s health sector team, polio workers, and relevant institutions were determined to completely eradicate polio from the country. In a meeting with a delegation of Rotary International Foundation led by President Francesco Arezzo, he thanked the organisation for its cooperation, alongside other international partners, in fighting the disease. The prime minister said that despite challenges, the government was committed to securing the future of children through its dedication and hard work, praising the key role of polio workers. The delegation lauded Pakistan’s efforts, reaffirmed Rotary’s support, and highlighted that the organisation spent \$500 million on eradication in Pakistan last year, with plans for further funding this year. They also appreciated the prime minister’s selection of the polio eradication team and its measures. The meeting was attended by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal, Special Representative Ayesha Raza Farooq, and senior officials.



A delegation of Rotary International Foundation led by President Francesco Arezzo called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad

**Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza
Gilani Meets Ethiopian Ambassador,
Highlights Strong Bilateral Ties**

Islamabad (News Desk) – Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, held a significant meeting with the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Dr. Jamal Beker Abdulla, at Parliament House, Islamabad. The two sides discussed a broad range of issues, including bilateral relations, trade, investment, environmental cooperation, and regional as well as global developments. On this occasion, the Chairman Senate, Senators, and the Ethiopian Ambassador planted a sapling in the Friendship Garden at Parliament House as part of an ongoing tree plantation campaign. Chairman Senate Gilani emphasized that Pakistan and Ethiopia share long-standing and historic relations. He welcomed the establishment of the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad and the launch of direct Ethiopian Airlines flights between Karachi and Addis Ababa, terming them important milestones in strengthening bilateral ties. He also stressed the early conclusion of the air services agreement to unlock new opportunities for trade and investment. Mr. Gilani expressed gratitude to Ethiopia for supporting Pakistan’s candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council (2025–26), noting that close cooperation between the two countries at regional and international forums has consistently strengthened mutual relations. Underscoring the role of parliamentary diplomacy, the Chairman Senate highlighted the active Pakistan–Ethiopia Parliamentary Friendship Group and called for enhanced exchanges between parliamentary delegations and people-to-people contacts. He reaffirmed that economic diplomacy remains a cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy and urged greater efforts to diversify bilateral trade. Chairman Senate Gilani also pointed to Pakistan’s globally renowned products—including high-quality rice, surgical and medical instruments, pharmaceuticals, and FIFA-standard footballs—as areas where Ethiopia could increase imports.



Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry presiding over a meeting in Islamabad, to discuss measures for reducing container dwell time at ports.

**UAF stresses sustainable SMEs
development for economic growth**

FAISALABAD (News Desk) Business Incubation Center (BIC), University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) arranged a session on “Sustainable SMEs Development” at New Senate Hall. Addressing the gathering, Strategic Management Specialist Dr Sarfraz Ahmad said that small and medium enterprises play an important role to generate economic activities and alleviate poverty. He urged the young entrepreneurs to ensure proper planning for the sustainable business model. He stressed upon young entrepreneurs to create critical thinking and come up with out of the box solutions that will help ensure success in life. He also added that small business owners can play significant role in uplifting the socio-economic condition of the country. Director BIC Prof Dr Iftikhar Ahmad said that BIC is committed to nurturing innovative ideas and transforming them into successful business models. This is need of the hour to provide our young entrepreneurs with mentorship, training and best available resources that will ensure a brighter future. The session brought together experts, faculty and young entrepreneurs to discuss strategies to strengthening small and medium enterprises in the country.

**Chairman PM’s Youth
Programme Welcomes
Turkish Student
Delegation,
Strengthening Pakistan–
Turkey Educational Ties**

Islamabad (News Desk) – A meeting was held at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Chairman Prime Minister’s Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, welcomed the visiting Turkish Student Delegation representing the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF; Türkiye Maarif Vakfı?). The delegation’s visit marks a significant milestone in strengthening the cultural and educational ties between Pakistan and Turkey.



The meeting focused on the Youth Cultural Exchange Program, a new initiative designed to promote mutual understanding and collaboration in fields such as education, entertainment, and language. Additionally, the discussions set the foundation for future student exchange initiatives between both countries. The Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF), established by the Turkish Parliament, is committed to providing educational services abroad, fostering global cultural and educational exchanges. Operating in 67 countries with a network of 332 institutions, TMF serves over 40,000 students and offers programs ranging from preschool to higher education. The Foundation also provides scholarships, dormitories, and educator training.

**Pakistan and Bangladesh
Explore Enhanced
Cooperation in Energy
and Mineral Sectors**

Islamabad (News Desk) – Federal Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik was called on by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, at the Ministry of Petroleum. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including limestone, coal and petroleum products to foster mutual economic growth and energy security. Minister Ali Pervaiz highlighted Pakistan’s commitment to deepening ties with Bangladesh, stating, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is keen to support our brothers in Bangladesh and enhance cooperation in various sectors. Pakistan values its relationship with Bangladesh and is eager to explore joint ventures that benefit both nations." The meeting explored potential avenues for partnership in the exploration sector,