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Pakistan Day Parade in New Jersey Highlights Cultural Pride and Community Spirit

New York (News Desk) The Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Mr. Rizwan Saeed Shaikh, along with the Consul General of Pakistan in New York, Mr. Aamer Ahmed Atozai, attended the Pakistan Day Parade organized by the Pakistani American community in New Jersey. The annual event was marked by vibrant cultural displays and a strong turnout from Pakistani Americans as well as members of other communities. The parade featured stalls showcasing Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage, handicrafts, and traditional cuisines, spirited while performances, including national songs presented by Pakistani artists, highlighted the deep patriotic sentiments of the community. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Shaikh underscored significance of Pakistan's Independence Day, describing it as a proud milestone in the nation's history, adding that the celebrations this year carry added joy due to Pakistan's recent victory in Bunyanul Marsoos, which has united the nation under its leadership. The Ambassador praised the contributions of the Pakistani American community, noting that their role in the progress and development of the United States is a source of pride for Pakistan, while encouraging community members to remain engaged in the social fabric and democratic processes of their adopted homeland. He emphasized the importance constructive participation and also commended the achievements of the Pakistani Ice Hockey Team, which recently excelled at the Amerigol Latam Ice Hockey Tournament in the United States, bringing further recognition to Pakistan's sporting talent. The event concluded with a reaffirmation of the enduring bond between Pakistan and its diaspora in the United States, as well as a shared commitment to promoting cultural understanding and national pride.

PM Shehbaz, Lauds UAE Envoy's Role in

Strengthening Bilateral Ties Islamabad (News Desk) Amb. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi, the outgoing Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House where Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kiyani, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch were also present. The Prime Minister congratulated the Ambassador on the successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan and thanked him contribution towards strengthening of Pakistan-UAE relations. He lauded the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, in forging closer Pakistan-UAE ties that reflected the longstanding, deep-rooted, fraternal bonds between the two countries. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that in recent months, both sides had taken important steps to further bolster relations, including the visits of Foreign Minister His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs progress review meeting on faceless appraisal of customs, in Islamabad

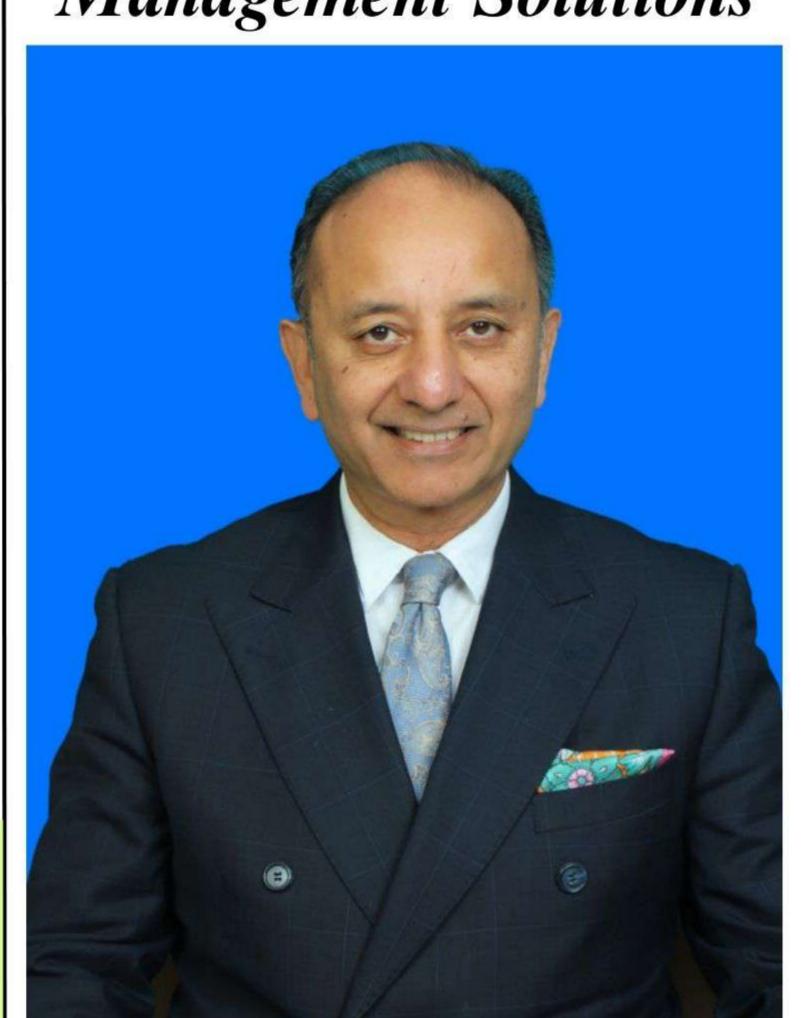
Pakistan Takes Major Step in Digital Economy as PVARA Holds First Board Meeting

Islamabad (News Desk) The Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) held its first board meeting in Islamabad, marking a pivotal step in Pakistan's journey toward embracing blockchain, virtual assets, and the digital economy. The meeting was attended by Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, as a special invitee, alongside Minister of State for Crypto and Blockchain and PVARA Chairman Bilal bin Saqib, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Federal Secretaries of the Ministries of IT and Law and Justice, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), and key stakeholders, including representatives from the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA). In his address, the Finance Minister hailed the establishment of PVARA as a transformative milestone in Pakistan's economic evolution. He emphasized the Authority's critical role in positioning Pakistan as a leader in the global virtual assets economy. The Minister expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Crypto Council (PCC) for its foundational contributions and extensive consultations with stakeholders, institutions, and experts, which were instrumental in establishing PVARA. The Board deliberated on key priorities, including operationalizing PVARA to align with international Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) standards, recommending independent directors with expertise in virtual assets for approval, and establishing the Authority's core framework. To accelerate progress, the Board agreed to form dedicated committees focused on sandbox experimentation, taxation policies, regulatory drafting, and international engagement. A draft of the proposed licensing framework was also shared with the members for consultation, which will be finalized in the coming days. Additionally, PVARA will hold bi-monthly meetings for the first six months to ensure robust feedback and stakeholder consultation. The Board also approved the creation of a complaint portal, developed in collaboration with the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), to address concerns related to virtual assets and provide timely redressal. The Board also deliberated on the withdrawal of BPRD Circular No. 03 of 2018, issued by the State Bank of Pakistan, which had directed financial institutions to refrain from dealing in virtual currencies and tokens. Chairman Bilal bin Saqib remarked: "Today is a defining moment for Pakistan's virtual assets ecosystem. PVARA will safeguard financial integrity while fostering innovation, investment, and opportunity in the virtual assets space. Our goal is to build trust domestically and enhance Pakistan's credibility as a forward-thinking player in the global virtual assets economy." The Finance Minister reiterated the government's unwavering support for PVARA, underscoring its role in promoting the responsible adoption of virtual assets and strengthening Pakistan's financial system against illicit activities

ECP Reminds Political Parties to Submit Audited Financial Statements by August 29

Islamabad (News Desk) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a formal reminder to all political parties, directing their leadership to submit consolidated and audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2024–25, which concluded in June 2025. As per the requirements of Sections 204 and 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, and Rules 159 and 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, all parties are obligated to file their financial disclosures with the Commission on or before August 29, 2025. Under Section 210 of the Elections Act, political parties are legally bound to submit, within forty days after the end of each financial year, their financial statements on Form-D, duly audited and certified by a Chartered Accountant. The statements must include a comprehensive breakdown of the party's annual income and expenditures, sources of funding, as well as its assets and liabilities. These documents must be signed by an authorized party official, confirming that no funds were received from any prohibited sources as defined under the Elections Act, 2017, and that the statements provide a true and fair view of the party's financial position. The submission must also include a valid and current renewal certificate issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) as proof of the auditor's accreditation. Form-D is available free of charge at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad, as well as at the offices of the Provincial Election Commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, and it is also accessible on the ECP's official website. The Commission has strictly instructed that no overwriting will be tolerated on the submitted forms, and all submissions must be clean, complete, and compliant with the specified format. Furthermore, each submission must include bank statements for all party accounts covering the full financial year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Federal Climate Minister, Karachi Mayor Discuss Wastewater and Plastic Management Solutions



Islamabad (News Desk) Federal Minister for Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, called on Mayor of Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, during his visit to the city where both leaders visited the TP-III Wastewater Treatment Plant and the KWSC Pumping Station and were briefed on ongoing projects aimed at treating wastewater and reusing it for industrial purposes. In the meeting, they discussed strategies to address Karachi's pressing challenges related to wastewater management and plastic waste treatment, with Dr. Malik emphasizing the importance of innovative and sustainable solutions to safeguard the environment, improve urban resilience, and promote circular economy practices. The Federal Minister expressed solidarity with the people of Karachi, reaffirming the government's commitment to supporting the city in tackling environmental and infrastructural challenges, and assured that the Ministry of Climate Change would take the Ministry of Maritime Affairs on board to ensure coordinated efforts in developing long-term, integrated solutions for Karachi's environmental sustainability.

Health Minister Reviews DRAP's New Digital Licensing System for

Medical Devices Islamabad (News Desk) Federal Minister for Health, Mr. Mustafa Kamal, visited the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to review the newly deployed Online Registration and Licensing System for Medical Devices, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 21st July 2025. Since its launch, 940 applications have been received, including 610 registration Post 53 Registration applications, Variations, 75 Product Renewals, 31 new Licensing applications, 7 Post Licensing Variations, and 22 Renewals of Licenses, out of which 188 applications have already been approved with Digital Letters issued, while the rest are under process. The Minister was apprised that the system is continuously with parameters on the evolving, Management Dashboard increasing from 10 to 23 within just one month, enabling more vigilant monitoring effective and management. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kamal said the digitization of the medical devices system has facilitated ease of doing business, promoted domestic and foreign investment.