

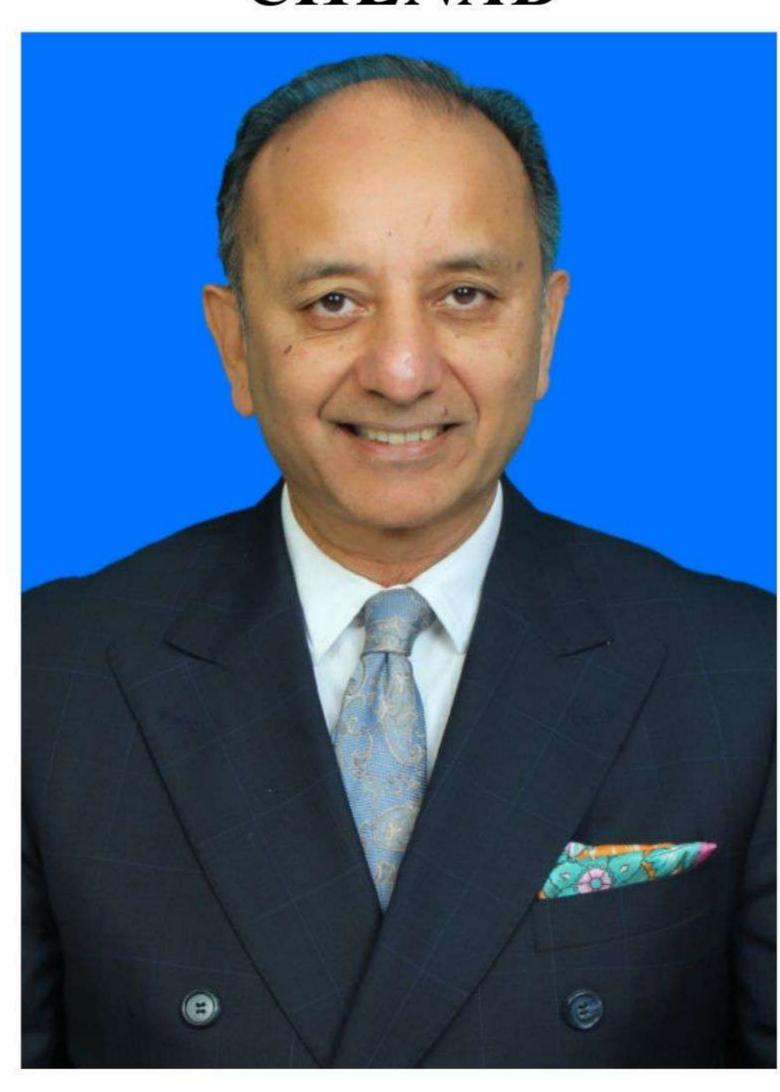
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FEDERAL MINISTER DR. MUSADIK MALIK VISITS RIVER CHENAB



Islamabad (News Desk) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, visited the River Chenab to assess the situation on the ground. During the visit, he met with rescue personnel and lauded their dedication, public service, and tireless efforts in protecting lives, paying tribute to their commitment and sacrifices. Dr. Malik also interacted with local communities to understand their concerns and reviewed precautionary and administrative measures along the riverbanks to mitigate risks. Emphasizing that citizen safety is the government's top priority, the Minister reaffirmed that all available resources will be mobilized to address flood-related threats and ensure timely, effective responses to any potential emergencies.

GOVERNMENT PUSHES SHIPPING SECTOR GROWTH AS PNSC FLEET GROWS TO 12 VESSELS

Islamabad (News Desk) – Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) has expanded its fleet from 10 to 12 vessels with the addition of two Aframax-class tankers, Swan Lake and P. Aliki, enhancing the country's maritime and energy transport capacity. PNSC CEO Zarar Hussain briefed Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, during a meeting attended by the ministry's Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, other officials, and heads of Karachi Port Trust and Port Qasim Authority. Minister Chaudhry stated that the new tankers strengthen the national shipping sector and announced plans to expand the fleet to 20 vessels by year-end. He highlighted the role of Aframax tankers in transporting crude oil and petroleum products efficiently, noting their ability to access ports unsuitable for larger carriers. Emphasizing Pakistan's reliance on imports for nearly 70% of its energy needs and the \$4.6 billion annual cost of foreign freight, he said expanding the PNSC fleet will save foreign exchange, boost revenue, and enhance energy security. The minister also noted that PNSC is pursuing new domestic and international business opportunities to strengthen the maritime economy and supply chain resilience.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting in Narowal regarding the flood situation in Punjab,

FEDERAL MINISTER AURANGZEB KHAN KHICHI INAUGURATES TREE PLANTATION CAMPAIGN AT LOK VIRSA

Islamabad (News Desk) — Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, inaugurated a tree plantation campaign at Lok Virsa on Thursday by planting a sapling. The event was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Member of the National Assembly Nuzhat Sadiq, and Secretary IPC, Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani. Workers of Lok Virsa actively participated in the plantation drive, and a large number of female students also joined, planting trees across the premises. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi emphasized the importance of collective efforts in combating climate change and preserving the environment for future generations. He highlighted that cultural and heritage institutions not only safeguard traditions but also promote environmental responsibility. The Minister appreciated the involvement of students and staff, noting that their participation demonstrates a shared commitment to cultural preservation and environmental sustainability.

NO ALARMING SITUATION OF WHEAT SHORTAGE IN PAKISTAN: RANA TANVEER HUSSAIN



Islamabad (News Desk) — Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, reaffirmed the government's commitment to food self-sufficiency by protecting farmers' interests and stabilizing the wheat market during the 8th Wheat Board meeting. The Minister reviewed the country's wheat demand and supply as well as availability of critical inputs for the upcoming Rabi season 2025–26, noting that national wheat stocks stand at 33.47 million metric tons against a requirement of 33.58 MMT, leaving a minimal shortfall of 0.11 MMT, which he described as insignificant. He assured that Pakistan will not import wheat as existing reserves are sufficient

. Emphasizing support for local farmers over markets or middlemen, the Minister confirmed ample supplies of urea and other inputs for Rabi crops and assured strict monitoring of domestic fertilizer prices. He cautioned that abrupt regulatory actions at the provincial level could create unnecessary market panic and stressed the need for better coordination between federal and provincial governments. Highlighting long-term food security, he urged enhancing wheat yield per acre, reducing production costs through technology and farmer support, and focusing on sustainable solutions. The meeting concluded with a resolve to safeguard farmers'interests and ensure uninterrupted food supplies for the nation.



Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi inaugurated a Tree Plantation Campaign by planting a sapling at Lok Virsa Islamabad

ADB President Meets Economic Affairs Minister, Pledges Support for ML-1 and Development

Development Islamabad (News Desk) Mr. Masato Kanda, President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), called on the Minister for Economic Affairs on August 27, 2025. The Minister termed his visit as a reflection of the enduring and trusted partnership between Pakistan and ADB, which has played a pivotal role in supporting the country's development priorities, over the years. The Minister also congratulated ADB on the commencement of its new office building in Islamabad, marking another milestone in the Bank's close and long-standing engagement with Pakistan. The Minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts towards macroeconomic recovery and stabilization, noting the recent credit rating upgrades. He apprised that headroom of USD 2 billion was agreed during the visit of former President ADB last year and requested to enhance the annual lending headroom in view of the improving macroeconomic indicators. The Secretary Railways made a presentation on ML-1 apprising the President and his team on scope and financing needs of the project. The Minister expressed confidence that ADB will provide support for the ML-1 project in a phased manner keeping in view the significance for passenger transportation, trade, and regional connectivity. He also stressed the need to reduce the timelines of processing of ML-1 project for early start of implementation. He urged the President to consider reforms in the framework of credit guarantees regarding the manner in which headroom is tapped. He underscored the importance of ensuring additionality in climate finance, noting that repurposing existing country allocations to address climate challenges and flood emergencies has only a minimal net impact while diverting resources away from other critical development sectors in urgent need. President Kanda extended heartfelt condolences on the lives lost and populations affected by the recent devastating monsoon rains and floods. He acknowledged Pakistan's macroeconomic recent stabilization and reform efforts, reaffirming ADB's commitment to be a long-term partner in the country's development efforts. He highlighted that Pakistan is a founding member of ADB and among its top five cumulative borrowers.

PNCA Inaugurates "Shared Distances" Exhibition Showcasing Young Artists

Islamabad (News Desk) — The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) inaugurated the third edition of its annual exhibition, "Shared Distances," highlighting the creativity of young fine arts graduates from the twin cities. Curated by Noor Fatima, the exhibition features over 90 artworks by more than 40 emerging artists from leading institutions, including the National College of Arts (Rawalpindi), Fatima Jinnah Women University, COMSATS University, and Rawalpindi Women University.