

Friday 08 August 2025

Safar 13,1447

Volume No 18

Issue No 301
Pages 06

### Govt Committed to Supporting Gems and Jewelry Sector: Jam Kamal Khan



ISLAMABAD (News Desk) — In a bid to strengthen non-traditional exports, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has assured full government support to the gems and jewelry sector during a meeting with the All Pakistan Small Gems Jewellers and Training Association (APSGTA). The delegation, led by Qari Muhammad Ashraf, sought revival of S.R.O 760 and exemption from S.R.O 924, citing strong compliance history. The minister recognized the sector's role in economic diversification and emphasized balanced reforms, ease of doing business, and global promotion through participation forums in France, in Bangladesh, and Ethiopia. He stressed public-private collaboration, skills development, and inclusive growth, especially women entrepreneurs, for artisans and pledging strategic measures to boost exports and job creation in the sector.

### Maritime Minister urges port?city journalists to champion blue economy

#### awareness

Islamabad (News Desk): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has urged port city journalists to highlight Pakistan's blue economy and its importance for livelihoods and climate Addressing 30-member resilience. a delegation of the Sindh Parliamentary minister Association, the Reporters encouraged the media to move beyond conventional coverage of shipping and trade. He called for greater focus on issues such as aquaculture, sustainable fisheries, mangrove restoration, and community?led coastal protection projects. The Sindh Parliamentary Reporters Association delegation, currently on a study tour of the capital led by its Secretary General Akram Baloch and Tahir Sadiqui, senior staff reporter at Dawn and Secretary Gym Club of the Karachi Press Club, visited the Ministry of Maritime Affairs at the invitation of Federal Minister Junaid Anwar Chaudhry. Junaid Chaudhry said port cities, particularly Karachi, are at the forefront of both maritime economic potential and the risks posed by climate change. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events threaten infrastructure, livelihoods, and local economies. He stressed that these urban and coastal hubs can only secure their future by embedding climate resilience into growth strategies centered on the blue economy. This, he explained.



Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry talking to a delegation of the Sindh Parliamentary Reporters Association in Islamabad

#### UAF, WASA & JICA Join Hands to Launch Modern Wastewater Treatment Plant in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (News Desk) Experts at a meeting held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad have called for addressing contaminated water irrigation for agriculture, posing serious health hazards that need to be filtered out with wastewater treatment. It was discussed at meeting. WASA Managing Director Sohail Qadir Cheema along with a three-member delegation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Deputy Managing Director (Engineering) Saqib Raza visited the UAF and called on UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali, deans, and directors to discuss pressing water issues in the agriculture sector, including wastewater treatment and sustainable water management solutions. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the plan to establish a modern and environment friendly wastewater treatment plant in the premises of UAF which will not only help prevent water wastage but will also play a key role in achieving sustainable development goals for the agriculture sector. Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali said that contaminated water for agriculture sector was posing a serious health threat. He said that this project is a great development for the university. He said that the establishment of the Waste Water Treatment Plant will not only strengthen the research programs of the university but will also play an important role in promoting efficient use of water in the agricultural sector. He appreciated WASA and JICA's support and said that such projects would further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Japan and would be helpful in achieving the goals of environmental sustainability. WASA Managing Director Sohail Qadir Cheema said that the proposed wastewater treatment plant at the University the support of JICA will be a unique and first-of-its-kind project. Through this plant, wastewater will be purified using modern technology, which will be used for irrigation of agricultural lands and address health hazards. He said that this project will prove to be a milestone in the fields of environmental protection, better use of water resources, and agricultural research. He said through this plant, students will get practical training and research opportunities in the fields of water treatment technologies. During the meeting, the JICA delegation gave a detailed briefing on the technical details of the project, financial resources, and its potential environmental and agricultural benefits. The delegation assured that JICA would provide modern technology and its technical expertise for the project so that the plant would not only be efficient but also provide sustainable results on a long-term basis. All the parties participating in the meeting agreed that this project would be a wonderful example of cooperation among UAF, WASA, and JICA. This project would not only introduce modern water management practices but also serve as a role model for increasing agricultural production and environmental protection.

### UAF Launches Center of Islamic Finance in Collaboration with Meezan Bank

FAISALABAD (News Desk) The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has established the Center of Islamic Finance meant for scaling up Islamic financial literacy, producing quality human resource and entrepreneurs in the said financial system for a better tomorrow. The center worth Rs 2.5 million is set up in collaboration with Meezan Bank Limited at the Institute of Business Management Sciences and inaugurated by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali and Meezan Bank Deputy Head Shariah Compliance Department Shayan Ahmad Baig. Meezan Bank GM Faisalabad Moazzam Saeed, Dean Social Sciences Dr Babar Shahbaz, Director IBMS Dr Abdul Ghafoor and all faculty members of the institute attended. The center was meant for training sessions, Degree programe on Islamic Finance and tangible research work. Addressing on the occasion, Dr Zulfiqar Ali said that the center will also assist in promoting the innovation, and technology commercialization with the help of Islamic financing. He added that Islamic financing has gained the immense popularity across the globe and we should reap its benefit for prosperity. He said that the university was housing Business Incubation Center and National Incubation Center that are producing the entrepreneurs and helping establish startup so that they can become job provider rather than job seekers. He urged the center to develop the financial model of the university as per Shariah Compliance. Shayan Ahmad Baig said that the country sets 2028 deadline for complete transition to Islamic banking. He said that under the center, trainings and other Islamic financial aspects will be promoted and this center emerge Model center of the region. He said that the Bank promotes the slogan of make Islamic Banking the first choice. He said that they had worked with IBA to pace up the said financial system. Dr Babar Shahbaz said that Islamic banking is a growing sector globally. He said Islamic financial literacy is essential for young entrepreneurs seeking business models. He added that the university is committed to equipping students with knowledge of both financial system. Dr Abdul Ghafoor said that Meezan Bank is the pioneering Islamic bank in the country. He said that the university in collaboration with Islamic Financial Institute will start new degree programs in the said field. He said that they are tacking all possible to produce trained men power. Dr Sahar Munir said that academia-industry linkages will pave a way for

knowledge economy. She shed light on the Islamic financing system.

# NEOC Issues Flash Flood Alert for Kashmir Region and GilgitBaltistan Amid Monsoon Spells

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – The National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) of NDMA has issued a flash flood alert for Kashmir Region and Gilgit-Baltistan due to expected heavy monsoon activity from August 6 to 7, 2025. Intense rainfall, wind, and thunderstorms are forecasted in vulnerable districts of AJK, including Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, and Poonch, while flash flood risks are also anticipated in GB areas such as Skardu, Hunza, and Diamir. Residents near rivers and streams are advised to remain alert, avoid crossing flooded roads, and relocate valuables and livestock to safer ground. NDMA urges the public to follow official updates via media and its Disaster Alert app, as authorities remain on high alert to coordinate preparedness and emergency response.

## Pakistan Reaffirms National Commitment to Breastfeeding During World Breastfeeding Week

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – As World Breastfeeding Week is observed, the Government of Pakistan has reiterated its commitment to promoting, strong protecting, and supporting breastfeeding as a national priority. Declaring breastfeeding a vital investment in the country's health, economy, and gender equality, the government noted that only 48% of infants are exclusively breastfed in the first six months—below the global target of 60%. Emphasizing shared responsibility, officials called for enabling policies, stronger health systems, family and workplace support, and the enforcement of international regulations on breastmilk substitute marketing. The government pledged to improve communitybased support through Lady Health Workers and integrate breastfeeding-friendly policies across public and private sectors, recognizing breastfeeding as a powerful equalizer for child survival, growth, and development.

## "SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan Invited to Represent Pakistan at World Expo 2025 in Japan"

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, was called on by the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Akamatsu Shuichi, today in Islamabad. During the meeting, Ambassador Shuichi formally invited SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan to visit Japan and attend the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, where Mr. Khan will represent Pakistan at the Pakistani Pavilion and promote the country's cultural heritage.SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan will also meet key Japanese government officials