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Bangladesh's Religious Affairs Adviser Meets PM Shehbaz Sharif, Discusses Bilateral Ties and Flood Relief

Islamabad (News Desk) Bangladesh's Adviser on Religious Affairs, Dr. A. F. M. Khalid Hossain, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif today, accompanied by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan, Md Iqbal Hussain Khan. The Prime Minister warmly welcomed the delegation, highlighting that Pakistan-Bangladesh relations are deeply rooted in shared history, cultural ties, and familial affinities, and expressed satisfaction over positive developments in people-to-people contacts, academic exchanges, trade, and economic relations, emphasizing that ties should continue to grow stronger. Fondly recalling previous meetings in New York and Cairo, the Prime Minister lauded Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus for his visionary leadership and efforts in poverty alleviation, as well as his desire to strengthen bilateral relations. Dr. Hossain thanked the Prime Minister and handed over a letter from Professor Yunus conveying condolences over flood-related losses in Pakistan and offering relief assistance. Both sides also discussed the early resumption of direct flights between the two countries. The Prime Minister expressed hope for continued high-level exchanges to sustain bilateral momentum and reiterated his invitation to the Chief Adviser for an official visit to Pakistan, while the Bangladeshi side extended a reciprocal invitation to the Prime Minister.

FBR Holds Stakeholder Meeting to Showcase Transformation Plan, Highlights Technology-Driven Reforms

Islamabad (News Desk) The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) held a meeting with representatives of the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) and Pakistan Business Council (PBC) to present a holistic view of its transformation plan, chaired by Chairman Rashid Mahmood. Member Inland Revenue Operations, Dr. Hamid Ateeq Sarwar, detailed the FBR transformation plan approved by the Prime Minister in October 2024, focusing on people, technology, and processes. Key reforms include hiring around 1,600 auditors to boost audit capacity, training officers at prestigious universities, and appointing staff based on integrity with a high-powered incentive package. Technology-driven initiatives such as digital production monitoring in key sectors, integration of data sources, and AI-driven audit selection aim to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency, linking economic activity to tax filings and targeting tax evasion. Participants were briefed on sector-specific tech solutions and commended the increase in FBR's tax-to-GDP ratio from 8.8% in 2023–24 to 10.24% in 2024–25, the Faceless Customs Appraisement improving revenue per GD by 17.3%, and enhanced Customs efficiency reducing dwell time and demurrages. Chairman Rashid Mahmood emphasized taxpayer facilitation .

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif accompanied by a high level Pakistani delegation departs from Islamabad for Doha on his one day official visit of Qatar to express solidarity with Qatar in the wake of heinous attacks carried out by Israel on Doha.

Commerce Minister Reviews Pakistan's Trade Performance, Emphasizes Export Diversification

Islamabad (News Desk) The Minister for Commerce chaired a high-level meeting today to review Pakistan's trade performance during the first two months of the 2025–26 financial year, attended by senior officials and representatives from relevant departments. The meeting noted that Pakistan's exports remained stable at USD 5.11 billion during July–August 2025–26 despite challenging global conditions, with the textile and apparel sector increasing by 10% and remaining the backbone of the economy. Exports to Africa grew by 9% and to South Asia by 7%, while North America and the EU recorded stable performance, highlighting efforts to expand into new markets. Imports were mainly driven by higher demand for energy, raw materials, and food items, reflecting growing domestic economic activity and providing opportunities for import substitution and local manufacturing under the "Make in Pakistan" initiative. The Minister issued key directions including diversification of export products and markets with a focus on high-value and non-traditional sectors, development of import substitution strategies, strengthening export competitiveness, and expediting value addition in textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing. He commended exporters for their resilience and reiterated the Government's commitment to facilitating the business community, securing new market access, and ensuring sustainable trade growth, reaffirming that the Ministry of Commerce remains fully dedicated to building a resilient, diversified, and competitive trade sector aligned with Pakistan's economic growth and employment objectives.

CEO Milat Tractors called on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan to discuss Tractor Policy on 11/09/2025 in Islamabad.

SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan Holds Meeting on Comprehensive Tractor Policy

Islamabad (News Desk) Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Haroon Akhtar Khan, held a meeting with the CEO of Millat Tractors to discuss the formulation of a comprehensive Tractor Policy, deliberating on regulatory duties, exports, and overall challenges facing the tractor industry. He stated that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision, the Tractor Policy will follow the recently prepared Industrial Policy, with all stakeholders included to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness. Highlighting the industry's importance as the backbone of farmers and agriculture in Pakistan, he emphasized that the policy will be developed in consultation with stakeholders and aligned with international best practices. Haroon Akhtar Khan underscored that sustainable solutions for the tractor industry require a long-term policy framework and added that under the Prime Minister's directives, Pakistan is moving towards a new industrial revolution.

PM's Committee Reviews Flood Damages in AJK, Emphasizes Data-Driven Rehabilitation

Islamabad (News Desk) Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, chaired a high-level meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to examine damages caused by recent floods in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), attended by Federal Minister for Water Resources Mian Muhammad Moeen Watto, NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, Chief Secretary AJK Khushal Khan, and senior officials. The committee was briefed on initial ground assessments of flood damages, estimated rehabilitation costs, and infrastructural repairs, while NDMA Chairman highlighted a forthcoming comprehensive national survey and audit for a transparent, data-driven evaluation. Dr. Malik recommended a triangulated damage assessment methodology involving the AJK government, SDMA AJK, and NDMA, with technical experts to ensure accurate and locally contextualized cost estimates. The committee agreed that this coordinated approach would streamline decision-making, enhance transparency, and support preparation of a well-informed report, which will be finalized and presented to the Prime Minister for necessary action and resource allocation.

Federal Minister Khalid Hussain Magsi Discusses Science & Technology Initiatives with President Zardari

Islamabad (News Desk) Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr to discuss ongoing initiatives and future plans to promote science and technology in Pakistan, briefing the President on current projects and policy measures and emphasizing the role of modern research and technological advancement in achieving sustainable development, with an agreement to align the national education curriculum with modern scientific knowledge, critical thinking, and emerging technologies to equip youth for future challenges; President Zardari appreciated the Ministry's efforts, reaffirmed his commitment to establishing a comprehensive system for science and technology promotion, and stressed fostering research and collaboration with the private sector to ensure the country's progress in line with contemporary requirements.