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2025 Global Ocean Development Forum Opens In Qingdao, China

QINGDAO (News Desk) – The 2025 Global Ocean Development Forum opened in the Chinese city of Qingdao West Coast New Area, drawing nearly 700 participants from 68 countries and regions to discuss collaboration across the marine economy, technology, comprehensive governance, and culture in a push to boost maritime prosperity. Hosted jointly by the People's Government of Shandong Province and the Ministry of Natural Resources, the forum bears the theme "Let's See our Future – Developing a Sustainable Marine Economy for a Thriving Ocean". It features an opening ceremony and main forum, a dialogue session among mayors of coastal cities, four parallel forums, and five featured events. The agenda covers topics related to the UN's "Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development," along with key focus areas including high-quality development of the marine economy, marine science and technology innovation, marine ecological governance, green shipping transformation, marine biomedicine R&D, deep-sea resource exploration, and the cultivation of young marine talents. At the opening ceremony, the Secretariat of the UN Ocean Decade "Coastal Cities" Platform was announced for establishment, alongside the release of such outcome documents as the 2025 China Ocean Development Index, the Report on Marine Ecological Status of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in 2024, and the Qingdao Initiative on Marine Young Talents. Five events are being held alongside the forum, including the 2025 East Asia Marine Expo, 2025 Robocup Asia-Pacific Qingdao International Invitational, the First UN Ocean Decade Marine Ecological Protection and Restoration Competition, three international training programs, and the International Ocean-themed Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition.

Japan's Ruling LDP To Hold Leadership Election On Oct. 4

TOKYO (News Desk) – Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will hold an election on October 4 to choose the successor to outgoing Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, the election panel announced Tuesday. A 12-day campaigning period will begin on September 22 ahead of the vote, in which all LDP lawmakers and rank-and-file party members will cast their ballots. The leadership election, originally scheduled for 2027, was brought forward after Ishiba abruptly announced his resignation under pressure from fellow LDP lawmakers. Former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi has formally declared his candidacy, while Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi and former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi have also decided to contest, according to party sources. Key issues expected to dominate the race include cooperation with opposition forces and internal reforms within the LDP, which has governed Japan almost continuously since 1955 but suffered significant setbacks in the past two national elections amid a political funds scandal. Ishiba, who became Prime Minister in October last year after winning the LDP leadership contest against Takaichi in a runoff, said he would step down to take responsibility for the party's poor showing in the July 20 House of Councillors election, where the ruling coalition with Komeito lost its majority in the upper house. With the ruling bloc also having lost its majority in the more powerful House of Representatives late last year, it currently relies on opposition party cooperation to pass legislation.

District Admin Tank Ensures Quality Healthcare at BHU Ranwal

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (News Desk) – The district administration of Tank is taking steps to improve healthcare facilities under the Chief Minister's public welfare agenda. Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC) Malik Sajid Ali Khan paid a surprise visit to the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Ranwal, Tehsil Tank, where he assessed medical services and staff performance. He inspected the Emergency Ward, General Wards, and Laboratory, while also checking staff attendance. The AAC interacted with patients to gather feedback and issued directions to the administration for improving facilities and resolving patient issues promptly. He emphasized that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government is committed to providing basic healthcare at citizens' doorsteps and warned that negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.



Islamabad: President of Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Special Assistant to the Prime minister for industries and production Haroon Akhtar khan today in Ministry of Industries and Production.

Flooded & Forgotten: Poultry Traders In Buner, Swat Brace For Winter Without Financial Compensation

BUNER (News Desk) – As the chilly winds of pre-winter sweep through the picturesque Pir Baba valley in Buner district, they carry with them a cold reminder of devastation for dozens of poultry dealers whose livelihoods were washed away in the recent floods. Among them is 32-year-old Ehtisham Khan, a poultry dealer whose modest yet thriving business came to a standstill when the August 15 floods destroyed his three chicken shops, sweeping away over hundreds of live chickens in a matter of hours. "The floods have ruined my business," says Ehtisham, his voice trembling and eyes glassy with emotion. "I stood there helpless as the water rose. I could do nothing but watch everything I had built disappear in a jiffy." Ehtisham, who deals in poultry across multiple districts, says he had invested years of hard work into establishing his business. "My entire setup comprises of chickens, feed, cages, and everything was gone in one night after a flash flood struck." Like many other local poultry farmers, Ehtisham had no insurance or safety net. He has now borrowed Rs. 500,000 from a relative to rebuild at least one shop and purchase live chicks before winter fully sets in. "Winter in Buner is very harsh," he says, supervising the ongoing construction of a new shop on a self-help basis. "If I don't restart by October, I may not be able to recover for months." The floods that ravaged the valley have displaced scores of small-scale poultry farmers, many of whom rely solely on poultry sales to feed their families. The lack of cold storage, destroyed supply chains, and damaged infrastructure have left the entire sector in limbo. Ehtisham and others like him are now anxiously waiting for the compensation package announced by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. While promises have been made, ground-level disbursements have yet to fully materialize. "We heard the government will help flood victims, but we haven't received anything yet," he says, pausing briefly as he watches workers lay bricks on the muddy plot where his shop once stood. Haji Shaukat Ali, President Poultry Association of Daggar Buner, said that poultry sectors received millions of rupees in losses during recent flooding. He said huge poultry stocks were ready for transportation to other districts when flood struck, inflicting colossal losses to poultry farming. Besides compensation, he demanded interest-free loans up to Rs one million to flood-hit poultry farmers of Buner and other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Dr Aftab Ahmad, Director of the Poultry and Livestock Department KP, said that a survey of poultry and livestock damages in flood-hit districts, including Buner, was underway. He said that compensation to affected poultry farmers would be provided on the basis of an inclusive survey report. According to the KP Livestock and Poultry Department, the initial estimates of the flood losses indicate damages exceeding Rs 1.57 billion. The flood caused death of over 5,000 livestock animals and over 10,000 poultry birds, while animals' food was worth Rs 286 million. The report indicates the stats of deceased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa floods, including 1,091 goats, 1,682 calves, 1,089 cows, 822 buffaloes, and 544 sheep. In district-wise breakdowns, Buner got the hardest hit, including 875 cows, 703 buffaloes, and 748 goats perished, and 9,000 poultry birds lost. In Swat, 112 cows, 71 buffaloes, and 218 goats died, while Shangla recorded 63 cows, 38 buffaloes, and 116 goats. The floods badly impacted 336 animal shelters across Mansehra, Shangla, Buner, and Swat, further intensifying the crisis for rural communities who totally depend on livestock for livelihood. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Adviser, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, maintains that the government is responding quickly to help flood victims.

ICT Police Ensure 24/7 Security For Courts In High-security Zone

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police are maintaining round-the-clock security arrangements to safeguard the courts situated in the high-security zone of the Federal Capital. An official told APP on Tuesday that, under special directives, Islamabad Police remain on alert 24 hours a day to ensure effective security in the area, which houses superior courts, important government offices, and foreign embassies. SSP Security Captain (Retd) Syed Zeeshan Haider personally reviewed the arrangements and instructed the deployed officers and personnel to perform their duties with full dedication. He emphasized that a zero-tolerance policy would be applied against any negligence or lapse in duty. SSP Zeeshan said protecting courts and securing institutions of justice is among the foremost priorities of ICT Police, adding that these are the pillars of rule of law and must be guarded with utmost vigilance. He directed the force to remain fully alert and ensure that no individual or group is allowed to disturb peace or security in the high-security zone. He added that ICT Police continue to take all possible measures to protect the lives and property of citizens.

SAPM Haroon Meets President MCCI, Discusses Industrial Policy

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday held a meeting with the President of the Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and discussed the country's new industrial policy, opportunities for joint ventures with China, investment in the textile sector, as well as in solar systems and battery manufacturing capacity. The SAPM said that under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is moving on the path of progress, highlighting that the recent visit to China proved extremely productive and will open the doors for new joint ventures. He added that due to the tireless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, investment from China is continuously flowing into Pakistan. Haroon emphasized that value addition is essential to enhance Pakistan's exports and announced that a new Technical Assistance Center will be established in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to equip youth with modern skills, noting that AJK offers vast opportunities for investment and industrial development. The MCCI President congratulated Haroon Akhtar on the formulation of the new industrial policy and announced that a delegation from AJK will soon depart for China to explore investment and joint venture opportunities. Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, a delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) also called on the SAPM and discussed key issues being faced by chambers across the country. Haroon Akhtar assured the delegation that the government is fully committed to addressing and resolving all such issues on priority.

Spain Announces Sanctions On Israel Over Gaza War



MADRID (News Desk) – Spain on Tuesday imposed sweeping sanctions on Israel in response to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez vowing to hold Israel accountable for what he described as the genocide of Palestinians. In a televised address, Sánchez said the measures were aimed at showing solidarity with the Palestinian people and pressuring Israel over its military actions. Under the new sanctions, Spain has suspended all defense trade, halted arms supplies, and barred military vessels and aircraft carrying weapons from using Spanish ports or airspace. The government also banned the entry of individuals accused of atrocities against Palestinians and prohibited the import of products manufactured in Israeli settlements. Following the announcement, Madrid recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv, while Israel's foreign minister condemned the decision and imposed restrictions on two Spanish ministers. Diplomatic sources said the move aligns with growing European pressure on Israel, noting that Belgium recently recognized the State of Palestine and introduced similar sanctions, including a ban on Israeli flights and settlement goods. The Spanish government stressed that the measures reflect its firm stance on international law and human rights, while pledging continued support for efforts to end the Gaza conflict.