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Pakistan committed to strengthening ties with Croatia, says Ishaq Dar

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan remains committed to expanding its partnership with Croatia and enhancing cooperation within the European Union framework, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Thursday.

Dar made the remarks during delegation-level talks with Croatia's Foreign and European Affairs Minister Gordan Grlic Radman, who arrived in Islamabad on a one-day official visit.

Welcoming the Croatian minister, Dar described the European Union as one of Pakistan's key trading partners and noted that Croatia is an important member of the bloc. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to building a sustainable bilateral partnership with Croatia while strengthening engagement with the EU.

Dar also referred to the recent visit of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas to Pakistan, saying Islamabad maintains strong relations with the EU leadership. He added that Pakistan remained in close contact with European officials during last year's India-Pakistan conflict and thanked both Radman and Kallas for accepting his invitation to visit Pakistan.



UN Chief commends Pakistan's peace efforts during meeting with Naqvi

SPECIAL REPORTER

New York

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres praised Pakistan's efforts to promote regional and international peace during a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of the fifth United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS 2026) in New York.

The two leaders discussed regional and global developments, including Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran, as well as its longstanding commitment to peace and stability. During the meeting, Guterres acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan's contributions toward peacebuilding.



Operation for five missing cargo plane crew members continues

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) continued their search and rescue operation in the Arabian Sea around Ormara on Thursday to find the bodies of five members of the crew who had gone missing after a cargo plane crashed a couple of days ago. Divers of Pakistan Navy are looking for the bodies underneath the sea. On the other hand, the area where the search operation has been going on has been increased by 15 to 20 nautical miles around the spot where the plane might have crashed.

Contacts have also been established with ships and fishermen who have gone into the sea so that the bodies could be found. On Wednesday, Pakistan Navy and the PMSA located the debris of a missing private cargo plane in the Arabian Sea following an intensive search operation lasting more than 12 hours.

PM Shehbaz, Croatian FM agree to strengthen bilateral cooperation

■ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan and Croatia enjoy friendly relations founded on mutual respect

Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Gordan Grlic Radman agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation during a meeting held at the Prime Minister's House on Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the Croatian delegation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan and Croatia enjoy friendly relations founded on mutual respect, goodwill, and shared interests. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening ties between the two countries. The prime minister expressed Pakistan's desire to



expand bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including trade and investment, information technology, connectivity, agriculture, tourism, and skilled workforce development.

Shehbaz Sharif also conveyed his best wishes to Croatian President Zoran Milanovic and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, extending a cordial invitation for them to undertake official visits to Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Radman expressed gratitude for the invitation and said he was pleased to be making his first official visit to Pakistan. He said the talks offered an opportunity to review bilateral relations and explore new avenues of cooperation, particularly in trade, the economy, and business.

Punjab Govt, US Consulate agree to expand cultural cooperation

■ The U.S. Consul General praised the Punjab government's initiatives to establish the Punjab Film City



Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Punjab government and the U.S. Consulate General in Lahore have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the cultural sector following a meeting between Punjab Information and Culture Minister Uzma Bukhari and U.S. Consul

General Stetson Sanders.

Punjab Information Secretary Tahir Raza Hamdani and Political and Economic Adviser Sadaf Saad also attended the meeting.

During the discussion, the U.S. Consul General praised the Punjab government's initiatives to establish the Punjab Film City and revive the province's theatre

industry. Both sides also explored the possibility of fostering partnerships between American artists and Lahore's Alhamra Arts Council to promote cultural exchange and artistic collaboration.

Briefing the visiting diplomat, Uzma Bukhari highlighted several initiatives launched under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. She said the provincial government has introduced landmark welfare programmes for women, students, and farmers.

The minister also noted that approximately 170,000 homes are currently being built under the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" housing programme.

In the meeting, Uzma Bukhari presented a commemorative souvenir to the U.S. Consul General as a gesture of goodwill.

Lahore deploys five women-only Speedo buses on Metro route



Staff Reporter

LAHORE

The Punjab Transport Department has launched dedicated buses for women using Lahore's Metro Bus Service as part of efforts to improve passenger safety and convenience.

According to the Transport and Mass Transit Department, five Speedo buses have been temporarily deployed on the Metro Bus route and reserved exclusively for women.

Punjab Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan said the additional buses had been introduced to help protect women from harassment during peak hours and provide them with a safer travel experience.

He said the Speedo buses had been added to the Metro Bus fleet on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Khan added that the government plans to purchase new Metro buses to permanently replace the temporarily deployed Speedo buses for women passengers.

Pakistan rises 30pc in global maritime rankings: Iftikhar Ahmad Rao

Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Maritime Task Force Iftikhar Ahmad Rao said on Thursday that Pakistan's improved performance has lifted its position in the global maritime sector.

Speaking at a press conference alongside the Secretary of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and a member of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Rao said around 80% of global trade is conducted by sea and



Pakistan is located at a strategically important point in the Gulf region. He said Pakistan serves as an

important gateway to Central Asia. The Maritime Task Force was established in August 2024 and held

meetings with officials of relevant institutions to identify issues facing the sector before presenting its recommendations to the prime minister in December 2024.

Rao said an implementation committee had also been formed to oversee the task force's recommendations and that it was holding meetings on a regular basis.

He said customs authorities had deployed additional personnel to speed up maritime operations, contributing to improved sectoral performance.

ADB cuts Pakistan's growth forecast and raises inflation outlook

■ Growth forecast for the current fiscal year reduced from 4.5% to 3.7%; Inflation estimate raised to 8.3%; Bank warns continuing tensions in Middle East could increase inflation:

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered Pakistan's economic growth forecast for the 2026-27 fiscal year while raising its inflation outlook, citing regional uncertainty and risks to energy markets.

In its latest 'Asian Development Outlook' report, the ADB revised Pakistan's projected gross domestic product (GDP) growth from 4.5 percent to 3.7 percent for the current fiscal year. The bank also increased its forecast for average annual inflation from 6.5 percent to



8.3 percent.

According to the report, the federal government has set a GDP growth target of 4 percent for the 2026-27 fiscal year, while aiming to keep average inflation at 8.2 percent.

The ADB warned that continuing tensions in the Middle East could place additional upward pressure on inflation. It said uncertainty in regional

energy markets remains a significant risk that could affect prices and the broader economic outlook. The Asian Development Bank has also decided to provide Pakistan with financing worth four billion US dollars.

Growth forecast for DAP. The ADB outlook also highlighted the growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific (DAP) is lowered to 4.9% in 2026—down from the 5.1% projected in April and 0.6 percentage points below the 5.5% growth recorded in 2025.

Suthra Punjab under scrutiny over wage complaints, financial mismanagement

City Reporter

LAHORE

The Punjab government's flagship Suthra Punjab Project, launched to modernize waste management and improve sanitation across the province, is facing growing allegations of financial irregularities, delayed salaries, and unfair wage deductions affecting thousands of sanitation workers.

The project was officially launched on December 3, 2024, with an initial allocation of Rs120 billion. The budget was later increased to Rs150 billion for 2025-26 and Rs170 billion for 2026-27. According to the Punjab government, the funds are intended to upgrade waste management systems, improve garbage collection in urban and rural areas, cover fuel and maintenance costs for sanitation vehicles, and ensure timely



payment of workers' salaries.

However, reports from several districts suggest that many workers are not receiving their full wages despite official commitments.

Tragic Death Highlights Workers' Grievances
On June 7, 2026, a former sanitation worker, Zeeshan, allegedly set himself on fire at the office of Imperial Waste Management Company in Gujranwala after reportedly becoming frustrated over repeated salary deductions and the loss of his job. He suffered severe burns and died after spending nearly three weeks in hospital.

IMF keeps growth forecast low at 3.5%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday kept Pakistan's economic growth forecast unchanged at 3.5% for the new fiscal year, while warning about the possibility of a renewed Middle East conflict that could heighten price volatility.

In an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the IMF showed Pakistan's economic growth rate at 3.5%, with no change in the outlook compared to its last two reports since April this year.

The report suggests that Pakistan's economy will marginally slow down in the new fiscal year compared to the estimated 3.7% growth achieved in the previous fiscal year. The government has set a growth target of 4% for FY2026-27, which is even lower than the 6% rate

needed to create 4.5 million jobs annually to reduce high poverty and unemployment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's two terms since 2022 have failed to create enabling conditions for economic acceleration without triggering fiscal and external crises. The IMF's global report coincides with renewed attacks by Iran and the United States against each other's commercial and military installations, endangering the fragile temporary ceasefire.

"The possibility of renewed Middle East conflict looms large and could extend commodity price volatility, further threaten supply chains, raise prices, and weigh on financial conditions," according to the report. Trade fragmentation could accelerate, possibly hurting output and

increasing prices, it added.

The IMF said renewed conflict would propagate through a further increase in commodity prices and extended volatility, supply shortages, and exchange rate pressures. The muted increase in oil prices and their contained impact on activity owe to the release of inventories, which are now getting closer to multi-year lows and could reach stress levels should supply disruptions persist or hoarding gather steam, it added.

After the US withdrew Iran oil export permission coupled with aerial attacks, crude oil prices have shot up by \$8 per barrel within two trading days. As a result, diesel prices for Pakistani imports have increased by \$5 so far, while petrol prices remained largely stable, which may lead to upward price adjustments on Friday if no corrections are seen in two days.

The IMF said global headline inflation is

expected to increase from 4.1% in 2025 to 4.7% in 2026 before declining to 3.9% in 2027. These projections indicate that the disinflation trend in place since early 2024 has stalled, it added.

The IMF said global economic activity and the outlook are being shaped by two major forces pushing in opposite directions: the negative supply shock induced by the war in the Middle East and the ongoing positive technology shock manifesting in accelerated momentum of the global technology cycle, driven by advances in artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

The IMF said movements in and repercussions from the main channels of transmission have been relatively limited. However, transmission is still in its early stages – commercial and strategic destocking have provided

temporary relief from reduced energy flows, while forward-looking indicators such as supply-chain pressures and manufacturing purchasing managers' indices point to softer momentum ahead. Though some countries are experiencing more strain than others, the average petroleum spot price index is projected at \$89 per barrel, 9% higher than assumed under the reference forecast in the April 2026 report, and natural gas prices at \$15, 5% higher than the April reference forecast price. The relatively muted increase in global oil prices reflects the fact that part of the decrease in oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz has been offset by a drawdown of inventories, reducing the need for oil consumption and production to adjust through prices. Global economic growth is projected at 3% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027, down from the average of 3.5% observed in the last two years.

Legacy Or Ruin



By: Ibrahim Afaq Ayub

Almost no one is discussing the subtle connection between Pakistan's economic survival and a ticking corporate time bomb. Approximately 6.4 to 6.5 million family firms today operate throughout Pakistan, accounting for 40 to 60 percent of the country's GDP and comprising an amazing 90 percent of the private sector. These companies are essential to Pakistan's economy. They constitute the economic backbone. Additionally, there should be a business that should be developed, and that has a business. There are only a few generations that go from the founding company. Not due to

poor products, market failure, or uncontrollable economic circumstances, there remains 70% fall into chaos. They fall because of quiet. The quietness surrounding succession, the quiet surrounding inheritance, the quiet surrounding governance. And that silence is damaging, intentional, and cultural in Pakistan. The effects go much beyond the financial statements of businesses. Families are torn apart on a human level by financial hardship and a lack of succession preparation. A financial conflict has caused at least 10% of Pakistanis to permanently close contact with a family member. Even more concerning, disputes in the boardroom often turn violent. In Islamabad, rural Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, property and land disputes currently among the top causes of homicide. When a family business fails, it not only loses money but also takes lives, turning a patriarch's legacy into a legacy of conflict and shattered homes.

A market's implicit rarely separates a rich family's legacy from business failure. It is the unsolved tension between a family's emotional needs and a business's pragmatic demands. These two forces clash if they are left unchecked. A formal Family Business Constitution is the gold standard for resolving this conflict, as it establishes rules for succession, profit distribution, and leadership before a crisis forces the conversation. However, that kind of discussion is uncommon in Pakistan. During his lifetime, a corporate patriarch usually views any talk of authority transfers as an insult. The founders persuade themselves that purposeful ambiguity maintains family harmony and that leaving responsibilities unclear maintains harmony. It has the opposite effect. The patriarch creates a false sense of unity by ensuring that every family member stays completely dependent on his unique authority, rather than via governance. Psychology is even more

profound. For many founders, the company is an integral part of who they are. Recognizing mortality is a prerequisite for naming a successor. The main tool of loyalty in traditional households is economic management, and discussing succession in public contradicts the patriarch's decades-old order. Thus, the dialogue is avoided, avoided, and avoided. In its stead, resentment builds up. Long before the founder passes away, covert power battles begin to take shape. When he does pass away, there is no plan, no chosen leader, and no way to settle the ensuing conflicts. There is a sudden and complete lack of power. The legal system is rarely employed to establish equity when inheritance conflicts move from the living room to the courtroom; instead, it is used as a weapon to compel a settlement. An injunction, which is a court's decision that freezes assets and bank accounts, stops operations, and prohibits the sale of property until ownership is established lawfully, is the most devastating initial action. The company cannot

pay suppliers, settle accounts, or pay customs taxes on imported machinery as soon as it is approved. Before a single legal argument is heard, it suffocates. The damage intensifies when courts mandate the physical connection of factories, warehouses, and goods. Production lines stop. Raw materials degrade. The business enters obligatory dormancy, unable to service orders or earn revenue. A partition suit, which is the legal process that splits common ownership into separate physical sections, is the end result of many disagreements. When assets are physically divided, courts cannot be physically divided. A functional enterprise is liquidated altogether, not for commercial failure, but because it could not be broken into pieces. The incredible sloveness of Pakistan's legal system exacerbates all of this. A normal inheritance or partition lawsuit takes 15 to 25 years, according to Pakistan's Law and Justice Commission. There is no quarter. Additionally, when a family business fails, the entire supply chain of smaller contractors and vendors that depend on it also fails, transforming a private family quarrel into a regional economic shock. Fixed inheritance portions for women are required by both Islamic doctrine and

Pakistan's Constitution. Both are frequently disregarded in societal practice. In a society where divorce is highly stigmatized, brothers continue to be the only dependable social safety net for many women. Families take advantage of this reluctance by forcing daughters to return their legal share to male relatives under the pretense of maintaining family unity. Her most popular defense is the wedding dowry, or Jhez, which is used to completely deprive daughters of their entitlement and is presented as an advance on inheritance. Financial harm is irreversible. Appreciating assets, such as land, property, and equity, usually make up inheritance. Depreciating consumer goods, such as electronics, clothes, and furniture, make up Jhez. Due to this replacement, women are permanently barred from accumulating wealth for future generations and have no financial recourse if a marriage ends in divorce or widowhood. Without inherited property, women lack collateral for bank loans, stability for homes, and capital for any independent future. Institutional corruption exacerbates this at the local level.

Sports & Showbiz

Bangladesh's Nahid Rana, England's Bethell achieve career-best rankings in ICC update

Web Desk
DHAKA

All-rounder Justin Greaves of the West Indies and seam bowler Asitha Fernando of Sri Lanka have made notable gains in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings after the drawn second match of their ICC World Test Championship series in North Sound, Saint George, Antigua and Barbuda.

Greaves, who scored 180 in the first innings, climbed 14 places to 49th in the batting rankings. He has also moved up to 69th among bowlers and to 17th among all-

rounders after taking one wicket in the match, finishing the series with four wickets. Greaves was named the Player of the Match and the Player of the Series.

Fernando has returned to the top 20 of the bowling rankings after claiming five for 130 in the first innings.

The Test batting rankings also see Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis move up two places to sixth after scores of 84 and 44 in the second Test, while West Indies players Shai Hope (up six places to 51st), Amir



Jangoo (up two places to 60th) and John Campbell (up six places to 64th) have also gained in the batting rankings.

The ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings see Bangladesh fast bowler Nahid Rana move up 17 places to a career-best 12th position after a career-best haul of six for 21 in the first ODI against Zimbabwe in Harare, which the home side won by 25 runs.



Praise or criticism Hania Aamir's outfit splits social media

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Hania Amir has once again caught attention as she made a special appearance at the opening of the international brand YSL in Dolmen Mall, Lahore. The event quickly became a highlight on social media, with videos capturing her warm interactions and stylish appearance. However, her appearance has the internet divided because of her outfit choices which sparked a major online debate.

Several videos from the high-profile event quickly went viral, capturing Hania warmly greeting fans and posing for photographs. Dressed in an all-black Yves Saint Laurent ensemble, the actress wore a silk ruffled maxi skirt paired with black stockings, completing the look with subtle nude makeup and a sleek wet-hair hairstyle.

Supporters defended Hania's right to express herself through fashion, focusing on individual choices of

what to wear. A follower wrote, "What's wrong with you all? It's her choice! I leave her alone, you guys always ready to judge someone for their looks and everything! Get a life man!"

On the other hand, the critics explained how immodest fashion choices are taking over Pakistani culture and norms. People compared her to a controversial Pakistani actress Alizeh Shah, saying that she would have faced a major backlash over religion and her choices if she was seen dressed in such an outfit.

Moreover, individuals were seen comparing her to famous Indian influencers, Urli Javed and Rakhi Savant, who are famous for making news about their controversial outfit choices. Comments like, "When you order Urli Javed from Daraz?" and "Bad example for our daughters" were frequently seen on social media.



West Indies-bound Pakistan team starts training

DPO Sargodha reviews security arrangements for Central 25th Muharram Procession



Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha

A meeting of the District Peace Committee, chaired by DPO Sohaib Ashraf and attended by Punjab Assembly member Rana

Munawar Ghaus, ADCG Rana Muhammad Abubakar and committee members, reviewed security and administrative arrangements for the central 25th Muharram procession in Sargodha. The DPO said strict

compliance with the scheduled timings would be ensured, with all relevant departments working in close coordination to maintain peace. He praised the District Peace Committee, mourners, district

SPARC and Partners conclude Three Year EWG Project empowering women



Soon Times Correspondent

Islamabad

The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and Bedari, with support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), concluded its three-year Empowering Women and Girls (EWG) Project at a ceremony attended by policymakers, government officials, development partners and beneficiaries. Parliamentary Secretary for Communications Engineer Gul Asghar Khan Baghori, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, National Commission on the Status of Women member

Nooreen Bano Lehri, Global Affairs Canada's Sasha Oliveira, COL Senior Adviser Frances Ferreira, SPARC Executive Director Asiya Anif Khan, Bedari Executive Director Anbreen Ajah and SPARC Program Manager

Sabeen Almas highlighted the project's achievements in expanding education, strengthening livelihoods and promoting gender equality. Almas said more than 10,000 girls and boys were reintegrated into formal education and Open

CASS Seminar examines Hindutva Influence on India's Strategic Culture and Regional Security Outlook



Soon Times Correspondent

Lahore

The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) Lahore organised an event titled, "Saffronisation of India's Strategic Culture: Contemporary Transition and Future Outlook," on 8 July 2026. The event was attended by academics, intellectuals, and domain experts. Ms Edba Walayat Khan, a Research Assistant at CASS Lahore, delivered the opening address. Dr. Asma Khawaja, Executive Director CISS, AJK explained mythological roots and civilisational foundations of the Hindutva influence on Indian strategic thought. Elucidating the dynamic nature of strategic culture, she identified its defining features as revisionism, Hindu supremacy, deception, and grand strategic thinking. Despite claiming preparedness for a two-front war, India's civilisational aversion to overextension makes such a conflict unlikely. According to her India's conduct

during Marka-e-Haq was civilisationally scripted and rooted in historical narratives. She concluded that Indian strategy seeks dominance, not balance of power. Dr. Bilal Ghaznifar, Assistant Professor and HoD IR, UOR described that under PM Modi, India has deliberately reshaped its strategic culture through ideological, institutional, military, informational, and diplomatic changes. Five factors drove this change: ideological transformation, institutional and societal reordering, assertive military realism, information dominance, and

Attock District Coordination Committee reviews law and order and public service performance



Soon Times Correspondent

Attock

A District Coordination Committee meeting chaired by ADCG Attock Anil Saeed reviewed law and order, public services, administrative affairs and the performance of government departments. The meeting, attended by the AC, district officials, police, CTD, Civil Defence, IESCO, Social Welfare, ID and other agencies, was informed that during June 2026 authorities issued 7,735 traffic challans and imposed fines exceeding Rs97.565 million. Officials sealed 38 illegal petrol pumps, fined

offenders Rs490,000, sealed 58 illegal LPG decanting points after detecting 40 violations and imposed Rs150,000 in fines. Anti-encroachment operations removed 22 permanent and 974

temporary encroachments, collecting Rs197,500 in fines. Action against electricity theft uncovered 20 illegal connections, led to 15 cases, 13 arrests and recovered Rs1,002,025 in fines. Security

Nowshera Bar President Arshad Jan reaffirms commitment to justice and rule of law



Soon Times Correspondent

Peshawar

District Bar Nowshera President and senior lawyer Arshad Jan Advocate said upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for the oppressed remain his top priorities. Speaking to Soon Times, he said the rising crime rate is largely driven by the failure to deliver justice to victims and punish offenders.

He said he has always stood by the oppressed and will

Sargodha residents question rising sanitation costs amid persistent problems

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha

Residents have raised concerns over a sharp increase in public spending on sewerage and sanitation in Sargodha, questioning the effectiveness of the newly established Suthra Punjab Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA). The Municipal Corporation previously spent around Rs330 million annually on these services, while the two new agencies are expected to spend nearly Rs2 billion a year despite providing what residents describe as the same level

of service. They say garbage remains piled in streets, drains frequently overflow, and standing water continues to create problems, with complaints receiving only temporary fixes. Citizens have questioned why costs have increased nearly sixfold without any visible improvement. They have called on Punjab Chief Minister to order a third-party audit of Suthra Punjab and WASA expenditures, publish monthly neighbourhood performance reports detailing drain cleaning and waste collection, and restore the previous system if service standards cannot be improved.

Dr. Humaira Azhar urges heat safety measures to protect children

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha

Renowned gynecologist Dr. Humaira Azhar Khan of Medicare has urged parents to take preventive measures to protect children from heat-related illnesses as soaring temperatures and humid conditions in Sargodha have led to an increase in flies, raising the risk of cholera and other diseases. She advised parents to avoid giving children unhygienic street food, keep them indoors during peak sunlight hours

and ensure they drink plenty of water mixed with oral rehydration salts to prevent dehydration. She said cases of dehydration and cholera are common among children during the summer. She stressed that adults should also cover their heads outdoors and avoid unnecessary travel during the hottest part of the day. Simple precautions can help prevent serious health risks, she added.

BISP, WFP, WHO & UNICEF extend partnership to protect 3.3M women and children from malnutrition



Soon Times Correspondent

Islamabad

The Benazir Income Support Programme, in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, has extended the Benazir Nashonuma Programme for three years to protect an additional 3.3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under two from malnutrition across Pakistan. Operating through 578 facilitation centres and 224 nutrition stabilization centres, the programme has benefited 4.7 million people since 2020 and is expected to reach 8 million under the extension. BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid said the initiative reflects Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's vision of ensuring no mother

or child is left behind due to poverty. Programme data showed enrolled children were 22 percent less likely to be stunted at six months, while officials said the partnership has also improved maternal nutrition, child survival, antenatal care and birth outcomes. WFP, UNICEF and WHO reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Pakistan in strengthening nutrition and health services for vulnerable women and children.

Saadat Butt appointed SHO Dhudial PS as Chakwal Police announces key administrative reshuffle

Soon Times Correspondent

Chakwal

In a key administrative reshuffle in Chakwal Police, Saadat Butt, formerly District Chief Security Officer at the DPO Office Chakwal, has been appointed SHO of Dhudial Police Station. Residents, social figures and the business community welcomed the appointment, describing him as a professional, honest and dedicated police officer with a strong service record. They

expressed confidence that his leadership would strengthen law enforcement, improve crime prevention, ensure timely justice and promote community-friendly policing while further enhancing peace and public safety in the area.

SNGPL rejects fresh gas disruption reports says consumer supplies remain unaffected

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has rejected media reports suggesting a fresh wave of gas supply disruptions, saying no new curtailment has been imposed and supplies to consumers remain unchanged. The company clarified that the force majeure declared by QatarEnergy in March 2026 has been extended periodically, including the latest extension communicated through an SNGPL letter, and does not represent a new

development. It said gas supplies are being managed under the guidance of the National Coordination and Management Council (NCMC) and the Ministry of Energy's Petroleum Division, with indigenous production optimized and LNG cargoes arranged regularly to meet demand across all sectors. SNGPL added that household demand during cooking hours is being met, uninterrupted gas supply to industry and the fertilizer sector has been ensured to sustain economic activity. The priority is being given to the power sector to help reduce electricity load-shedding.

BE AWARE. BE SAFE