



Pakistan calls on Sudan's warring parties to re-engage in negotiations, end people's suffering

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UNITED NATIONS—Pakistan had called on Sudan's warring parties to re-engage in negotiations to end a war that has been ongoing for more than 21 months, saying the Sudanese

people's suffering must be brought an end.

"We call on both sides to implement the commitments made under Jeddah declaration on protection of civilians and the facilitation of humanitarian action to meet the emergency

needs of the Sudanese people," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, said in a speech to the UN Security Council.

The warring parties — the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)

led by Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), controlled by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, known as "Hemedti" — had promised a smooth transition of power to civilians after a military coup ousted the long-

serving president, Omar al-Bashir, in April 2019.

Five years later, the SAF and RSF failed to fulfill that promise, and their inability to find a compromise on how to rule the country led to the war erupting on April 15, 2023.

Shrinking Enrollments: Economic strain is steering students Away from Universities

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

Higher education as a gateway to better career prospects and economic opportunities. However, in recent years, a concerning trend has emerged: the rising costs of attending universities are deterring students from pursuing higher education. Coupled with the economic strain facing many families, this trend has led to a decrease in university enrollments across the Pakistan. The reasons behind this phenomenon and its implications for students and society as a whole.

One of the primary factors contributing to the decline in university enrollments is the skyrocketing costs of higher education. The average tuition and fees at public four-

state funding, and reduced endowments have forced many institutions to increase tuition rates to offset losses. In addition, many students have faced job losses, reduced family incomes, and financial hardships making it even more difficult to afford a university education.

The pandemic has also disrupted traditional modes of education. Because of these factors, universities are experiencing a decline in enrollment, particularly among minority and low-income students. The number of first-time undergraduate students enrolling in universities dropped by 13% in fall 2022 compared to the previous year. This trend is concerning not only for individual institutions but also for the broader implications it has on access to higher

education and social equity.

The rising costs of attending universities, coupled with economic strain are steering students away from pursuing higher education. As tuition fees continue to climb and student debt reaches unsustainable levels, more students are opting out of traditional four-year degrees in favor of alternative paths. Addressing these challenges will require a concerted effort from policymakers, institutions, and society as a whole to ensure that higher education remains accessible and affordable for all. Failure to do so risks further widening existing achievement gaps and exacerbating socio-economic disparities.

The increasing costs associated with attending universities have become a significant barrier for many prospective students, particularly in the context of ongoing economic strain. Tuition fees have escalated dramatically over the past few decades, often outpacing inflation and wage growth. This financial burden compels students to reconsider their educational aspirations, leading to an alarming trend where higher education is becoming less accessible to

PBM, HMR foundation forge partnership for women empowerment

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) and Hum Mashal-e-Rah Foundation (HMR) joined forces on Tuesday to empower underprivileged and differently-abled women, helping them become self-sufficient and respected members of society through a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Pakistani cuisine recipes. The partnership, unveiled at a ceremony in Islamabad, focuses on helping these women become self-sufficient and respected members of society by providing job opportunities and enhancing their professional skills.

The event was graced by PBM Managing Director, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt, who served as the Chief

Guest. Also in attendance were Amnah Aftab, Chairperson and Founder Director of HMR Foundation, and Amir Shahzad, CEO of Punjab Charity Commission, along with other distinguished guests. The MoU outlines the collaboration between the two organizations to implement an effective delivery mechanism at PBM's Business Facilitation Center. This center supports women trainees from Women Empowerment Centres, aiming to enhance their skills and provide meaningful job opportunities.

In his address, Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt described the event as a milestone for women empowerment, stressing the important role women entrepreneurs play in the country's socio-economic development.



Faisal Karim Kundi stresses unity for achieving Saraiki province

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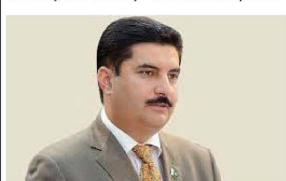
DERA ISMAIL KHAN—Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday stressed the need for forging unity among all the stakeholders to achieve Saraiki province.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the 8th Annual Azeem Sarakistan Talent Award Show-2025 organized by the Sarakistan Students Movement (SSM) and Saraiki Youth Parliament Dera Ismail Khan, held here at the Gomal University's Auditorium Hall. The governor said the Saraiki language was the most widely spoken language in the country, used extensively

across all four provinces of the country.

He resolved that the PPP would continue to stand with the Saraiki brothers and sisters to resolve their issues.

He emphasized the need for unity to achieve the creation of a Saraiki province and expressed disappointment that the parliamentarians who secured votes in the name of the Saraiki province in the 2018 elections did not raise the issue effectively in the parliament. He highlighted the efforts of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which had already passed a resolution in both national and provincial assemblies in favor of the Saraiki province.



PNS Yamama visits Jeddah and Participates in Bilateral Exercise



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The newly commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship YAMAMA visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during its maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan and participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF).

Upon arrival at Jeddah port, the ship was warmly welcomed by senior officials of RSNF and representatives from Pakistan Embassy. During its stay, the ship's crew engaged in professional activities, including cross-

ship visits, table-top discussions on maritime issues, and meetings with the RSNF leadership.

Following the port visit, PNS YAMAMA conducted a PASSEX with HMS Makkah. The exercise was designed to strengthen naval cooperation and enhance interoperability between the two navies. Both forces reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring maritime security and promoting regional stability.

The visit of PNS YAMAMA to Saudi Arabia and its participation in the bilateral exercise further

reinforced the strong brotherly relations and defence collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

PNS YAMAMA is the fourth Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built for Pakistan Navy by DAMEN Shipyards, Galati, Romania. These versatile and state-of-the-art platforms are equipped with advanced technologies and designed to operate in contested maritime environments. They aim to maintain peace in the prevailing challenging times and project deterrence across all domains of warfare.

Charge' d'Affaires Faraz Zaidi highlights Pakistan's efforts at UNODC report launch



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BRUSSELS—Charge' d'Affaires Faraz Zaidi on Tuesday highlighted Pakistan's efforts to control drugs and crime and stressed the need for global action to enhance

international cooperation at the UNODC Report launch event. The Charge' d'Affaires participated in a panel discussion on exchange on implications for policy and international cooperation in context of the United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC in Brussels) Special event to launch the 2024 Global Report, the Embassy of Pakistan wrote on its official wall on X. Charge' d'Affaires highlighted initiatives undertaken by Pakistan and stressed the need for global action.

CAYA provides operative platform to strengthen youths' role; Mashhood

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed has said that Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance (CAYA) summit would provide an operative platform to strengthen the dynamic role of youth leadership.

In his welcoming remarks to the participants of the CAYA summit on Tuesday, Rana said that the summit would facilitate the promotion of dialogue between the young generation of various nations while the government of Pakistan was taking far-reaching steps to develop the capabilities of the youth.

He said that initiatives like setting up Danish



Schools and providing loans to the youth were the hallmarks of the present government.

The Chairman PMYP added that the establishment of the CAYA Secretariat in Pakistan showed the confidence of Commonwealth nations in the country's youth.

During the CAYA summit, Climate Change and Youth Excellence Awards were

awarded to 20 youngsters who positively contributed towards the preservation of Climate while the participants held sessions on leadership capacity, stakeholder management and resource mobilization. The participants also discussed various suggestions and opinions for empowering youth and highlighted issues including early marriage.

Pakistan highly values its relationship with Iran: Ayaz Sadiq

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Iran enjoy cordial ties which are founded on shared Islamic values and enhanced people-to-people contacts.

"Pakistan highly values its relationship with Iran, and as neighbouring countries, both nations have immense potential for cooperation in various fields of trade," he said while talking to



Ambassador of Iran, Reza Amir-Moghaddam, who met him here Tuesday. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq further

underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral relations by expanding cooperation across all

mutual areas of interest, with a particular focus on energy and trade. He said that such efforts

would not only benefit the economies of both nations but would also improve the communities living along the common border.

The Speaker highlighted that enhancing parliamentary contacts between the two countries was crucial for fostering stronger trade and economic ties. He added that expanded trade links between Pakistan and Iran could play a pivotal role in the regional development and prosperity of both nations.