

IRS roundtable calls for decisive action to end Israeli aggression

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD — The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) convened a high-profile roundtable on "The Palestinian Question and Regional Stability: Policy Imperatives for Pakistan and Beyond", issuing a clarion call for urgent international action to end the humanitarian



catastrophe unfolding in Gaza. The session, chaired by IRS President Ambassador Jauhar

Saleem, brought together leading diplomats and senior officials, including Ambassador Zohair Muhammad (Hassanullah

Zaid, the Palestinian envoy to Pakistan, and veteran diplomat Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, said a press release issued on Friday. The discussion focused on the intensifying humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the historical and political dimensions of the Palestinian struggle, and its implications for regional

stability and Pakistan's foreign policy. Opening the session, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem described the unprecedented destruction in Gaza, noting that more than 64,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed and 80 percent of buildings have been demolished.

CRIME CORNER

BY: AGHA SAAD BIN TAHIR

Islamabad Police conducts search operation in Tarnol area

According to the details, the Islamabad Police carried out a comprehensive search and combining operation in various areas under the jurisdiction of the Tarnol police station to curb criminal activities and ensure public safety.

The operation was conducted following the special direction of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, as part of a broader crackdown against criminal elements and anti-social activities in the federal capital.

During the search operation, a total of 65 individuals, 40 houses, 40 shops, 17 motorcycles and six vehicles were thoroughly checked.

IGP Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Taji stated that the primary



objective of the search and combining operations was to tighten the noose around criminal elements and enhance overall security across the city.

He further added that search operations were being carried out in various sectors of the district, and the Islamabad Police

would continue taking indiscriminate action against criminals, land mafias, and drug dealers.

The urged citizens to cooperate with the police and immediately report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station or via the emergency helpline "Pucar-15".

Foreign Investment: A Catalyst for Pakistan's Economic Revival



DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

Foreign investment plays a crucial role in the economic development of nations across the globe. For Pakistan, attracting foreign investment has become a key strategy to revitalize its economy and fuel growth. The influx of foreign funds not only injects capital into the country but also brings in new technologies, managerial expertise, and market access. The significance of foreign investment as a catalyst for Pakistan's economic revival, examining how such investments can drive growth, create jobs, boost exports and improve infrastructure.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) contributes significantly to Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and economic growth. FDI inflows have steadily increased in recent years, indicating growing investor confidence in the country's potential. FDI brings in capital that can be used for infrastructure development, manufacturing expansion and other key sectors helping to stimulate economic activity to create a multiplier effect on the overall economy. Foreign investment leads to job creation in various sectors of the economy. Multinational corporations (MNCs) and foreign companies often set up operations in Pakistan, creating employment opportunities for the local workforce. Additionally, these companies bring in new technologies and best practices which can help enhance the skills

for productivity of the local labor force. As more foreign companies invest in Pakistan, the demand for skilled workers is likely to increase, leading to a more competitive and skilled workforce.

Foreign investment can also have a positive impact on Pakistan's export competitiveness. When foreign companies invest in export-oriented industries such as textiles, IT, and manufacturing it can lead to an increase in exports thereby improving the country's trade balance. Leveraging foreign investment to enhance export capabilities and access global markets, Pakistan can strengthen its position as a competitive player in the international trade.

One of the key benefits of foreign investment is the improvement of infrastructure in Pakistan. Foreign investors often collaborate with the government to develop critical infrastructure projects such as roads, ports and power plants. These investments not only improve the overall business environment but also create long-term benefits for the economy by enhancing connectivity, reducing logistic costs and attracting more investors to the country. Foreign direct investment (FDI) plays a crucial role in Pakistan's economic development. By providing much-needed capital, technology and expertise, FDI inflows are instrumental in jumpstarting economic activities, improving productivity and enhancing competitiveness in the global market.

Faisalabad Clock Tower & Bazaars Set for Major Revamp



BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD—A high-level meeting of the Divisional Development Working Party (DDWP) regarding the beautification and regeneration of the Clock Tower and the adjoining eight bazaars was held under the chairmanship of Faisalabad Commissioner Raja Jahangir Anwar. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Nadeem Nasir, Additional Commissioner Coordination Asim Raza, officers from NESPAK, FESCO, Sui Gas, and the Municipal Corporation.

It was decided in the meeting that electricity, gas, and WASA lines in all eight bazaars of the Clock Tower would be moved

underground to provide citizens with a modern and safe environment. On this occasion, the Commissioner directed FESCO to start work from the next week and that the pace of the project would be monitored on daily basis.

The Commissioner also instructed that operations against encroachments in all eight bazaars be intensified to effectively complete the beautification project. For the convenience and entertainment of citizens, it was decided to establish a food court beside the Clock Tower in the evening hours and to provide sitting facilities along with walkways in the markets.

It was also agreed in the meeting that the exterior structures of old buildings

would be improved and beautified to preserve the historical identity of the markets. The project will begin with Kachhri Bazaar, which will be made wireless and given a modern and attractive appearance.

Regarding underground electrical wiring, it was mentioned that the Municipal Corporation would transfer Rs. 300 million to FESCO, while FESCO would spend an additional Rs. 400 million on its part. The Commissioner of Faisalabad said that this project is a milestone in the improvement of urban facilities and the beautification of the city. He directed that the project be completed quickly to provide citizens with a world-class environment.

Punjab Unveils Rs 78 Billion Agri Development Plan to Boost Farmer Prosperity and Research

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD—Additional Secretary Agriculture Planning Amir Shahzad King visited Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad. Chief Scientist Dr. Sajid-ur-Rehman along with agricultural scientists of the institute gave him a detailed briefing on the Annual Research and Development Program 2025-26. In the briefing session, a detailed discussion was held on several new projects launched for the development of the agricultural sector and the prosperity of farmers in the light of the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab. While giving the briefing, Dr. Sajid-ur-Rehman said that the new projects launched by the Punjab government include a financing facility of Rs 200 billion under the Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card Phase II, Rs 5,000 million for the improvement of agricultural research, Rs 10,000 million for the Chief



Minister High Power Tractor Program and projects to develop agricultural extension services on modern lines. He further informed that Rs 8826 million has been allocated for solarization of tube wells, Rs 1,400 million for increasing straw production, Rs 7,000 million for agricultural development in Potohar region and Rs 9,000 million for Hi-Tech Farm Mechanization Financing Program. Similarly, Rs 8,000 million will be spent on Water Efficient Agriculture Program, Rs 2,000 million will be spent on establishment of Model Agri Malls, Rs 2,155 million for internship program for agriculture graduates, Rs 2,000 million for increasing cotton production in

Bahawalpur and Rs 20,000 million for water reservoirs and water conservation projects.

The Additional Secretary while addressing the participants of the meeting informed that Rs 5,500 million has been allocated for Chief Minister Green Tractor Program Phase II and Rs 1,500 million for Crop Insurance Scheme. He further said that the implementation of these programs will promote agricultural research, farm mechanization, efficient use of water, and the use of new technology, which will increase the per acre production of farmers, make them prosperous, and stabilize the country's economy.

Online Women Police Station resolves 2,600 harassment complaints

Following the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police Online Women Police Station is actively working around the clock to protect women.

In this regard, legal action is being taken without discrimination against sexual harassment, violence, and discriminatory treatment towards women. The Online Women Police Station ensures prompt response to complaints of domestic violence or physical or mental harassment.

This station operates 24/7 for the protection of women. So far, 2,700 complaints have been registered through this station, out of which 2,600 have been resolved, and legal proceedings are



ongoing for 33 complaints. Out of the 2,700 complaints received at the online station, 2,570 women expressed complete satisfaction with the services. Calls received from male citizens on this station are automatically redirected to the Pucar-15 helpline through an automated system.

Meanwhile, other calls are addressed by guiding women and registering their complaints. Once a

complaint is registered, it is transferred to the concerned zonal SP, SHO, and the Women police station, while the complainant is also informed via SMS.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the legal action taken, the case is forwarded to the IGP Complaint Cell-175 for further legal proceedings. Moreover, women can report any kind of harassment at any time by calling the dedicated helpline 1815.

BISP, Sindh Government forge partnership to tackle maternal and child malnutrition

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—In a major push to combat malnutrition and improve maternal and child health in Sindh, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with Sindh Minister for Health, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechaho, on Friday to align the Benazir Nashonuma Programme with provincial health initiatives.

The high-level meeting focused on integrating services to address anemia among pregnant and lactating women, expanding access to nutritional supplements, and

strengthening population counseling services across the province.

Dr. Asim Ijaz, Director General CCI/NSR at BISP, briefed participants on the Gates Foundation's upcoming initiative aimed at improving healthcare for pregnant and lactating women in partnership with national and provincial stakeholders.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted the positive impact of the Benazir Nashonuma Programme, which provides conditional cash transfers along with specialized nutritional support to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and

children under two years of age. She emphasized the need for closer coordination with provincial health departments to avoid duplication of services and maximize outreach to vulnerable populations.

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechaho reaffirmed the Sindh Government's commitment to strengthening maternal and child health indicators, especially in rural and underserved areas.

She also stressed the importance of engaging the private sector to complement government efforts in delivering sustainable and effective healthcare services.

Pakistan, Iran pledge greater cooperation on pilgrimage, religious harmony

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousof, on Friday met with Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, to discuss bilateral cooperation on religious affairs, promotion of interfaith harmony, and facilitation of pilgrims.

During the meeting, the Iranian envoy expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused



by recent rains and floods in Pakistan, assuring that Iran

stood shoulder to shoulder with its brotherly neighbor

in this time of trial.

The two sides held wide-ranging discussions on tackling global challenges, including religious intolerance, terrorism, sectarianism, and the need to strengthen interfaith dialogue.

Sardar Yousof said Pakistan was taking steps to regularize the travel of pilgrims to Iran and Iraq. He announced that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) concerning Pakistani pilgrims and workers

traveling to Iran would soon be signed, with the assistance of the Ministries of Religious Affairs, Interior, and Overseas Pakistanis.

The Iranian ambassador congratulated the minister and the government of Pakistan on hosting the 50th International Serrat-un-Nabi Conference, noting that contemporary issues, including the responsible use of social media, should be addressed in the light of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

