

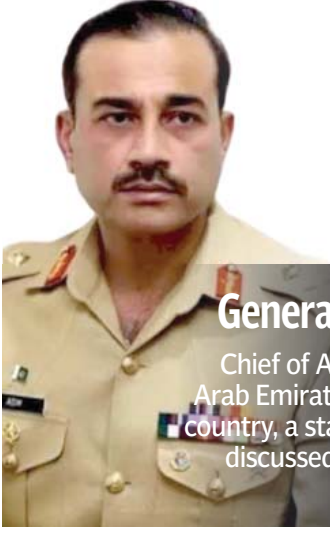
Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
لوگ جو کی نماز پڑھنے کے لیے گھروں سے اور
اطراف دینے گاؤں سے (سید نبوی میں)
پاری ہادی آیا کرتے تھے لوگ گردوغبار
میں چلے آتے، گرد میں اٹنے ہوئے اور پینے
میں شراہ اور اس قدر پینے ہو جا کر تھمتا گئیں
تو ایسی حالت میں ایک آدمی رسول اللہ
ﷺ کے پاس آیا آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا
کہ تم لوگ اس دن (جمعہ میں) غسل کر لیا
کرتے تو بہتر ہو تا۔ (کنز الخیر: حدیث نمبر 902)

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General Asim discusses defence and military ties with UAE President

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir discussed defence and military ties with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his first official visit to the Gulf country, a statement issued by the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said Tuesday. The two sides also discussed ways to strengthen military affairs to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries during the meeting, as per the state news agency. (Report on Page 8)



Fawad claims 5 PTI MPs offered Rs1.2bn

PTI senior leader Fawad Chaudhry claimed on Tuesday that five MPs from his party were offered Rs1.2 billion to change loyalties ahead of Punjab CM Parvez Elahi's vote of confidence. Speaking to media to address his reservations, the former federal minister claimed, "The five lawmakers from Muzaffargarh had received phone calls from unnamed numbers, and they were offered bribes." Alleging the offer was given by the PDM, he demanded an inquiry into the phone calls and the bribery offer.

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Cloudy Weather

ISLAMABAD: A view of cloudy weather in Federal Capital on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

PM thanks countries, UN for making Resilient Pakistan conference a 'resounding success'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the countries and the aid agencies for making the conference on Pakistan's post-flood challenges a success.

"A big thank you to Heads of states and governments, European Union, our development partners and United Nations for making Resilient Pakistan Conference a resounding success," he said in a tweet.

He mentioned the active role of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in highlighting the plight of Pakistan's flood-hit population.

"The UN Secretary General has shown stellar leadership all along. People of Pakistan will forever remain grateful," he said.



Shehbaz Sharif said the world witnessed yesterday how the nations can come together in a show of solidarity to create a model of win-win partnership to lift suffering humanity out of tragedy.

"I was deeply moved by the compassion on display at Geneva Conference. Together we will rebuild lives and hopes," he said.

Pakistan on Monday secured

over \$10 billion pledges from the international financial institutions, donor agencies and development partners for the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of flood affected areas, during an International Conference on Climate Resilience.

The major pledges made at the conference, co-chaired by Pakistan and the United Nations in

PM to visit UAE on Thursday

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will undertake a two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates on January 12-13. The Prime Minister will visit UAE on the invitation of President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Office spokesperson said in a press release on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation; including key members of the cabinet. This would be the Prime Minister's third visit to the UAE after assuming office.

Geneva, Switzerland, included \$4.2 billion from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), \$2

billion from the World Bank, \$1.5 billion from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), \$1 billion from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif led the Pakistan delegation at Geneva moot where he described in detail Pakistan's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF), which laid out a multi-sectoral strategy for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a climate-resilient and inclusive manner.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb were part of the prime minister's delegation.

Geneva moot success of Pakistan, flood victims: Marriyum

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that the Geneva conference was a big success for Pakistan and flood victims.

In a statement, she expressed gratitude to the Secretary-General United Nations and the international community.

Marriyum pledged that funds would reach the affected people in a transparent manner which would bring change in their lives.

"We thank the global and national media for highlighting the causes of humanity and climate change", she said, adding this conference had become a symbol of the collective feeling of humanity.

The minister said providing resources will help the flood victims start a new and better life. She said that the conference made the world realise the serious effects of climate change.

The conference turned



thinking into action to confront the collective challenge of climate change, she remarked, adding that it will prove to be an important global forum for the improvement of the environment and the planet.

"We also express our sincere gratitude to the domestic and foreign participants who presented the case of Pakistan and all provinces at the global forum and supported it", she said.

She said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took concrete steps with the collaboration of all provinces and institutions on flood and these are the fruits of those efforts.

She opined that the Geneva conference was a global recognition of the joint efforts of the coalition government.

Global financial support to expedite reconstruction: FM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said the international community and the global financial institutions had pledged more than \$9 billion for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas of Pakistan and expressed the hope that the process would now be expedited.

In a video message shared on his Twitter handle from Geneva, the foreign minister termed the co-hosting of the 'Resilient Pakistan' conference in Geneva as a huge success for Pakistan as they had received pledges more than their expectations.

Expressing gratitude to the international community, the foreign minister said that with this financial support, they would be able to commence work on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas, repairing of damaged infrastructure, agricultural, and poverty alleviation.

Foreign Minister Bilawal



said that they were thankful to all the countries and institutions for making pledges of more than \$9 billion and particularly mentioned the United Nations Secretary-General, China, the USA, the European Union, French President Macron, the Middle East countries, all friends and others. "The entire world stands shoulders to shoulders with Pakistan," he said.

Separately, the foreign minister posted on his video message "Good news, Resilient Pakistan conference has exceeded expectations. The international community has united in solidarity with Pakistan's flood victims & pledged 9 billion dollars for recon, rehab & relief. We are particularly grateful to Antonio Guterres for his leadership."

Shoe tossed at Rana Sanaullah's car in Punjab PA premises



Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: Unknown person tossed a shoe at Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's car in Punjab Assembly premises while he was leaving the assembly after attending the assembly session. Dunya News reported.

Sources said that the shoe was allegedly tossed by the driver of PTI MPA Rashid Hafeez. However, Mr Hafeez denied the claim saying, "My driver is wearing shoes in both feet".

Earlier, the assembly session was marred by ruckus ahead of vote of confidence by Punjab Chief Minister Pervez Elahi.

Pakistan endured suffering by taking part in US war, laments Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan lamented on Tuesday the suffering Pakistan endured as a result of its participation in the US war.

Addressing a seminar, Mr Khan expressed his concern over the terrorism incidents, warning that if the menace of terrorism would not end, the country would have to face the consequences. "If this war continues, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will suffer more," he added.

Continuing to discuss the matter of terrorism, Mr Khan suggested that the federal government hold regular meetings to address it. He slammed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)



and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders, saying, "When Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif were ruling the country, it had witnessed 400 drone attacks."

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Mr Khan said, "Today our prime minister is welcoming the world and the foreign minister

is busy making trips in parts of world. He [Bilawal] should have been in Afghanistan by now."

Mr Khan also warned the government not to divert the people's attention from the matter of the TTP. He complained that he was labelled "Taliban Khan", and he claimed that the country would face more suicide attacks in the future. As for Pakistan's role in the US war,

Mr Khan said, "I used to say that Pakistan needed to show neutrality in the US war. We took part in the US war for 20 years."

Underscoring the situation of the farmers in the PTI's government, Mr Khan said, "In our time, in the field of agriculture, the farmers were pleased." He said the rulers were now begging after their [PTI] government was toppled through a foreign plot.

Speaking about the Wazirabad incident, Mr Khan said, "As per media reports, JIT members are being pressurised to distance themselves from the findings of the investigation into an assassination plot against me. This further confirms my conviction that powerful quarters are behind the assassination attempt on me."

China-Pakistan joint drills strengthen ties: Pak Naval Chief

News Desk

BEIJING: Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi has said that the interaction between the navies of Pakistan and China provided an opportunity to enhance interoperability, share experience to optimally utilize common sensors, iron out procedures and "further elevate our relations."

In that regard, the Sea Guardian series of exercises serve the objectives of fostering interoperability and sharing professional experience to deal with contemporary traditional and non-traditional security threats, he said in an exclusive interview with Global Times.

Pakistan Navy plans to host the AMAN-23 multinational maritime exercise in February this year, with the Chinese Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, having taken part in previous editions, are again expected to participate.

Solid Waste Management

HYDERABAD: Workers of PAK-ALTAS company sitting with their vehicles to collect door to door garbage, after the inauguration ceremony of the city cleaning program of Sindh Solid Waste Management Authority with collaboration of Turk company PAK-ALTAS in Qasimabad taluka.



Photo: Online

President directs FUUAST to provide justice to student

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi endorsing an order of Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) directed Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) to update the result of a student who had been earlier declared as fail on account of non-submission of a paper.

The student had submitted his paper of Pakistan Studies and its receipt was also acknowledged but he was declared fail on account of the



non-receipt of the paper for marking in the examination department, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press

release on Tuesday.

While upholding the findings of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, the president observed that due to the Corona lockdown as per the policy of the university, the student submitted his paper to the teacher which was to be uploaded online for marking as per SOPs, however, when the result was announced, he was declared as fail.

Despite repeated requests/complaints by the student, his result was not updated.

The president observed that

since the student had submitted his paper to his teacher online and it was the duty of his teacher to submit it to the examination department.

But due to maladministration, the student was denied his rightful result and was declared failed.

The president upheld the decision of Wafaqi Mohtasib and directed the FUUAST to update the result of the complainant on the basis of the paper checked so he did not suffer.

General Asim discussed defence and military ties with UAE President

WAM Report

DUBAI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir discussed defence and military ties with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his first official visit to the Gulf country, a statement issued by the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said Tuesday.

The two sides also discussed ways to strengthen military affairs to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries during the meeting, as per the state news agency.

"The two sides reviewed cooperation relations and joint work between the UAE and Pakistan in defence and military affairs, as well as ways to strengthen them to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries,"



said the statement.

Gen Munir was received by the UAE president at Qasr Al

Shati Palace. President Nahyan congratulated the army chief on his appointment,

wishing him luck in his new duties to serve his country and people.

Gen Munir expressed his thanks and appreciation to the president for congratulating him.

The meeting was attended by UAE's National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Adviser for Special Affairs at the Ministry of Presidential Court Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for National Security Ali Mohammed Hammad Al Shamsi and Staff Lieutenant General Engineer Issa Saif Mohammed Al Mazrouei as chief of staff of the UAE armed forces.

Naveed Qamar issued notice over ECP's code of conduct violation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday issued a notice to Federal Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar over code of conduct violation.

The minister has been served the notice over announcing development schemes in Tando Muhammad Khan on Jan 7 after the announcement of election schedule for local government elections in Sindh. He has been summoned to the District Municipal Office (DMO) in personal capacity or through a lawyer.

ECP issues arrest warrants for Imran, other PTI leaders

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and other PTI leaders in a contempt case.

The ECP had reserved the verdict of the case on January 3. Former prime minister Imran Khan, PTI leaders Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar had sought immunity from attendance in the case which was turned by ECP bench today.

The ECP has directed PTI leaders to secure bail against surety bonds of worth Rs50,000 each before January 17.

On Tuesday last week, the Supreme Court of Pakistan had allowed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to continue its proceedings against PTI Chairman Imran Khan, and his party leaders Asad Umar and



Fawad Chaudhry in contempt case filed against them over controversial remarks against the electoral body.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umer Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ayesha A Malik and Justice Athar Minallah heard the ECP's petition.

Contemp cases against PTI leaders Last year, the top electoral body initiated contempt proceedings against the PTI leaders for allegedly using foul language against Chief Election

Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and ECP. It has served several notices on them, asking them to appear in person and explain their point of view.

However, the PTI leaders did not appear before the ECP and later challenged its powers to initiate contempt proceedings under Section 10 of the Election Act 2017 in different high courts.

The ECP in its six petitions had urged the top court to transfer all its contempt cases against PTI leaders from different high courts to a single one.

One batch of anti-fever injection declared 'substandard'

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has declared one batch of the anti-fever injection PARACET (paracetamol) 'sub-standard', ARY News reported on Tuesday.

One batch of the anti-fever injection PARACET (paracetamol) has been declared 'sub-standard' by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). The authority issued a 'Product Recall Alert' and ordered concerned authorities to immediately seize the sub-standard batch from the markets.

According to the alert, the batch number CLJ170 of Paracet's 1g/100ml Infusion was found 'substandard' & adulterated containing black color particles visible to naked eye."

Saudi Arabia considers providing much-needed financial help to Pakistan



RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has directed to conduct a study to increase the amount of the deposit it made to the Pakistan's forex reserves to \$5 billion as the South Asian country is currently facing economic woes.

Earlier, the kingdom has parked \$3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). In December last, it extended the term of the deposit for further three years, helping the country tackle economic fallout of the devastating floods and financial challenges.

Despite the assistance from the brotherly country, the forex reserves of Pakistan continued to deplete due to debt servicing. Earlier this month, the fx reserves held by the central bank plunged to nearly a decade low of \$4.5 billion after repayment of \$1.2 billion loan to the UAE banks. The reserves held by the commercial banks are standing at \$6 billion.

In order to save the country from defaulting on international liabilities, the coalition government is reaching out to the friendly states and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The announcement from the Saudi crown prince to consider increasing the Kingdom's deposit in the SBP comes after the recent visit of the Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir.

Prince Mohammad bin Salman has directed to study augmenting the kingdom investments in Pakistan which have previously been announced on August 25, 2022 to reach \$10 billion.

He also "directed the Saudi Development Fund (SDF) to study increasing the amount of the deposit provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in favor of the Central Bank of Pakistan (CBP) which have previously been extended on December 2, 2022 to hit a \$5 billion ceiling, confirming the Kingdom's position supportive to the economy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its sisterly people."

The state-run Saudi Arabia's SPA said the development "came within the framework of the existing communication between HRH the Crown Prince and Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan"

Mushahid lambasts world community on G-20 moot in IIOJK



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Defence Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Tuesday lambasted the world community for its double standards and silence over India's attempts to hold the Group of Twenty (G-20) Summit 2023 in the disputed territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

It was rather incumbent upon the world to foil such Indian attempts in solidarity with the oppressed innocent Kashmiris facing the worst state-sponsored human rights abuses, he said while talking to a private news channel.

Senator Mushahid said, "If the world is much concerned then G-20 forum should hold its session in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, which is under Russian attack."

He said the international commu-

nity should not turn a blind eye to the plight of Kashmiris facing the worst violence and persecution at the hands of Indian occupant forces. But its silence over the Kashmiris' loud cries for justice and the just right to self-determination, and India's unilateral decisions on the disputed territory's issues showed its duplicity, he added.

The Group of Twenty (G-20) is a leading international economic cooperation forum that has played a key role in shaping and strengthening international governance and framework on all major international economic issues. India got its presidency for a year on December 1, 2022.

According to the G20 official website, the summit logo was inspired by the colours of Indian national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue. It juxtaposes the planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges, it said.

"The theme of India's G20 presidency is 'One Earth-One Family-One Future' that affirms the value of all life - human, animal, plant, and micro-organisms - and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe," the website said.

NA body pass 'Imports, Exports (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2022'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee on Commerce on Tuesday unanimously passed the Imports and Exports (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

"The Imports and Exports (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Government Bill) as introduced in the National Assembly may be passed," the committee unanimously recommended.

The committee met on Tuesday afternoon in the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of MNA Khurshed Ahmed Junejo to discuss the performance of the Ministry of Commerce and its attached departments.

The committee, therefore, decided to invite Secretary Finance and Secretary Industries & Production so that concrete measures could be adopted to expand the network of Pakistani exports worldwide.

19.7mln mobile phones, smart devices manufactured locally in calendar year

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's local mobile industry witnessed remarkable growth as the companies have manufactured around 19.7 million mobile phones and smart devices during the last calendar year, especially after the government introduced a Mobile Manufacturing Policy to encourage local production.

"Due to increased local manufacturing, the import of mobile and smartphone devices has decreased from 10.26 million to a record level of 1.37 million," a senior official of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication said.

Under the Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy, he said around 30 mobile manufacturers have been issued licenses to start local production of mobile devices.

Wana Bazar was closed, announcement to continue the protest



Special Report
by Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The protest sit-in of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" (Waziristan peace public movement) in South Waziristan Lower Wana failed to succeed in the negotiations with the civil administration.

All roads linked to Waziristan were closed for traffic, more than 8 thousand shops and business centers of Wana Rustam Bazaar were closed.

Addressing a press conference by the leader of Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon (Waziristan peace public movement), PPP senior leader Imran Mukhlis said,

That the negotiations with the local administration were going on for the last 4 days

But the administration is not serious about negotiations, so "Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" is thinking of taking more drastic measures.

He said that we are giving this message to the leaders of international human rights, that we are seeking peace in our country and region according to the Pakistani constitution.

But the government is not taking our basic demands seriously, and thousands of people have come out on the streets and roads to get their legitimate demands.

Imran Mukhlis said that we are begging for peace from the state institutions and officials for peace and order in Waziristan.

We are being forced to take extreme measures, on the fifth day of the sit-in, more than 8,000 shops and business centers in Rustam Bazar Wana were unanimously locked by traders and people.

"Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" on Friday, January 6 the people of Waziristan responded to the call of (Waziristan peace public movement) and participated in large numbers in the protest and sit-in regarding peace.

"Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" presented ten demands regarding peace to the civil administration and security high ups.

On January 7, a three-hour long meeting was held between the administration of South Waziristan Lower (DC, DPO and AC Wana).

In which there was a detailed discussion on all aspects, the civil administration promised to implement the demands of "Olasi Patoon" as constitutional and legal and sought time for



consultation with the higher authorities.

He said, After that, another meeting was held in which he was asked to sit with the military leadership, The negotiation committee of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" (Waziristan peace public movement) also accepted this condition of the administration.

But yesterday, on January 9, the civil administration justified some of the demands of the "Olasi Patoon", including glass-fronted vehicles, FC patrolling with police, speeding up work at police stations and early start of new police posts The promise was included.

There was a demand for time for the rest of the demands, which the "Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" did not satisfy, as the aim of the civil admin-

istration was to end the sit-in.

It was not a serious process to justify only two or three demands out of ten demands because not to provide additional personnel to the police force deployed in Wana Bazar, delaying tactics in action against drug dealers, recovery of Jamshed Wazir and facilities at Angoor Ada Border, all sorts of things Declaration of non-affiliation with armed organizations, transfer of offices, trade Prompt action was possible in providing protection to professionals and bringing criminals to justice after a long consultation with the 27-member committee, the negotiation committee of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Patoon" finally came to the conclusion that the civil administration is helpless in using the constitutional and legal powers.

Fazeel Asif Jah Appointed As Chairman of the Board of PCBDDA

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi has appointed Mr. Fazeel Asif Jah as Chairman of the board of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab).



The appointment of Mr. Fazeel has been done under Section 9 of the PCBDDA Act 2021. His appointment is officially notified by the Secretary of Housing Urban Development & Public Health Department, Government of Punjab. Mr. Fazeel Asif Jah is directed by the CM Punjab, to take the charge with immediate effect.

Export potential needs TDAP coordination



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) should give priority to Faisalabad in its future strategy to fully exploit its export potential, said Dr. Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). In a meeting with Mr. Zubair Motiwala Chief Executive Officer TDAP, he said that Pakistan should explore non-traditional markets in addition to enhancing export of non-traditional products to maintain its export growth. He said that TDAP should regularly consult FCCI and other stakeholders in formulating its strategy before organizing exhibitions and expos. He underlined the need to materialize the objective of "Look Africa" policy in addition to enhancing bilateral trade to the landlocked Central Asian States, ASEAN and other economic blocks across the world.

He said that Faisalabad is strategically located in the heart of Pakistan. "It has reliable road, rail and air links with the Karachi and Gwadar ports in addition to road connectivity with China and Central Asian States through Afghanistan and Iran," he said and added that TDAP has already identified the impediments in exports to other countries and now practical and tangible steps must be taken to enhance exports. CEO TDAP endorsed the proposal of Dr. Khurram Tariq that Pakistan must fully avail the GSP Plus status as currently we are availing only 5% subsidized lines. He also appreciated the serious efforts of Secretary Commerce Muhammad Suleh Farooqi and hoped that he is trying his best to provide an enabling environment to the Pakistani exporters and business community.

He also stressed the need to promote regional trade in local currencies, adding that it would help to lessen pressure on dollars. "It would also help in curtailing transportation charges," he said and added that we must negotiate and ink preferential trade agreements with new potential markets. He also demanded that a special quota may be allocated for Faisalabad in different exhibitions organized by the TDAP. Dr. Khurram Tariq also invited Mr. Zubair Motiwala to visit FCCI and have direct links with the export community of this city. Later Muhammad Tariq Yousuf President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) hosted a sumptuous dinner in honor of Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI. It was also attended by Mr. Touseef Saigol SVP KCCI, Mr. Zubair Motiwala CEO TDAP, Mr. Javed Bolwani Chairman Pakistan Apparel Forum and Mr. Fareed Iqbal Qureshi Secretary TDAP.

Country places in the red zone in term of per capita water availability

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Experts at an international workshop called for adoption of remote sensing in agriculture for crop area and yield estimation, introduce water markets for conversion of irrigation systems from supply to demand driven.

They addressed International Workshop organized by Precision Agriculture and Analytics Lab, National Centre in Big Data and Cloud Computing, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad at Center for Advanced Studies auditorium.

Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran from UAF in his welcome address said that the country was placed in the red zone in term of per capita water availability. He added that at the inception of the country, the per capita water availability was 5600 cubic meter whereas it has reduced to around 900 cubic meter now. He added we have to create the awareness and take measures to promote rational usage of water and make each drop more productive through precision irrigation technologies. He said that we need to adopt precision agriculture as every grain of seed, every millimetre of agro-chemicals, every horsepower of machinery, and every man-hour of farm labor counts to remain competitive and sustainable in face of global economic and climatic changes. He called for remote sensing in agriculture to estimate the crop yield that will help take timely trade related decisions.

Dr. Azeem Khan, Lead Remote Sensing Scientist at the Department of Planning and Environment, Government of New South Wales, Australia said that Pakistan is a water stress country, it has low crop yields and water productivity, untapped land and water resources and a growing population.

BISP Cash Delivery

Quetta : Women waiting in queue to receive cash of Benazir Income Support Program from Easypaisa Shop on Tuesday.



Photo: APP

Dawlance and Habib-Metro Bank extend Financial-Facilities for contractors

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Dawlance is Pakistan's leading manufacturer of home appliances, which has now signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Habib-Metro Bank Limited (HMBL) to enable the suppliers and contractors of Dawlance, to undertake Supply Chain Finance (SCF) transactions with ease. The objective of this collaboration is to provide the Dawlance vendors with the

option to avail invoice financing from the CashNow* platform of HMBL.

The CashNow* portal is a convenient tool-structured to execute Supply-Chain Finance transactions for vendors and contractors of resourceful companies. So, Dawlance vendors can derive tremendous advantages by availing HMB financing facilities, against their invoices, for smooth execution of Supply-Chain Finance transactions.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance – Umar Ahsan Khan said that: "I would like to thank the Habib Metro Bank for creating synergies with Dawlance to enhance the ease-of-doing-business in Pakistan. We are committed to support and build-capacity of our vendors and contractors, who play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of our innovative products and strengthening Dawlance as a technology-leader in Pakistan, with sustainable growth.

This collaboration with Habib Metro Bank is aimed at strengthening our contractors' ability to meet their financial and business needs."

Dawlance is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ArceLIK-the 2nd largest manufacturer in Europe. It is committed to create greater solutions and convenience for its business associates, while catering to the evolving needs of the customers in Pakistan and exporting high quality products to other countries.

Dawlance's award-winning technologies to conserve more than 55% energy, for promising long term sustainability."

Habib-Metro Bank is a leading financial institution of Pakistan and it is a subsidiary of Habib Bank AG Zurich, which has established robust operations in 10 countries, across 4 continents. HABIBMETRO Bank has a network of 498 branches in 198 cities, all over Pakistan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, M/s (i). Adnan Pervaz Son of Mahmood Pervaz Siddiqui (ii). Imran Pervaz Son of Mahmood Pervaz co.allottees / share holders of plot No. 249-E, Area Development Scheme Hassanabad have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mr. Mehmood Mehdi Son of Mohammad Sabuktagin vide registered deeds at Nos. 860/4 dated 12-04-2016, & No. 861/4 dated 12-04-2016 from Sub Registrar Islamabad. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer shares of said plot to 3rd party.

If any one have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.
Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mr. Muhammad Ramzan s/o Noor Muhammad & Sheikh Nasir ud Din s/o Sheikh Ghulam Rabani, allottees of plot Nos. 13-E & 15-E, Block-A, Lane-C, Area Development Scheme, Attock have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mr. Ikhtlaq Ahmed s/o Muhammad Akbar Khan vide registered deed at No. 293/4 dated 31-05-1992 from Sub Registrar, Attock. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer the above mentioned plots to Mst. Iram Kazmi w/o Ikhtlaq Ahmed.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.
Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi

Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest at the launch event of Deworming campaign today on 10th January, 2022.

Rana Tanveer said that the State is responsible for the education and health of the youth of Pakistan. He said that It is our collective duty to provide the future of Pakistan the right platform so that they can become a contributing citizen for the country.

Federal Minister was briefed that Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training initiated "School Based Deworming Program in Islamabad Capital Territory" project in 2019. It was



initially, a three years project from FY 2019-20 to FY 2021-22 at the cost of Rs. 21.00 million however; it was extended for further one year i.e. till end of June, 2023. The target was to deworm about 481,823 enrolled children of 5-14 years in schools. The project was conceived after the detailed survey regarding Soil Transmitted Helminthes (STH) conducted in schools in 2016 by Interac-

tive Research and Development (IRD), Pakistan, Indus Health Network (IHN) and Evidence Action, together with the Institute of Development & Economic Alternatives (IDEAS, Mo National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with Federal and Provincial governments.

Minister was told that the

survey reported that 40 districts across Pakistan are at-risk for STH infections with 17 million school-age-children in need of treatment. The STH prevalence in Islamabad also found more than 20%. While in some areas of ICT the prevalence found more than 50%.

According to WHO, children should be de-wormed once in a year where the STH prevalence is between 20 to 50% and at least 75% of the total target of children must be treated for three consecutive years to bring down the prevalence in children. In this regard, three rounds have been conducted in Islamabad and 640,000 students have been dewormed.

The rounds were conducted through the teachers of public and private schools who were

trained for administration of medicine. Moreover, to cover the whole ICT, Lady Health Workers were engaged to deworm the students in a registered private schools and out of school children. They were also trained before the campaign.

This is the 4 and last round of the project and the target is 500,000 children of 5 to 14 years.

This round is also being conducted through the teachers of Federal Directorate of Education and lady health workers. The campaign will start from 9th till 13th January, 2023. The DHO office and District Administration has been supporting this program along with FDE and PEIRA. The support of DHO office and District Administration ICT is very appreciable.



Islamabad 15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:15 pm
Asr3:39 pm
Maghrib5:17 pm
Isha6:46 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

SCO continues to scale up its footprint in Af&K and GB with 'Spaisa pension account'

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI : Special Communications Organization (SCO) has launched 'S-Paisa Pension Account' facility through its Digital Financial Services 'S-Paisa' under the national service initiative with the approval of State Bank of Pakistan.

Pakistan achieves historic success by receiving pledges over 9 billion dollars: Faisal Kundi

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Tuesday said that Pakistan had achieved historic success in the Geneva Conference by receiving pledges worth Rs 9.7 billion dollars.

"This was the result of effective diplomatic efforts of the Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto who in a very short span of time visited various countries and sensitized the international community about the post flood situation being faced by Pakistan", he said during a presser.

Flanked by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Media Coordinator, Nazir Dhoki during the news conference, the SAPM said the total pledges of 9.7 billion dollars included 9.04 billion dollars, 570.50 million Euros and 36 million pounds which is approximately PKR 2204 billion.

Faisal Kundi said that the funds acquired through pledges would be spent on the reconstruction and reha-

bilitation of the flood affected areas and people across the country.

The way Bilawal Bhutto fought the case of Pakistan at international forums by visiting different countries and inviting United Nation Secretary General to Pakistan for creating awareness and sense of sympathy about the flood damages which reflected his diplomatic wisdom, he said.

He said that still water had not receded from many of the flood affected parts of the country including Sindh, Balochistan, South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and South Punjab. "The country needs serious efforts and financial help for the complete rehabilitation of infrastructure and agriculture sector of the country", he added.

Criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf propaganda against Bilawal Bhutto visits, Faisal Kundi said that all the political parties should support the efforts of foreign minister for this national cause keeping aside the political differences.

He also criticized PTI for ruining diplomatic relations with the foreign countries and said that the incumbent government was eager to rebuild ties with



the friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, China, UAE and others who have extended their support in difficult times.

Talking about the climate change repercussions being faced by Pakistan and other countries, Faisal Kundi emphasized on engaging national and international community to fight the challenge

of climate change which was caused by various reasons including illegal deforestation.

About the Benazir Kafalat disbursements under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), he said the first tranche of Rs 55 billion had been released to the designated banks and retailers for around 7.7 million families.

While a separate amount of Rs 12 billion is being released for the children of Benazir Kafalat beneficiaries under Benazir Education Stipend.

These stipends were being disbursed without any deduction and if a person demands any kind of deduction or fee for payment, the beneficiaries should immediately report to BISP, he said and assured that zero tolerance policy would be adopted in case of any illegal deduction by any means.

Faisal Kundi said that the BISP was closely working with National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) to re-include the Benazir Kafalat beneficiaries who were exited without any verification during the PTI tenure.

He said that the preparation for the launch of BISP dynamic survey had been finalized and would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto soon.

Responding to another question, he said 70 billion rupees had been disbursed among the flood hit families through adopting a transparent procedure.

Construction work

ISLAMABAD: A view of construction work at Bhara Kahu bypass along Srinagar Highway.



Photo: APP

Anti-Corruption Seminar in Federal Urdu University Islamabad

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A one-day seminar was organized in the Federal Urdu University Islamabad on the subject of corruption and remedies in order to raise awareness and consciousness among the people about corruption, in which the special guest was Mr. Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Minister of State for Industry and Production participated on the special invitation of In-charge Islamabad Campus Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ishaq while the keynote address of the seminar was delivered by Mr. Syed Tahir Kazim Islamabad Police.

A large number of teachers, officers, employees and students participated in the seminar. The ceremony started with recitation of Holy Quran. In his opening address, Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ishaq, in-charge Islamabad Campus, thanked all the guests and said that his determination is to make Federal Urdu University Islamabad an exemplary institution free from corruption and he will not make any compromise in this regard.



Mr. Syed Tahir Kazim gave the keynote address in the seminar, who shed light on the causes, effects and laws of corruption and informed the attendees about the procedures for filing complaints against corruption in various government institutions.

By which the rulers tried to perpetuate their power. As many laws are made,

there are some loopholes in them which are used by corrupt elements for their own benefit. So the most important thing is the voice of human conscience. He further said that politics is a sacred profession and the culture of calling each other thieves should end. At the end of the ceremony, the in-charge Islamabad Campus thanked the chief guest and all the participants.

AIOU organizes an extension lecture on Seerat e Tayyiba



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Seerat Un Nabi (SAWW) chair, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized an extension lecture on "Society manners: in light of Seerat e tayyiba". Renown scholar, Dr. Yousaf Farooqi presided over the event. A well-known researcher, and religious scholar Jamia Islamia Imdadia Faisalabad, Maulana Mufti Muhammad Zahid, gave a detailed lecture on "Society manners: in light of Seerat e tayyiba". Sahibzada Sajid Ur Rahman hosted the event. Senior Advisor, PMU, Muhammad Rafiq Tahir, faculty members, and students also attended the event.

Mufti Muhammad Zahid, in his lecture, shed light on the etiquette and manners of society considering Seerat e Tayyiba. Every hadith of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is full of ethics. His whole life revolves around ethics and respect. Quoting the events and hadiths of the Prophet's life, Mufti Zahid said that no one can negate knowledge and information focused on ethics and manners, provided in Qur'an and the Hadith.

Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Sajidur Rehman introduced Maulana Mufti Muhammad Zahid in his welcome speech and said that Maulana Zahid has a great command on the Seerat e Tayyiba. Dr. Yousaf Farooqi said that there is a close relationship between society and civilization, and Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) created a civilization. Mohammad Rafiq Tahir explained the aims and objectives of the center of excellence and chairs established in AIOU.

Senior Bureaucracy from Sindh and Balochistan vouch for Gender Sensitive Policies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) a project funded by the European Union and implemented by International Trade Centre (ITC) organized a two-day training for senior officials from department of agriculture, food, livestock, planning and development, industries and commerce, investment, and women development from Sindh and Balochistan government in Islamabad.



The objective of the training was to provide clarity on application of anti-sexual harassment laws to ensure safe workplaces for equal participation, deliver solutions on how to integrate gender into development policies, based on good practices.

The training also analyzed Sindh Women Agriculture Act (2019) and Balochistan Agriculture Policy 2021, Livestock Policy and Strategy 2020-2039, and Women Empowerment Policy 2020-2024 through a gender equity lens.

Mr Haroon Sharif, Former Minister of State and Chairperson, Board of Investment gave a session, addressing the policy and implementation challenges and their remedies based on his experience in development and finance fields. Dr Farzana Bari, eminent women's rights scholar-activist explained the sexual harassment law and why it is important to ensure a secure environment in the workplace as well as the public sphere. Mr Rafiullah Kakar, Member, Social Sector & Devolution Planning Commission of Pakistan gave a session on economic empowerment of youth in Pakistan, particularly Sindh and Balochistan.

Chef Christopher Jayaweera serving as the Executive Chef at PC Lahore

News Desk

LAHORE: Chef Christopher Jayaweera is currently serving as the Executive Chef at Pearl-Continental Hotel, Lahore. He is the driving force behind our culinary team. Exposure to various cultures, familiarity with multi-cultural flavours and his love for cooking has brought him to Lahore. He combines his passion for creativity with his incredible skill to create memorable events and menus for our clients.



Spanning over a 25-year of professional hospitality experience in five-star hotels in UAE and Sri Lanka, Jayaweera has spent five years at Hilton International Colombo, where he was the Head Chef of Al Noukhazha Sea Food Restaurant. Christopher's philosophy is to make every experience unforgettable. He loves the range of food options available in Pakistan. He says his culinary philosophy is to create authentic food that represents who you are and where you are.

Hamdard Pakistan held festivities under the title of 'Naunehal Grand Carnival'

News Desk

KARACHI: Hamdard Pakistan (HP) held festivities under the title: "Naunehal Grand Carnival" on Monday at Bilawal Stadium, Hamdard Public School (HPS), Madinat al-Hikmah to celebrate the 103rd birth anniversary of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, and to pay tribute to his exceptional and remarkable national services for the country. During the event, various entertainment activities were organized including a stage show, jumping castle, and magic show. Also, many decorated food & beverage stalls were set up to facilitate the visitors. More than 6000 people attended the event.



Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Group, graced the occasion as chief guest. She was accompanied by Fatema Munir Ahmed- Managing Director & CEO of HP, Dr. Arshad Saleem- COO of HP, Prof. Dr. Hakim Abdul Hannan, Head of the Clinical Services Division at HP, and the senior management of Hamdard Public School.

The highlight of the carnival was stalls including the Rooh Afza stall where children were provided with Rooh Afza for free. There were also stalls featuring bags and suits created by students of HPS. Ms. Sadia Rashid highly appreciated the artistic aptitude of the children. She encouraged the students in their efforts and prayed for their success.

The unveiling of a large photo mosaic of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. This mosaic was made up of many hundreds or thousands of smaller images of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said taken throughout his life. HPS students made the mosaic and presented it to Ms. Sadia Rashid as a gift. She praised the students and the teachers for such

outstanding artwork and said that this photo mosaic illustrates the life-long struggle of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. During the event, the young speakers expressed their deep devotion to Quaid-e-Naunehal Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said through a special tableau, songs, and speeches.

International Conference ‘Dialogue Is a Guarantee of Peace’ held in Ashgabat

News Desk

ASHGABAT :The final document of the International Conference “Dialogue is a Guarantee of Peace”, held in Ashgabat on December 11, 2022 in the frames of the Ashgabat International Week, was published in the six official languages of the UN (A/77/651) as an official document of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly under paragraph 14 Agenda “Culture of Peace”.

The document reflects the fundamental goals and principles of the UN Charter, which include obligations to resolve disputes by peaceful means and methods. In this context, the document emphasizes that inclusive dialogue in its various manifestations plays an important role in strengthening relations and cooperation among

UN member states.

The Outcome Document also supports the initiative of the UN Secretary General on the formation of a New



Agenda for Building Peace, which is consonant with the initiative of Turkmenistan to promote the philosophy of “Dialogue as a guarantee of peace”.

In addition, the published document notes the need to implement global strategies and programs of the UN, in particular, the joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Final Document emphasizes that the policy of neutrality plays an important role in the development of a peaceful dialogue, trusting, friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the countries of the world and contributes to the strengthening of international peace and security at the regional and global levels. At the same time, the importance of preventive diplomacy is emphasized, in particular, the effective activities of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat in order to support the efforts of the world community to peacefully resolve conflicts in the interests of maintaining peace, as well as the need to develop and strengthen preventive diplomacy tools.

The Global Initiative “Dialogue is a Guarantee of Peace” promoted by Turk-

menistan is aimed at consolidating the efforts of the international community in strengthening the traditions of peaceful and trusting coexistence of the peoples of the world, restoring values and worldviews, defining a culture of peace and trust as an integral factor in international relations.

The conference “Dialogue is a Guarantee of Peace”, which laid the foundation for the launch in 2023 of the Global Campaign for Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, has become a clear confirmation that Turkmenistan, being an active member of the world community, is not limited only to putting forward significant initiatives aimed at developing wide international cooperation that meets the fundamental interests of all countries and peoples, but also takes consistent steps towards their practical implementation.

A National Workshop on Silvo-Ecological Zones and Afforestation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A two days national workshop has been kicked off to finalize the Silvo-ecological zones maps, and suitable trees for afforestation under the Ten Billion Tree Afforestation Program in different ecological regions of Pakistan at the local hotel in Islamabad.

In the opening remarks, Mr. Mahmood AkhterCheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan provided an overview of the progress of the independent third party consortium for monitoring of the Government of Pakistan's flagship project—the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme. He thanked the BMZ and German Embassy for their continued cooperation which has resulted in achieving another crucial milestone. In the opening remarks, Mr. Mahmood AkhterCheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan provided an overview of the progress of the independent third party consortium for monitoring of the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme. He thanked the BMZ and German Embassy for their continued cooperation which has resulted in achieving another crucial milestone. He noted that the active participation of all provincial focal points from forest departments have made this possible, without their input and interest it was not possible to develop and finalize this list.

Dr. Faiz-ul-Bari, FAO Forests Advisor, informed workshop participants that FAO has provided technical support for monitoring activities on the ground and developed a system that maps the coordinates of the activities, which is reflected in the web-based GIS system.

Dr. Javed Ahmad, Technical Advisor, TBTP Consortium presented the overall objectives of this workshop and responded the queries of the participants.

Mr. Riaz Wagan, Chief Conservator Forests of Sindh, emphasised the significance of species selection in calculating carbon sequestration, timber requirements, and medicinal use.

Mr. Asim Jamal, Project Manager, TBTP 3rd Party Consortium informed that the selection of tree species for plantation in Pakistan would require considering the local environmental conditions, the specific goals of the afforestation project, the involvement of local communities.

In his closing remarks, H.E. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany congratulated the consortium on behalf of German government for accomplishing another milestone; Government of Pakistan has played a key role for this flagship afforestation initiative. Sustainable development necessitates strong partnerships, and IUCN-led consortium of WWF and FAO is making significant progress.

Provincial forest department representatives lauded the Consortium's efforts in developing the guidelines and organising this workshop. They praised the comprehensive guidelines and suggested that they be used in current and future afforestation and rehabilitation programmes for degraded forest landscapes.

CRBC \$100,000 donation in place for flood-hit families in Pakistan



News Desk

BEIJING: China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), a long-standing partner of Pakistan in transport and infrastructure network development, donated a total of US\$100,000 to the flood-hit families in Pakistan.

In October 2022, Wang Lijun, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and General Manager of the company attended the donation ceremony at the Pakistani Embassy in China.

According to the company, the donation will be divided into two parts, RMB 100,000 will be donated to the Pakistani Embassy in China and Rs 20.08 million will go to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

Expressing sincere sympathy to the families of the victims and those injured in the flood, Wang believed that with the joint efforts of the Pakistani government and people, they would overcome the difficulties and life and work would go back to normal at an early date.

Wang talked with Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque about the company's key project progress in Pakistan and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Embassy for its long-term guidance and help.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin paid tribute to CRBC's contribution towards Pakistan-China friendship and its role in successful completion of many vital infrastructure projects in Pakistan including the Khunjerab-Raikot section of Karakorum Highway and KKH realignment projects at Attabad Lake and Havelian-Thakot sections.

Presenting Shield

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari presenting a shield to the Argentinian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Leopoldo Francisco Sahores on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

MoU signed to promote Sino-Pakistan coop on vocational education

Web Desk

BEIJING: The representatives from Shandong Institute of Commerce and Technology, Gwadar Port Authority, University of Gwadar, and China Overseas Ports Holding Company signed an agreement to promote cooperation on vocational education.

A signing ceremony for the joint operation agreement of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, built under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The event was attended by students, and professionals from all walks of life, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

According to the agreement, the four parties will be collectively responsible for the operation and management of the institute. For this purpose, an executive body will be formed for policy making and implementation.

Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute is one of the many grant projects initiated in Gwadar by China. The mega-project was completed at a cost of \$10 million and handed over to Gwadar Port Authority in September 2021.

This project, among the many other livelihood support programs undertaken by the Government of China, is widely supported by the local people of Gwadar.

In the preliminary operation program under National Vocational and Technical Commission of Pakistan (NAVTTCC), 130 local students – majored in various technical fields – graduated from the institute.

Upon its handover, henceforth, short courses and long diploma certification will be offered in conventional and non-conventional fields with more relevancy to port and free zone operation.

The systematic arrangement of the parties offers chances for subsequent on-site training and ultimately job opportunities for the young graduates.

It will also yield more skilled manpower for the local community.

FAO's support for Pakistan: from immediate response to resilience building

News Desk

GENEVA: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will continue to play a leading role in transforming Pakistan's agri-food systems to make them more efficient, inclusive, sustainable and resilient, a challenge that has gained in urgency following recent floods that have devastated the country's agriculture sector, Director-General QU Dongyu told a UN conference.

Today's International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva, co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the UN, took place in the wake of last summer's floods, which had a particularly destructive impact on the Asian country's agriculture sectors and on the smallholders who rely

on agriculture for their livelihood. Pakistan had already experienced devastating floods in 2010 and is considered among the top 10 countries in the world most affected by the climate crisis.

“FAO will continue to provide support to the Government of Pakistan from immediate response to long-term recovery and resilience building,” Qu told the conference, which saw interventions from a range of global leaders, including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shebaz Sharif and French President Emmanuel Macron.

The FAO Director-General called for the protection of livestock assets – the last remaining asset for many affected families – as well as for urgent support to farm-

ers to secure the Rabi planting season.

To date, FAO has mobilized over \$25 million and has provided over 600 000 affected people with seeds and fertilizers. In addition, livestock vaccination campaigns have been completed in the Balochistan Province and are being finalized in Sindh, while livestock feed distribution will begin shortly, Qu said.

Other examples of FAO's role in Pakistan include the provision of technical leadership for the Transforming Indus Basin Initiative, funded by Green Climate Fund. Through this programme, some 1.3 million people in vulnerable areas of the Indus River basin will see improved yields and increased returns of between 30 and 80 percent in their production. In all, about 16 million people will benefit

from the programme, either directly or indirectly.

More recently, FAO has begun rolling out a European Union-funded programme to revive water resources in Balochistan. This project seeks to harness the province's limited water resources and ensure their smarter use in agriculture, alongside improved rangeland management for livestock rearing.

“In Pakistan, we will require massive and sustained investments in climate change adaptation and resilience, especially within the agri-food sectors,” Qu told the conference. This is crucial to ensure “better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all – the ‘4 Betters’ that are at the core of the FAO Strategic Framework for the next decade,” Qu said

Punjab, California sign sister province agreement

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: An agreement to declare Punjab and California as sister provinces was signed on 9 January 2023 at the State Capitol building in Sacramento, California, capital of the U.S. state of California, aimed at bolstering a mutually beneficial relationship.

Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the California State Assembly, signed the agreement on behalf of the state, while Wasif Khurshid, Chairman of the Planning and Development Board, signed on behalf of the Punjab government.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Masood Khan, witnessed the signing ceremony.

Attending the signing ceremony were former Prime Minister

Yousaf Raza Gilani; Lieutenant Governor of California, Ambassador Eleni Koumalakis; Speaker Rendon, Chris Holden, members of the California State Assembly, US State officials and large number of Pakistani-American community activists.

Ambassador Masood Khan and the visiting Pakistani delegation were warmly received at the California State Assembly and the delegation was recognized and greeted on the floor of the House, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani embassy.

The sister province agreement between California and Punjab would promote mutual trade and commerce and increase the potential for educational, environmental, and cultural relations between the Province

of Punjab and the State of California, the Pakistani envoy said later at another event, adding that it would also provide an opportunity to exploit the untapped economic potential and promote people-to-people contacts.

The state of California, which is among the top four economies of the world, and a vibrant middle class of Punjab, would create the required synergies for nurturing a mutually beneficial relationship and a win-win partnership, Masood Khan said.

Earlier, the delegation visited the University of California Davis, a leading agricultural and veterinary research university in the world and met Chancellor Gary May. Both sides discussed ways to strengthen the collaboration between UC Davis, and the



Agriculture University Faisalabad and agreed to further build on the partnership, according to the press release.

The two sides discussed ways and means to promote collaboration in the export of mangoes and dates from Pakistan. UC

Davis support in hybrid seeds of wheat, cotton and rice also came under discussion. Cooperation on Climate smart agriculture

was also discussed during the meeting, it said. The delegation also attended a reception hosted by Dr. Asif Mahmood, a prominent Pakistani-American politician, at his residence.

It was attended, among others, by Congresswoman Judy Chu, California State Assembly member Holden, Former secretary Labour Hilda Solis, representatives from the State Assembly and a large number of Pak-American community leaders, educationists and social entrepreneurs.

Welcoming the Pakistani delegation to California, Congresswoman Chu highlighted similarities between California and Punjab including strong agricultural bases and vibrant populations of the two sides.

