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MoITT and LUMS Partner to Strengthen Digital Governance and Innovation in Pakistan

Islamabad (News Desk) The Ministry of Information Technology and signed a Telecommunication (MoITT) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), through its Technology for People Initiative (TPI-LUMS), aimed at strengthening digital governance and innovation in Pakistan. The MoU covers collaboration in cybersecurity, policy innovation, digital service delivery, public sector infrastructure, research and advisory, product development, and capacity building with emphasis on gender inclusion and digital skills. Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, who signed the MoU, emphasized that this partnership will foster innovation, secure public digital systems, and provide citizencentric solutions, while underlining the government-academia of importance collaboration for a future-ready digital Pakistan. Vice Chancellor LUMS, Dr. Ali Cheema, expressed excitement over the collaboration to strengthen governance and development through technology, while Director TPI LUMS, Usman Khan, noted that the multidisciplinary expertise at LUMS will enable effective solutions and support the government in achieving its objectives of economic and social prosperity. This collaboration sets the stage for joint initiatives to improve transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in public service delivery

Pakistan's Commerce Minister visits Chittagong to interact with the business community

nationwide.

Chittagong (News Desk) - Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Adviser for Commerce Bangladesh, Sk. Bashir Uddin, paid a one-day official visit to Chittagong, where they were warmly received by the district administration and Shah Amanat International Airport authorities. During the visit, they held meetings with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), toured the ship-breaking industry and Chittagong Port, and engaged with the local business community to discuss potential avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation. Discussions focused on logistics of trade, resumption of direct flights, frequent shipping links, digitization of trade, and collaboration in the ready-made garments and agriculture sectors. The leaders announced the formation of a Joint Working Group on Trade to provide an institutional framework for dialogue and invited the Bangladeshi community business participate in the 3rd International Food and Agricultural Exhibition in Karachi in November 2025. They also explored trilateral cooperation for exports to Africa and Central Asia, while healthcare, leather, and essential commodities were highlighted as priority areas. The visit included a tour of Kabir Ship Recycling Facilities and a detailed briefing from the Chittagong Port Authority on port operations, single-window systems, and ongoing digitization projects.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar had a breakfast meeting with Bangladesh Adviser on Commerce Sheikh Bashir Uddin, Governor Bangladesh Bank, officials of Ministries of Commerce, Civil Aviation, Textile and Jute, and Chairmen BIDA and NBR, in Dhaka

Jam Kamal Khan Visits Square Pharmaceuticals; Explores Avenues for Bilateral Collaboration

Dhaka (News Desk) Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, H.E. Jam Kamal Khan, visited Square Pharmaceuticals PLC in Dhaka on Friday as part of his ongoing official visit to Bangladesh. During the visit, the Minister held a meeting with the Managing Director and senior management of Square Pharmaceuticals, where he was given a detailed briefing on the remarkable journey of Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector and the policies that facilitated its growth. He also toured the company's facilities to gain first-hand insights into its operations. Officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce, who accompanied the Minister, shared proposals aimed at ensuring smoother trade flows between Bangladesh, Pakistan, and third-country markets. Acknowledging the discussions, Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the potential for both countries to expand cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector through knowledge sharing, policy exchanges, and joint ventures. He noted that enhanced collaboration could significantly strengthen bilateral trade and contribute to meeting healthcare demands in regional and international markets.



GCWUF Syndicate Approves Rs. 2.286 Billion Surplus Budget, Key Reforms for Women Empowerment

Faisalabad, (News Desk) The 21st Syndicate Meeting of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) was held under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad, Chairman PHEC, nominee of the Provincial Minister for Higher Education. The House appreciated the progress report presented by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T.I.), showcasing GCWUF's achievements in academics, research, community outreach, and infrastructure development. On the financial front, the Syndicate unanimously approved a surplus budget of Rs. 2.286 billion for FY 2025–26, along with a 10% Ad-hoc Relief Allowance for employees. Other major approvals included adoption of the PhD Study Leave Policy, HEC guidelines for Professor of Practice, and the GCWUF Regularization Service Statutes-2023. The House also validated the recruitments of 357 employees made under due codal formalities, ensuring transparency, job security, and institutional stability. In a significant move for women's empowerment, the Syndicate approved reduced fees for MS/MPhil and PhD programs, scale-wise Day Care charges, and Day Care access for postgraduate students. These landmark decisions reinforce GCWUF's vision of excellence, financial sustainability, employee welfare, and women-centered reforms, underscoring its commitment to inclusive growth and social responsibility.



FTO Sets Record By Disposing 44,370 Complaints In 4 Years

Lahore (News Desk) Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, Sitara-i-Imtiaz and Hilal-i-Imtiaz, has set a new national record by resolving 44,370 complaints out of a total of 50,903 filed in just four years, surpassing the performance of the last two decades during which only 37,118 complaints were filed in total. Addressing an awareness session with the business community, FTO Coordinator Saifur Rehman highlighted that 98 percent of FTO's decisions were implemented by the FBR after rejection of appeals by the President of Pakistan, while under Dr. Jah's leadership the complaint redressal system became more efficient and accessible through simplified procedures and prompt responses. He noted that chambers, trade bodies, and associations, including women's chambers, were engaged and hundreds of awareness sessions and university-level seminars were held to ensure resolution of tax-related grievances within an average of 34 days, adding that this dynamic approach encouraged taxpayers to seek justice against maladministration and harassment in tax strengthened accountability, matters, facilitation, and improved taxpayer reinforced public trust in tax reforms, making Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah's tenure a golden chapter in the history of the FTO

SCCI Organizes Fundraising Event For Flood

Victims

Sialkot (News Desk) The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), in collaboration with the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sialkot (WCCIS), hosted a fund-raising event on Sunday for flood victims, chaired by SCCI President Ikram-ul-Haq, where representatives from Helping Hand Sialkot and Al-Khidmat Foundation briefed participants on extensive relief and rehabilitation efforts in floodaffected areas of Buner, Matta, and Mingora Swat (KPK), while the business community of Sialkot generously raised Rs 27,550,000 with additional pledges in process, reflecting a strong sense of social and national responsibility, as the SCCI President affirmed that relief operations would continue until adequate assistance and rehabilitation was ensured for all affected families, with the event attended by a large number of business community members.

Unfulfilled Promises Leave ICT Police Officials Waiting For Rewards

Islamabad (News Desk) Police officials in the Federal Capital are still awaiting the fulfillment of monetary rewards and certificates promised for their extraordinary duties during the 9th of Muharram "Marka-e-Haq," the August 14 Independence Day celebrations, and the Chehlum of Imam Hussain (AS), as despite public announcements the pledges remain unfulfilled, while official figures show that Islamabad witnessed a 20 percent decline in overall crime during 2025.