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Pakistan and China Strengthen Agricultural Ties for Food Security and Innovation

Islamabad (News Desk) – Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chaired a high-level meeting with a 20-member Chinese delegation led by Mr. Yuan Jianmin, Advisor to the People's Government of Xinjiang, China, to explore avenues for agricultural collaboration. Emphasizing Pakistan's commitment to its agricultural partnership with China, the Minister highlighted the role of Chinese expertise in modern farming, irrigation, research, seed development, biotechnology, crop diversification, and water-efficient practices in strengthening Pakistan's food security. He underscored the importance of joint research, university exchange programs, and hands-on training for Pakistani youth and professionals to develop future agricultural leaders. The Minister assured institutional support for all collaborative projects and welcomed investments in Punjab's agricultural lands and Gilgit-Baltistan's proposed Special Economic Zone for agriculture. He also stressed cooperation in climate-resilient crops, smart irrigation, and agri-based industries to enhance rural livelihoods and national exports. Attended by senior officials and academic experts, the meeting concluded with Rana Tanveer Hussain reaffirming that Pakistan and China, as "iron brothers," will secure food systems and promote regional comprehensive stability through agricultural partnership.

ECC Approves Key Financial Measures for PTV, Petroleum Recovery, Power Relief, Pipeline Project, and GB Flood Relief

Islamabad (News Desk) - The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met today at the Finance Division with participation from key federal ministers and senior officials. The ECC approved Rs 3.813 billion out of an Rs 11 billion Technical Supplementary Grant for Pakistan Television Corporation to cover salaries, pensions, and operational expenses, emphasizing PTV's path toward selfsustainability. The Committee also approved a settlement framework for recovery of petroleum levy defaults by M/s Cnergyico PK Limited, authorized relief for electricity of captives account consumers transmission levy, and endorsed tariff terms for the Machike-Thallian Tarrujabba White Oil Pipeline project with Azerbaijan to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties. Additionally, Rs 3 billion were sanctioned for flood relief in Gilgit-Baltistan, ensuring provision of tents, food, medicines, and infrastructure reconstruction, in line with Prime Minister's directives for timely support to affected communities. Thallian Tarrujabba White Oil Pipeline project with Azerbaijan to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties. Additionally



The Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cadet College Hasanabdal (CCH)

MoITT Partners with Cadet College Hasanabdal to Establish Model Digital Institution

Islamabad (News Desk) — The Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cadet College Hasanabdal (CCH) to establish the college as a Model Digital Institution in line with Pakistan's National Digital Vision and CCH Vision 2030. Under this agreement, MoITT will provide comprehensive support including digital infrastructure, high-speed internet, campus-wide WiFi, smart classrooms, teacher training, student development, cybersecurity, and strategic engagement. Faculty members will receive upskilling and certifications in tools such as Google Workspace, MS365, AI in Education, and Coding. Students will benefit from coding, robotics, cybersecurity, AI, blockchain bootcamps, internships, and mentorships with MoITT-affiliated startups and incubators. CCH will also act as a pilot institution under MoITT's National ICT Framework, participating in digital identity systems, smart assessments, and e-learning platforms, with strong focus on cybersecurity and data privacy. A joint roadmap with measurable KPIs will guide the transformation, and CCH's digital initiatives will be showcased in MoITT reports, expos, and international forums. Federal Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja highlighted that the government is prioritizing youth empowerment through internet access, digital literacy, and training in AI, cybersecurity, and coding. The MoU was signed by Brig. Nasir Saeed Khattak, Principal CCH, and Mr. Faisal Ratyal, CEO NITB, representing MoITT.

Solar Initiative Launched to Power Gwadar Port and Ensure Energy SelfSufficiency



Islamabad (News Desk) — Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, stated that solar-based solutions are being implemented to operationalize and improve the efficiency of Gwadar Port. Speaking at a meeting attended by Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Noorul Haque Baloch, COPHCL Chairman My Yu Bo, and senior officials, he confirmed collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Energy, and other relevant bodies to address Gwadar's power and water shortages. A sub-committee has been formed to review technical aspects of solar power implementation, devise efficient solar panel plans, install photovoltaic systems with

battery storage for water facilities, and enhance power supply for critical infrastructure, including Gwadar Port Authority and the 1.2 MGD desalination plant. The initiative includes macro solar grids at strategic locations to ensure reliable energy throughout the year, reducing reliance on external power sources and enabling operations of new factories in the Gwadar Free Zone and the Gwadar International Airport. The minister emphasized that the solar initiative will also benefit the fisheries sector, saving over a million dollars annually, while securing the city's key industries and supporting local livelihoods.



Pakistan Holds First PVARA Board Meeting to Advance Virtual Assets and Digital Economy

Islamabad (News Desk) – The Pakistan Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) held its inaugural board meeting in Islamabad, marking a major step toward embracing blockchain, virtual assets, and the digital economy. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, PVARA Chairman Bilal bin Saqib, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, federal secretaries, FBR and SECP chairmen, and key stakeholders including the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency. Finance Minister Aurangzeb praised PVARA as a transformative milestone and highlighted its role in positioning Pakistan as a leader in the global virtual assets economy. The Board discussed operationalization in line with standards, formation of AML/CFT committees for sandbox experimentation, regulatory drafting, and taxation, international engagement, and shared a draft licensing framework. Plans were approved to hold bi-monthly meetings for stakeholder consultation and to create a complaint portal in collaboration with NCCIA. The Board also addressed the withdrawal of SBP Circular No. 03 of 2018, which had restricted dealings in virtual currencies. Chairman Bilal bin Saqib emphasized that PVARA will safeguard financial integrity while fostering innovation, investment, and trust in Pakistan's virtual assets ecosystem, with full government support ensuring responsible adoption and strengthened financial security.

ECP Reminds Political Parties to Submit Audited Financial Statements for FY 2024-25

Islamabad (News Desk) – The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a formal reminder to all political parties to submit their consolidated and audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2024— 25, ending June 2025, by August 29, 2025. In accordance with Sections 204 and 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, and Rules 159 and 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, parties must file Form-D, certified by a Chartered Accountant, detailing income, expenditures, funding sources, assets, and liabilities. The submission must include the auditor's valid ICAP certificate and bank statements covering the full financial year. Forms are available at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad, provincial election offices, and the website. The Commission has emphasized that submissions must be clean, complete, and delivered in person to the Secretary, ECP, Constitution Avenue, as postal or alternative Islamabad, submissions will not be accepted. Parties requiring clarification may contact the ECP at (+92)(51) 9205611. Forms are available at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad, provincial election offices, and the ECP website. The Commission has emphasized that submissions must be clean, complete, and delivered in person to the Secretary,