

Pakistan Showcases Digital Transformation at China International Fair for Trade in Services

Beijing (News Desk) Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi underscored Pakistan’s commitment to leveraging the digital economy as a driver of inclusive growth and said, “Digital technology is not just about innovation; it is a great connector, enabling people-to-people ties and bringing technologies within reach of developing countries at affordable prices.” He made these remarks while inaugurating the Digital Pakistan Pavilion at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) recently in Beijing, which marks a significant step in showcasing the nation's IT capabilities on a global stage. The pavilion, featuring 15 leading Pakistani tech firms, aims to forge strategic partnerships and highlight Pakistan's role as an emerging player in the digital economy. He said that Pakistan is pursuing digital transformation across three key streams — education and research, business-to-business cooperation, and cross-cutting innovation in areas such as artificial intelligence, smart cities, quantum computing, internet of things, and green technologies, according to China Economic Net. The envoy emphasized that strategic partnerships, including collaboration with China’s IBI Group, are vital to empowering Pakistan’s SMEs and traditional industries such as textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing with digital tools to compete globally. Ambassador Hashmi further highlighted that CIFTIS provides Pakistani firms a unique opportunity to explore business processing outsourcing, e-commerce, and fintech partnerships, while strengthening digital connectivity between Pakistan and China. “CIFTIS is a truly win-win platform,” he said, encouraging more Pakistani enterprises to seize the opportunity to expand their global footprint. This year, 15 leading Pakistani IT and services companies are participating in CIFTIS under the Pakistan Pavilion, including Digital Softs, Microlinks Private Limited, Shajim Engineering Services & Technology, OBHost, Noor Ahmed Ecommerce Solutions, Zile Technologies, Izla Technologies, QBS Co Pvt Ltd, Trio Communication, Innovative Hub, Software Craft Pvt Ltd, ByteSole Private Ltd, World Gemstones Pvt Ltd, MK Technology, Sherdil IT Services Pvt Ltd, and Sepia Solutions. “Digital technology is not just about innovation; it is a great connector, enabling people-to-people ties and bringing technologies within reach of developing countries at affordable prices.”

Xinjiang’s Chili Harvest Showcases Mechanized Farming and Global Demand

Korla (News Desk) — A delegation of foreign journalists from Pakistan, South Korea, Russia, the United States and other countries visited an industrial chili plantation in northwest China’s Xinjiang region, where officials briefed them that the 8th Company, 22nd Regiment has cultivated chilies on 6,322 mu (421 hectares), including 163 mu of the Honglong 23 variety, with each mu hosting around 5,376 plants; the crop, transplanted mechanically in April, is now in full harvest with bright red peppers covering the fields, and fully mechanized harvesting has reduced costs while boosting efficiency, as Xinjiang — recognized as one of China’s largest chili producers — supplies high-quality and diverse varieties that enjoy strong demand domestically and abroad, especially pigment chilies from Korla, making the crop an important source of income growth for local communities.

Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik appointed Chairperson of BSP Advisory Board

FAISALABAD, (News Desk) – The Biotechnology Society of Pakistan (BSP) Advisory Board has nominated renowned scientist Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik as Chairperson and he has accepted the role. The society aims to foster innovation and research in the biotechnology sector and provide a platform for scientists, researchers, and professionals to collaborate and advance biotechnology in the country for a brighter future. The meeting also approved the establishment of a national consortium of biotechnologists, a collaborative platform to align research priorities, share infrastructure, and amplify national impact in biotechnology. It was held at the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) in Agriculture and Food Security (CAS-AFS), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), in which Chairperson National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority Dr. Asif Ali, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, DG Ayub Research Dr. Sajjad ur Rehman, NIBGE Director Dr. Naseer Ahmad Saeed, CEMB Director Dr. Muaz ur Rehman, Dr. Shaukat Ali, Director CAS Dr. Sultan Habib Ullah, Director CABB Dr. Bushra Sadia, Dr. Irfan Ali, representatives from Crop Life, Pak BCH and others attended. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik said that biotechnology plays a vital role in agriculture by providing advanced tools and techniques to improve crop and livestock production, enhance food quality, and promote environmental sustainability, while addressing global challenges like food security, climate change, and malnutrition. Dr. Asif Ali emphasized biotechnology’s role in developing resilient, productive, and nutritious crops and livestock, lauding UAF’s efforts to ensure food security and advance agriculture. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali commended BSP’s leadership in uniting academia, research institutes, and industry to advance biotechnology in the public interest, noting its impact on agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. He highlighted that biotechnology increases yields, reduces crop loss, and builds resilience against pests, diseases, and environmental stresses. The initiative received strong backing from leading institutions across Pakistan, each committing to nominate a focal person to actively participate in BSP’s coordinated national efforts.



Entrepreneurship key to tackling unemployment, poverty: Experts at UAF session

FAISALABAD, (News Desk) – Entrepreneurship is not only a pathway to self-reliance but also a powerful tool to address challenges like unemployment and poverty. This was stated by Prof. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Director ORIC/BIASED, Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture (MNSUA) Multan, at a session on “Innovation and Commercialization – The Spirit of Entrepreneurship” organized by the Business Incubation Center (BIC), University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Talking to participants, Dr. Mubashir said entrepreneurship transforms ideas into practical solutions that directly contribute to societal wellbeing. He emphasized that small businesses play a significant role in economic growth and job creation, urging the young generation to create opportunities that reduce dependency, alleviate poverty, and generate sustainable employment. He also stressed the importance of innovation to ensure products find their place in the market. ATRI Principal Officer UAF Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas highlighted that entrepreneurship must be promoted among youth, noting that Pakistan’s young population is its greatest asset. By channelizing their talent into entrepreneurial ventures, socio-economic challenges can be tackled more effectively. He added that such strategic sessions instill confidence in young graduates to transform innovative ideas into business models. Director BIC Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad said fostering innovation and commercialization not only prepares youth for self-employment but also strengthens the economic landscape. He underlined that commercialization fortifies industry-academia linkages and shared the Vice Chancellor’s vision to promote an entrepreneurial ecosystem at the campus, along with BIC’s initiatives and upcoming events.



Mal Fatyana Bridge, Toba Tek Singh: Conversing with the local media about the ongoing relief and rescue efforts in the area and the government efforts to deal with the aftermath of the floods that have ravaged different parts of the country

International Charity Organisation Launches Development, Service Projects In Syria Worth AED 8 Million



AJMAN, (News Desk) – International Charity Organisation (ICO) announced the launch of a package of development, service, and relief projects in the Syrian Arab Republic, with a total value of AED 8 million, as part of its ongoing efforts to support communities affected by the consequences of the conflict. Dr. Khaled Abdul Wahab Al Khaja, Secretary-General of ICO, who will lead the delegation visiting Syria, explained that the new projects aim to meet the basic needs of the Syrian people through the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of schools and mosques, drilling wells to secure safe drinking water, sponsoring orphans and underprivileged families, as well as providing healthcare, and distributing dates and food parcels. These initiatives align with the Organisation’s mission of promoting sustainable development and improving quality of life, he said. He added that the visit embodies the UAE’s approach and the vision of its wise leadership in supporting humanitarian causes, stressing that the ICO is committed to monitoring its projects on the ground to ensure that donations are directed through the proper channels, thereby achieving a direct impact on the lives of beneficiaries. He also expressed appreciation for the support of H.H. Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Ajman, and for the contributions of philanthropists in the UAE, which represent a key driver for the success of the Organisation’s initiatives. He noted that ICO has already started implementing a number of projects, including the maintenance of wells, schools, and mosques, as well as food aid programs, ensuring that assistance reaches thousands of needy families in affected areas.

Hotel Establishments Welcome More Than 16 Million Guests In H1-2025

ABU DHABI, (News Desk) – Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Tourism, announced that hotel establishments in the UAE welcomed more than 16.1 million guests during the first six months of this year, recording a growth of 5.5% compared to the same period in 2024. He stressed that the hospitality sector achieved outstanding performance in the past period, reflecting its resilience and ability to sustain growth, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the country’s tourism environment. He confirmed that this sector, thanks to the wise leadership’s directives, continues to achieve increasing growth rates that reflect its attractiveness and competitiveness at both regional and global levels. This success, he noted, comes as a result of the integration of efforts between the public and private sectors, which form a fundamental pillar in strengthening the sector’s sustainability. The minister revealed the figures while presiding over the third meeting of the Hospitality Advisory Council for 2025, attended by representatives of both public and private sectors, including directors