

DC Faisalabad and MD WASA met Danish Envoy

**RANA IQBAL HASSAN**

FAISALABAD—Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayar Sheikh and Managing Director WASA Aamer Aziz met Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Jakob Linulf, and held a detailed discussion regarding the mega project of Wastewater Treatment Plant in the eastern part with the cooperation of Denida, Trade Council Head for Denmark Embassy Muhammad Aslam, Deputy Managing Director and Project Director Saqib Raza were also present in the meeting.

On this occasion, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Mr. Jakob Linulf said that the governments of

side of Faisalabad, and the construction of a modern treatment plant will certainly have a significant impact in improving the environmental conditions of Faisalabad city and will also reduce the pollution load on the River Ravi, while the treated water will be reused for irrigation purposes.

WASA Managing Director Aamer Aziz said that WASA Faisalabad is the first water and sanitation agency in Punjab to be selected by DSF to finance the construction of a 44 million gallon wastewater treatment plant in the eastern part of the city, and with the completion of this project, it will be possible to provide a clean environment to the citizens and clean water for the crops to the farmers.

DMD and Project Director Saqib Raza said that this mega project worth more than 19 billion rupees is very important; this mega project will be completed in 4 years. He said that the progress of the project so far has been very positive and the Housing Department and the Planning and Development Board will also be briefed in today's meeting.

Pakistan envoy, Nepalese FM discuss bilateral ties, cooperation

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal Abrar H Hashmi on Thursday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Narayan Kaji Shreshtha. He felicitated the foreign minister on assuming the office and

conveyed the best wishes of the Pakistani leadership, according to a press release. In the meeting, they also discussed the full spectrum of bilateral relations and emphasised the need for enhanced engagement in diverse fields, as well as exchanges and cooperation in regional and international forums.



Rupee gains 01 paisa against dollar



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Rupee on Thursday gained 01 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs278.77 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.78. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.9 and Rs281.6, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 42 paisa to close at Rs304.89 against

the last day's closing of Rs304.47, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs188, whereas an increase of 30 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs356.96 compared to the last closing of Rs356.66. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham decreased by 01 paisa to close at Rs75.89 and the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged and closed at Rs74.33.

4th Steering Committee meeting for the "OliveCulture"



NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI—The 4th Steering Committee meeting for the "OliveCulture - Holistic and Multipersonal Mechanism for a Pakistani Olive Oil Value Chain" Project convened today in Islamabad, marking another significant step towards enhancing Pakistan's olive sector. Chaired by Capt.(R) Muhammad Asif, Federal Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Government of Pakistan, and co-chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Marilina Armellini, Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, the meeting served as a platform for

strategic discussions and collaborative efforts.

H. E. Ms. Marilina Armellini, Ambassador of Italy expressed her appreciation towards the work done so far by the OliveCulture Project with the close cooperation of the Ministry and the Provinces. The notable and commendable pace maintained throughout the project was acknowledged and valued. The partnership between Italian and Pakistani experts is deemed essential for nurturing olive cultivation and enhancing olive oil production. Without this fruitful collaboration, the objectives of the project would be unattainable.

Capt. (R) Muhammad Asif, Federal Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, expressed that the project's significant success in Pakistan owes much to Italian collaboration. While Pakistan's environment is inherently conducive to olive cultivation, prior government engagements at provincial and federal levels were limited in their impact. The substantial success was truly realized with the technical assistance provided by Italian partners. The success goes to hard work, effort, and relentless pursuit by Italian experts, and project staff.

Japanese firm hosts first-ever paid interns from Pakistan



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—A Japanese firm has accepted the first-ever group of paid interns from Pakistan for training in mechanical engineering. "Efforts made by the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo to explore opportunities for

Pakistani youth in Japan continue to bear fruit. For the first time, a Japanese company has accepted six paid interns from Pakistan for Mechanical engineering training," the embassy wrote on its X timeline.

It said that the host company was bearing all expenditures including

return airfare. As the interns arrived in Tokyo, Pakistan's Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar welcomed them at the embassy. He advised the interns to become a role model for Pakistanis in Japan to create future opportunities for their compatriots.

Gold rates up by Rs.250 to Rs228,550 per tola

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD—The per tola price of 24 karat gold in the local market increased by

Rs250 and was traded at Rs228,550 on Thursday as against its sale at Rs228,300 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams 24 karat gold also increased by Rs215 to Rs195,945 from Rs195,735 whereas that 10 gram 22 karat gold

increased to Rs179,616 from Rs179,420, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver witnessed no change and was traded at Rs2,600 and Rs2,229.08 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$9 and was traded at \$2,188 from \$2,179, the Association reported.

PSX turns bullish, gains 1,015 points

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 1,015.82 points, a positive change of 1.59, closing at 65,064.27 points against 64,048.44 points the previous trading day. A total of 315,247,601 shares valuing Rs.10,487 billion were traded during the day as compared to 252,751,968 shares valuing

Rs.9,247 billion the last day. Some 336 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 248 of them recorded gains and 72 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 16 remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 42,747,519 shares at Rs1.35 per share, Cnergyco PK with 36,111,224 shares with 5.09 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 19,583,000 shares at Rs4.79 per share.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan High Commissioner in Malaysia Syed Ahsan Raza Shah on Thursday met Commissioner General of Prisons Datuk Haji Nordin in Kuala Lumpur and discussed matters pertaining to welfare of Pakistanis in Malaysian prisons were discussed. The High Commissioner thanked the Malaysian Commissioner General for regular consular access and facilities provided to Pakistanis. In the meeting, it was agreed to maintain regular contact for early finalization of Transfer of Prisoners agreement.

Govt expedites implementation of 5Es framework

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal presided over a meeting here Thursday to expedite the implementation of the 5 Es Framework. According to press statement issued by the ministry, decision to organize one day workshop was made during the meeting with top officials of the ministry, to gather recommendations from experts including from academia and the private sector.



Additionally, future agenda would also be devised for the implementation of the Export Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan and Environment (5 Es) Framework so that long-term policies can be formulated for implementation in these

sectors. It is pertinent to mention here that during the previous government tenure, the Ministry of Planning, under the leadership of Ahsan Iqbal had formulated 5 Es Framework which was also approved by the

National Economic Council (NEC). Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal said that it was top responsibility of the Planning Commission to determine the economic and developmental priorities accurately. He said that

in order to move forward, there was need to increase revenues and boost exports. Additionally, he emphasized that traditional methods needed to be transcended for achieving progress on sustainable grounds.

He said, the entire Ministry of Planning will be shifted to a digital system in next six months adding it would fully activate the e-governance system. Citing examples of India and Bangladesh, he reiterated that continuation of policies were prerequisites to lead the country towards stability and development.

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

Hate speech is a pervasive issue in society, causing division, violence, and conflict. It is essential to address this issue and counter hate speech to promote peace and harmony in our communities. Peace education plays a crucial role in combating hate speech by promoting understanding empathy and tolerance among individuals. Hate speech is defined as any communication that criticizes a person or a group based on their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or any other characteristic. It spreads fear, violence, harmful stereotypes and prejudices. In extreme cases, hate speech can lead to acts of violence and discrimination even genocide. The rise of social media and online platforms has made it easier for hate speech to spread rapidly and reach a wider audience, leading to increased levels of polarization and division in societies around the world. In order to combat hate speech and promote peace and understanding, it is essential to implement effective strategies through peace education. Therefore, it is important to address hate speech and prevent it from spreading.

Peace education is the process of teaching individuals the values, attitudes, and skills necessary to promote peace and prevent conflict in society. One way to counter hate speech is through peace education. Peace education aims to foster a culture of peace by promoting respect, tolerance, empathy, and co-operation. Peace education can empower individuals to challenge harmful stereotypes and promote dialogue. Peace education will take various forms, such as workshops, training sessions, educational materials, and community outreach programs. These initiatives will help to raise awareness about the harmful effects of hate speech and empower individuals to stand up against it. With critical thinking and media literacy skills, peace education can also help individuals analyze and deconstruct hate speech messages and develop their own informed opinions. Moreover, peace education can help create safe spaces for marginalized groups who are often the targets of hate speech. By promoting inclusion and diversity, peace education will empower individuals to embrace their differences and celebrate their unique identities. Education will help to build stronger communities based on mutual respect and understanding, rather than fear and division. By integrating peace education into formal and informal learning environments, such as schools, universities, and community centers, individuals can develop a better understanding of diversity. Incorporating critical thinking skills, conflict resolution techniques, and media literacy into the curriculum, educators will help youth develop the skills and knowledge needed to identify and counter hate speech in their communities. One effective strategy for countering hate speech through peace education is the use of media and technology.

media messages, identify misinformation and propaganda, and engage in constructive dialogue. Educators will help reduce the spread of hate speech and promote a culture of respect and understanding. Furthermore, peace education can also promote empathy and understanding among individuals from different backgrounds. Encouraging individuals to listen to the perspectives and experiences of others, will foster a sense of shared humanity and promote cooperation in resolving conflicts. Through activities such as role-playing, storytelling, and community service projects, individuals will develop a deeper appreciation for diversity or the importance of inclusivity in building peaceful societies. Ultimately, countering hate speech through peace education requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the root causes of discrimination, prejudice, and violence. Through the promotion of critical thinking, empathy, and dialogue, educators will empower individuals to challenge hate speech and promote a culture of peace. Countering hate speech is essential for promoting peace and harmony in our communities. Peace education plays a crucial role in combating hate speech by providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to hate speech. Peace education will help to create a more inclusive and peaceful society. We must continue to invest in peace education initiatives to build a more harmonious and compassionate world free from hate speech.

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