

NAB & OPF Sign MoU to Address Overseas Pakistanis' Grievances

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ISLAMABAD — A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, in a ceremony, today at NAB Headquarters, Director General, (Welfare & Services Division) (OPF Mrs. Laeqa Ambreen and Director General (A&P) NAB Mr. Zahar Ahmed Awan signed the MoU in the presence of Chairman NAB Lt Gen (Retd) Nazir Ahmed, Prosecutor General Accountability, Syed Iqbal Shah, Chairman OPF



ISLAMABAD: DG (Welfare and Services Division) OPF and DG (A&P) NAB signing a MoU between OPF and NAB in the presence of Chairman NAB Lt Gen (Retd) Nazir Ahmed and Chairman OPF Board of Governors Syed Qamar Raza and other seniors officers of NAB and OPF at NAB (HQ) Islamabad, today-30th January, 2025.

A formal framework for mutual cooperation and strategic coordination in addressing all forms of issues and complaints of overseas Pakistanis, related to property

disputes, financial fraud, misuse of authority, and other matter which may require NAB's intervention.

The main objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to create an efficient and collaborative mechanism whereby OPF and NAB shall jointly address and resolve grievances reported by overseas Pakistanis. Such grievances may encompass, without limitation, fraudulent practices in housing schemes, disputes pertaining to property possession, allotment and incidents of financial mismanagement or irregularities perpetrated by housing developers and private individuals.

Revolutionizing Higher Education in Pakistan: Bridging Global Trends with Local Needs

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

Higher education plays a crucial role in the development of any nation by shaping the future workforce, fostering innovation, and driving economic growth. In Pakistan, there is growing need to revolutionize higher education to align it with global trends while catering to local needs. The challenges faced by the Pakistani education system, the importance of integrating global best practices, and the strategies to bridge the gap between global trends and local requirements in higher education.

Pakistan faces various challenges in its higher

established collaborations with universities in the United States, Europe, and Asia to promote research and innovation in various fields.

Leveraging these partnerships, Pakistani universities can enhance their research capabilities, offer diverse learning opportunities to students, and stay abreast of global advancements in different disciplines. Another important aspect of revolutionizing higher education in Pakistan is the incorporation of technology in teaching and learning. Online education, virtual labs, and digital resources have become increasingly popular worldwide, especially in the wake of the

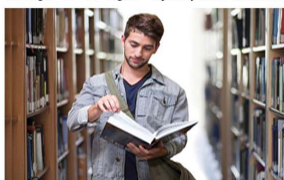
relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process. Pakistani universities can ensure that their programs are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

Despite strides made over the years, disparities persist in enrollment, retention, and graduation rates between male and female students. This inequity not only undermines the principle of equal opportunity but also limits the potential contributions of diverse perspectives to academic discourse and innovation. Institutions must recognize that achieving gender parity is essential for fostering a more inclusive educational environment.

To promote inclusivity and diversity on campuses, universities should implement targeted policies that address systemic barriers faced by underrepresented genders. These may include mentorship programs, scholarships and workshops that raise awareness about unconscious biases among faculty and administration.

Furthermore, creating safe spaces for dialogue can empower marginalized voices while encouraging a culture of respect and understanding among students. Higher education is not merely a moral imperative; it is crucial for cultivating an academic landscape that reflects the richness of human experience. A commitment to inclusivity will enhance learning outcomes and prepare graduates to thrive in an increasingly diverse global society.

Revolutionizing higher education in Pakistan requires a careful balance between embracing global trends and catering to local needs. Integrating interdisciplinary studies, technology-enabled learning, research collaborations, and inclusive practices, Pakistani universities can enhance the quality of education, produce skilled graduates, and contribute to national development.



education sector, including outdated curricula, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality education, and an emphasis on rote learning rather than critical thinking. To address these challenges, it is essential to incorporate global trends in higher education that focus on skills development, innovation, and technology. Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, there is a need to shift from traditional teaching methods to more interactive and experiential learning approaches to meet the demands of the 21st-century workforce. HEC, 2021.

One of the key global trends in higher education is the emphasis on interdisciplinary studies and collaborative research. Universities in Pakistan can benefit from partnerships with international institutions to foster research collaborations and knowledge exchange. For example, HEC has

COVID-19 pandemic. The use of educational technology can help universities in Pakistan to access improve learning outcomes and prepare students towards modern trends of education. Pakistan has been at the forefront of promoting online education and providing innovative learning solutions to a wide range of students across the country. In addition to incorporating global best practices, it is equally important to consider local needs and challenges in transforming higher education in Pakistan.

The country faces unique socio-economic issues, regional disparities, and cultural norms that taken into account when designing educational policies and programs. For instance, there is a need to address the lack of gender equality in higher education and promote inclusivity and diversity on campuses. Tailoring education initiatives to local contexts and involving

Frequent Absence of Faisalabad's Environmental Deputy Director Sparks Public Outrage

RANA IQBAL HASSAN

FAISALABAD—The Deputy Director of Environmental Protection in Faisalabad has made it a habit to be absent from the office, leaving citizens frustrated and helpless. The office work is severely impacted, and the staff is uncooperative and rude.

According to sources, the Deputy Director, who resides outside the city, rarely visits the office, and when questioned, the staff claims he is busy in the field. Even when files are completed, they are only processed quickly if bribes are paid. The Deputy Director's response to queries is arrogant, stating that he is not accountable to anyone and that only higher

authorities can question him.

The staff's behavior is equally appalling, as they are more inclined to argue than provide guidance. The Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are seemingly unaware of these issues, which have led to immense public suffering.

It is the responsibility of senior officials to monitor and check the activities of their subordinates to ensure accountability and justice. The Secretary of Environment, DG Environment Punjab, Divisional Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner of Faisalabad must take immediate action to address these concerns and restore hope in the disillusioned public.

SSDO Urges Govt to Fill Civil Society Seat in Pakistan Information Commission

RAJA NOBAHAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD—The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) expresses deep concern over the prolonged vacancy of the Civil Society Member seat in the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) which has remained unfilled for over a year. This delay is undermining the Commission's ability to effectively uphold the citizens right to access information under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017.

The Pakistan Information Commission plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance by facilitating public access to government-held information. The absence of a representative from civil society within the Commission is a serious setback to these objectives, weakening the inclusivity and effectiveness of the

PIC's decision-making process.

SSDO urges the federal government to expedite the appointment of a qualified and independent Civil Society Member without further delay. This step is essential for strengthening Pakistan's commitment to transparency, promoting accountability and ensuring that citizens right to information is fully protected.

Executive Director of SSDO Syed Kausar Abbas stated that the delay in appointing a Civil Society Member to the Pakistan Information Commission is a clear violation of the principles of transparency and good governance. A fully functional PIC is necessary for ensuring citizens right to information which is a fundamental democratic right. The government must act immediately to fill this crucial position and reinforce its commitment to accountability and openness.

CRIME CORNER BY: AGHA SAAD BIN TAHIR

SP Rural Zone pays surprise visits to Bani Gala police station



According to the details, SP Rural Zone Kazim Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Bani Gala police station. During the visit, SP Rural zone checked the police station records, roznamcha, front desk, record room, lockup, investigation officers' rooms and residential barrack.

On this occasion, he said that inappropriate behavior toward citizens will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He directed the police officials to listen to the problems of every citizen who comes to the police station with respect.

The welfare of police officers is among the top priorities of the Islamabad police, he added. He further directed the officers to make the dispute resolution centers more active, and the problems faced by citizens and police officers should be resolved on a first priority basis.

SP Dolphin orders officials to perform their duty efficiently



According to details, SP Dolphin Iqbal Hussain gave a briefing to the Dolphin Squad officers at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad. During the briefing, SP Dolphin emphasized the need to make patrols more effective in combating crimes in Islamabad, particularly by positioning themselves strategically in areas with higher crime rates. Encouragement was extended for arrests of criminals, and a strict zero-tolerance policy against corruption within the police

force was underscored. Furthermore, the SP Dolphin reiterated the importance of all police officers in the prevention and control of crimes, emphasizing their role in ensuring the safety of lives and property of the citizens.

The formation of the Dolphin Squad aims to instill confidence in citizens regarding their safety, not tarnish the department's reputation. It's essential for officers to exhibit good conduct and adhere to clear policies aimed at crime

control, he added. Officers were reminded of their duty to respond promptly to reports of crimes and to conduct searches for suspicious individuals or vehicles without license plates. He further said that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police. He expressed the hope that all officers would play a vital role in ensuring the safety of citizens and enhancing the department's reputation.

ITP launches flower and candy campaign to promote traffic awareness

According to the details, Islamabad Traffic Police organized a special flower and candy campaign to promote community policing and educate citizens about traffic laws. During this campaign, the Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, Citizen Traffic Liaison committee, and Islamabad Traffic Police's education wing provided special information on driver safety and cautious driving in various neighborhoods.

Additionally, drivers involved in traffic violations were intercepted and instead of fines, they were informed of their mistakes with flowers and candies, aiming to sensitively communicate their errors and encourage



adherence to laws in the future. The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness among drivers about compliance with traffic laws and promote positive attitudes.

CTO Islamabad, Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, said that through this campaign, Islamabad Traffic Police is fostering positive relationships with citizens and emphasizing the

importance of traffic laws. He expressed hope that this initiative would increase drivers' awareness of law compliance and reduce traffic accidents. Moreover, this campaign is ongoing in various areas of Islamabad and has received positive feedback from the public. Citizens have appreciated this initiative and hope it will lead to better enforcement of traffic laws.

Pakistan's solar revolution rewriting energy landscape; 22 GW of solar panels imported in 18 months

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ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's solar revolution is rewriting the energy landscape as communities and businesses take control of their power supply. With 22 GW of solar panels imported in just 18 months, the country is undergoing a mass shift towards decentralized solar solutions.

This was discussed at the Great Solar Rush Conference 2025, hosted by Renewables First and the Pakistan Solar Association on Thursday, said a press release.

In her opening remarks, Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized the urgency of policy alignment with this people-led transformation, stating, "Pakistan has emerged as a market leader in South Asia

for solar adoption. We should not be disabling this revolution; we should be enabling it." She warned that failure to integrate solar into national planning would stall Pakistan's progress on energy security and economic stability.

Zeeshan Ashfaq, CEO of Renewables First, highlighted the economic realities driving this transition. "Millions of people are

rushing towards installing solar PV panels—not because of climate change but because economics make perfect sense."

Ali Majid, General Manager of Longi, proposed that public sector projects should be mandated to use 'Made in Pakistan' panels to attract international investment in local assembly plants.

Waqas Moosa, Chairman of

the Pakistan Solar Association, reinforced that Pakistan's solar adoption rate is one of the highest globally. Syed Faizan Ali Shah, Member of the Prime Minister's Solarization Committee, revealed that Pakistan's daytime electricity demand has fallen by 10 TWh annually due to the solar surge, creating imbalances for grid operators.

