

Japan Envoy vows to extend help to improve life standard

NANKANA SAHIB: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Kuninori Matsuda, has expressed the hope that both the parents and school management will work together and ensure their children take full advantage of this newly learning opportunity.

"Japan will continue to support the people of Pakistan to improve their living standards," said Ambassador Matsuda on Wednesday.

The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Kuninori Matsuda, inaugurated a primary school in Union Council Rehan Wala of district Nankana Sahib which was built with the financial assistance of worth \$90,535 provided by the Government of Japan to Rural Community Development Society (RCDS), a local development organization.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the newly constructed building of the primary school in Mandi Faizabad, Union Council Rehan Wala. Kuninori Matsuda, members of RCDS, school children and community representatives attended the inauguration ceremony.

The school project, funded by the Government of Japan, aims at providing basic education facility to children of less advantaged communities. This school includes seven classrooms, office, a multiple purpose hall and a room for school library.

The building is also equipped with the facility of electrification, water supply and washrooms for students and teachers.

Earlier, there was no public school in nearby communities and most of the poor students were not able to afford schooling in private schools. Construction of the school building in Mandi Faizabad will help over 150 boys and girls of the surrounding areas avail quality education in affordable way.

Talking to the audience, Kuninori Matsuda congratulated the RCDS for completing the project in a professional way. —DNA



NANKANA SAHIB: Ambassador of Japan, Kuninori Matsuda in a group photo with members of RCDS after inaugurating a primary school in Union Council Rehan Wala.

KP Govt to raise penalties to discourage illegal mining

By Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) cabinet has approved Mineral Sector Governance (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to make mineral sector investment-friendly.

The draft legislation will address the post-merged scenario of the tribal districts, and other key issues in the existing law of the mines and mineral sector.

The new amendment has defined the mining operation procedure and awards of mineral titles for the newly merged tribal districts. The amended draft says that in the grant of the titles in the newly merged tribal districts priority will be given to the local community.

In addition, the mineral titleholder in these areas will also be nominated by the local community. A dispute resolution committee will also be formed to address the mineral sector issues of the area. The Mineral Sector Governance

(Amendment) Act, 2019 will also introduce E-bidding in the minor minerals sector, which will further promote transparency in the sector. While it will also reform the auction of minor mineral at the district level.

The provincial minister for Mines and Mineral, Dr Amjad Ali said that the amendment is formulated to facilitate investors in the mining sector of the province, as it is one of the key sectors in KP which can provide a boost to the economy. Dr Amjad Ali said that with new amended act, the mineral titleholder and local or foreign investors will be able to work in a joint venture in the mining sector.

Dr Amjad Ali said that the amended bill has also focused on the eradication of illegal mining practices and for that purpose penalties have been increased. He said that government reforms agenda in the mining sector will further enhance the revenue of the department.

The amendment also stresses on the conservation of marble and granite deposits phase wise switching from blasting to mechanized mining. Under the proposed amendment, illegal mining has been declared cognizable and non-bailable offence wherein terms of imprisonment have been increased from three to five years, while, for violators imprisonment with fine could also be awarded.

Under the amended act Appellate Tribunal will be established for the timely and effective disposal of appeals. The tribunal will consist of Chairman and other members. The Appellate Tribunal will hear appeals against the orders of Licensing Authority in relation to large and small scale mining, and minor minerals.

Two-member team of University of Georgia visits Sargodha Varsity
A two-member delegation from University of Georgia, Athens (UGA), USA, visited Sargodha University (SU) here

on Wednesday to ascertain the potential for collaborations in various fields.

The delegation comprised of Assistant Dean and Director Global Programmes, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences UGA, Professor Amrit Bart and Associate Professor of the Department of Entomology UGA Dr Ashfaq Sial.

The visit aimed at ascertaining potentials for collaborations on different research and educational endeavors between UGA and SU in various fields, particularly agriculture.

The delegates visited Office of Research, Innovations and Commercialization (ORIC), College of Agriculture, and the Vice Chancellor Office. They were briefed about the University, its academic achievements, its vision and mission, future plans, and academic collaborations within and outside Pakistan. They identified about Point of Contact (POC) for further coordination

Activism for Child Justice drive launched

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry for Law and Justice on Wednesday launched the 'Activism for Child Justice' campaign in collaboration with the Group Development Pakistan to ensure child justice across the country.

Addressing the campaign launching ceremony, Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Muhammad Farogh Naseem said the drive would create awareness among the people on the laws that guaranteed protection and justice to the children.

He said schoolchildren would be involved in the activity, who would draw paintings to highlight importance of child justice. The awareness campaign will focus on child justice using arts as a tool to reach the people from different socio-economic backgrounds.

'Activism', a concept adopted in consultation with the child members of Group Development Pakistan, uses local indigenous arts like truck arts, puppetry, interactive theatre, visual art and musicians to allow ownership of the youth transformative process.

Truck art, a popular art form, is being used as an advocacy tool by painting more than 20 trucks and 30 rickshaws with positive messages on child justice.

The children will guide, inform and actively participate in the campaign and will contribute to raising awareness on child justice by connecting artistic activities and by encouraging a model of children's participation in holding duty-bearers accountable. A model of positive citizenry among children and youth will be promoted via creative and democratic methods.

A dialogue between the children and the minister highlighted the priorities and needs of Pakistani children to be addressed by the policy makers.

The children raised pertinent questions and asked the minister for the forums where their voices could be heard for ensuring and promoting child justice.

11 outlaws including three assassins held

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The police arrested 11 outlaws including three alleged killers besides recovery of hashish, heroin, wine and weapons from them, a police spokesman said on Wednesday.

He said that a person Muhammad Abbas had a love marriage and was residing along with his wife in 'Burma Town' area. He was shot dead by relatives of his wife in area of Khanna police station on November 3, 2018 who also abducted his spouse. While reviewing the case, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar and DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed assigned task to SP (Rural) Malik Naeem Iqbal and SP (Investigation) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer to ensure arrest of the perpetrator of this act. They constituted a team including Inspector Anees Akber from Homicide Unit, and others. This police team worked hard and succeeded to arrest two accused Rafique and Laique residents of district Peshawar, while police also recovered abducted wife of Muhammad Abbas (late).

The police team recovered two pistols from their possession used as murder tools while efforts are underway to arrest their other accomplices.

Homicide unit of Ramana police arrested Atif, an accused of another murder case, and recovered a dagger from him used as murder tool.

Three held, spice factory sealed for adulteration

By Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: District administration has arrested three persons including a proprietor of the spice factory for alleged adulteration in the spices.

On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Mohammad Ali Ashgar, the Assistant Commissioner (AC), Peshawar Sara Rehman along with local police conducted raid on a spice manufacturing factory on Inqilab Road and found the manufacturing of spice in a unhygienic manner and beside hay other chemicals were also being mixed in it.

The AC while expressing anguish over the situation arrested three persons including owner and sealed the factory. The administration also took 85 bags injurious and mixed spices into possession.

Hepatitis drive to continue till Oct 25th

By Our Staff Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Anti-hepatitis campaign by District Health Authority would continue till October 25. According to the sources of the health department, special mobile camps were set up at 4 points in the district where people were screened and vaccinated against hepatitis. As many as 2000 persons were screened at the camps of which 101 were found to have hepatitis-B. Some 1772 people were vaccinated against hepatitis whereas Blood samples of more than 400 people were sent to laboratories for testing.

Two-day Children's Literature Festival kicks off

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The two-day 62nd Children's Literature Festival (CLF), a flagship programme of civil society organization Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), kicked off with a number of interactive sessions and activities here on Wednesday.

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafiqat Mahmood inaugurated the two-day event. He appreciated the CLF's efforts for providing an inclusive learning platform for children.

The Minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government would implement uniform syllabus in the educational institutions from next academic year and added that different institutions from all provinces including private schools have unanimously welcomed the government's initiative of uniform syllabus.

He said reforming and uplifting the education for girls remains a priority for the federal government and it was making

all possible efforts on a war footing in that regard.

ITA CEO Baela Raza Jamil apprised the audience about the CLF and how it had become a nationwide movement. She acknowledged the supporters of CLF and thanked CLF co-founder and advisor Ameena Saiyid for her active contribution to the cause of promoting learning for children.

Oxfam Pakistan's Country Director Mohammed Qazilbash lauded ITA's efforts in promoting a culture of creativity, learning and self-discovery among children and youth in Pakistan.

He also stressed for women's empowerment through quality education for girls to enhance their participation in the social, economic and political spheres.

OUP Pakistan Managing Director Arshad Saeed Hussain and OSF Senior Education Officer Nargis Sultana also spoke on the occasion.

The festival opened with multiple sessions taking place simultaneously, on the first day Lok Virsa Theatre presented Uncle Sargam and Gogi Show by Nigar

Nazar. Theatre Wallay presented a special play on 'Bachay Hamaray Zamanay Kay'. Khaled Anam held an interactive session 'Dosti Kitabon Say' with children to promote book reading culture.

Different activities were also organized 'Vehra Kitab Ilm-o-Adab' where students marched for Climate Justice and Right to Education besides holding a photo walk and exhibition on 'My City My Heritage, Ye hai Islamabad'.

Celebrities, parliamentarians and authors including MNA Mehnaz Akber Aziz and Samar Minallah attended the story telling sessions with the children.

Panel discussions were held on multilingualism in children's literature, and the role of literature and school libraries in mental growth of children, held by eminent personalities such as Zubeida Mustafa, Shahid Siddiqui, Nigar Nazar and others.

Urdu and Punjabi poet and writer Sarwat Mohiuddin also held a creative writing workshop. There was a Cinema Ghar where films and animations by Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy were screened

for children.

Similarly, interactive sessions and panel discussions were held in the Media Center called 'Parveen Shakir ki Baithak'. There was an open mic session for students under an expert panel of Tahira Abdullah and Syed Nusrat Ali, followed by music therapy on flute by Ao Baat Karain, Dastan Goi, book reviews and discussion on developing civic sense among children with the help of stories. The British Council Library had various activities at the Margalla's front lawn like tiny tales, Qissa Kahani, arts and crafts, peter pan themed games, photo booth, maker-space and an exhibition of children's book illustrations by UK Artists.

The 'Abdus Salam Lab' had stalls by Ilm Association, Science Fuse, Learnobots, WonderTree and Oxbridge while the 'Bachon Kay Haqooq ka Gehwara' had interactive stalls by ITA, book stall by OUP, mobile bus by National Book Foundation and STEM education stall by Oxfam Girls' Education Matter.

Country needs women technologists, oncologist and surgeon, says experts

KARACHI: Efforts to raise awareness about timely diagnosis of breast cancer needed to be urgently complemented with easy availability of trained professionals to treat breast cancers for good.

Experts talking to media Wednesday appreciated the gesture to celebrate October as the month of raising public awareness about "Breast Cancer," a largely treatable condition through timely interventions.

"This must, however, be supplemented by capacity building of women professionals right from technicians, technologists, oncologist to surgeons to efficiently manage the ailment mainly affecting womenfolk," said Dr. Abdul Bari, CEO, The Indus Hospital.

The facility providing wide range of medical treatment services free of cost to the marginalized sections of the country would also run an updated oncology unit catering according to the needs of patients suffering from cancer of varied categories.

Breast Cancer that mainly established to be a disease peculiar to women, also do effect around two percent of male population in our country.

Non availability and lack of easy availability of trained professionals for local women who due to cultural inhibitions and social taboo were reluctant to approach male doctors even for necessary investigations were recorded to have triggered the situation in terms of essential diagnosis and consequent treatment, if required.

"Female patients are largely registered to keep to themselves their condition related to breast cancers, along with possible malignancies related to their private parts, hence turning the otherwise treatable conditions to literally terminal diseases," regretted Dr. Hamda Mushfiq.

Dr. Abida Sattar, associated with Aga Khan University Hospital, mentioning that young women have been recorded to be reaching with third and fourth stage of diseases due to delayed referral, said the

situation demanded easy availability of qualified and trained women professionals at the centers located close to their homes.

"The delay factor has augmented complications and severity of the disease denying many of our young women of their right to lead a fulfilling life," commented the expert. The seasoned oncologist said WHO guide lines for breast cancer management suggests cross screening process of every breast tumor and going for those not palpable.

This was cited not to be plausible in a setting where not many mammogram machines were registered to be functional across the country and on top of it there were also not many qualified women professionals to read the reports and assist the patients who also and often needed women oncologists on urgent basis for needed treatment.

Trained hands (female), she reiterated were needed to perform biopsies and handle other treatment needs including possible surgeries of women patients. —APP



HYDERABAD: Visitors capture the moments at Sindhi culture village model at Sindhi Museum.