

Miller Int'l China, local NGO join hands to work for flood-affected people

ISLAMABAD: Miller International China and Million Smiles Foundation (MSF) have joined hands to work for the people affected by the recent devastating floods in Pakistan.

This was disclosed by Zeshan Afzal, co-founder of the MSF, in a post, with the caption, 'A Million Smiles for Humanity with Corporates from China, according to Gwadar Pro. Muzaffar Paracha, CEO Airlink Communications, facilitated the signing between MSF and Miller Int. China, Zeshan wrote.

Airlink Communications is an official partner of various Chinese mobile phone companies for the distribution of cellular sets and accessories, and it also assembles some Chinese smartphone brands with technical assistance from TCL and Transsion Holdings Co.



ISLAMABAD: Nusrat Nasab, CEO Agha Khan Agency for Habitat called on Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik at his Office.

GPA invited tenders for Perimetric Security System Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD: To make the city safe and secure for local and foreign investors, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Ministry of Maritime Affairs, is introducing the latest security system at Gwadar Port.

In this regard, according to Gwadar Pro on Monday, the GPA has issued a notice inviting tenders for Perimetric Security System at Gwadar Port. The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Pakistan, who is responsible for prescribing regulations and procedures for public procurement, later invited firms and contractors who have sufficient experience in the relevant field, qualified personnel and are financially to join the project, titled "Perimetric Security System Gwadar Port" and released the required prescribed tender document.

The tender documents containing detailed specifications, terms, and conditions may be obtained from the office of the Project Director at GPA Head office Gwadar as well as from GPA Camp Office Karachi. In the presence of bidders or their representatives, the bidding will be hosted on November 29, 2022, at Gwadar Port Authority Head Office, Pak-China Friendship Avenue, Gwadar. The method of Procurement will be following the 'Single Stage Two Envelope procedure under Rule 36 (b)' of 'the Public Procurement Rules-2004' while the GPA may reject all bids or proposals as per PPRA Rule No. 33.

PDWP approves three development schemes

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved three development schemes of Urban Development and Roads Sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 2,633.714 million.

These schemes were approved in the 27th meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of current fiscal year 2022-23 presided over the Chairman Planning & Development Board Abdullah Khan Sumbal.

The approved development schemes included Construction of Cricket Stadium Samanabad, Lahore at the cost of Rs. 513,294 million, Construction / Widening / Improvement of Road from Kasur Bypass at Sahari to Bulandi Road via Kotli Rai Abu Bakar, Length=19.10 Km, District Kasur at the cost of Rs. 1,686.594 million and Construction / Widening / Improvement of Road from Kasur Kot Radha Kishan Road at Theh Rossa to Kotli Rai Abu Bakar, Length=4.60 Km, District Kasur at the cost of Rs. 433.826 million.

Provincial Secretary P&D Board Dr. Muhammad Sohail Anwar Chaudhary, all Members of the Planning & Development Board, Provincial Secretaries of concerned departments, and other senior representatives of the relevant Provincial Departments also attended the meeting. INP

Pakistan's SMEs sector needs to undergo 'green transformation': WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan need to undergo a green transformation to achieve environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable development, said an expert.

Dr Masood Arshad, Senior Director Footprint, WWF Pakistan, said while talking to WealthPK that a major component of Pakistan's economic growth is SMEs. However, they also contribute to global environmental degradation.

SMEs in developing countries like Pakistan are less likely to adopt green practices, and recently, it had been very hard to force SMEs to adopt sustainable green innovation practices because of multiple barriers associated with it e.g., lack of financial resources, weak enforcement of environmental regulations, lack of green knowledge-sharing cooperation among SMEs, and poor environmental management system in industries," Dr Masood pointed out.

"In order to arrest environmental degradation, thorough research is needed to enhance environment quality, which can be improved through green innovations, especially in manufacturing industries," he said.

"SMEs need more knowledge and access to financing so they can invest in suitable measures. Green credit guidelines are needed to make it possible for SMEs to access capital for green investments, and on the other hand, key private and public sector actors have to build the capacity to implement and monitor progress around these guidelines," Dr Masood suggested.

He also shared that although Pakistan is not contributing much to climate change, it ranks among the top 10 most vulnerable countries and is exposed to its adverse impacts such as extreme weather events, more persistent droughts, floods, and heatwaves.

"It would be beneficial for the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to collaborate with Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) to develop Pakistan's green SME sector through green financing. If this initiative is targeted towards eco-friendly startups or green SMEs, it can result in the robust growth of Pakistan's green industries and environmental sustainability," he added.

"Although the Government of Pakistan is trying to mitigate environmental pollution through various policies such as environmental taxes and subsidies for industries, there is also a need to focus on intangible resources to enhance environmental-friendly practices in manufacturing SMEs," he said.

WWF-Pakistan is currently implementing over 30 projects, including work on forests, freshwater, species, marine and coastal areas, climate change, education and awareness, poverty-environment linkages, and policy research and advocacy integrating conservation with sustainable development initiatives through a holistic approach. It is working to create awareness through advocacy campaigns, seminars and activities with communities, and has been encouraging innovation by funding startups in partnership with diverse stakeholders with a focus on recycling.

Forex reserves crunch keeps pulling Pakistani rupee down

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee kept losing its value against the US dollar in the interbank on Monday.

According to the money dealers, as the trading activity resumed today after a break of two days, the American currency seemed to glide confidently pushing down Pakistani rupee.

The major debt retirement includes repayment of government's commercial loans. Refinancing of these loans is in process, which will improve foreign exchange reserves in coming weeks, the central bank said.

On Friday, the USD was closed at Rs221.64 and the PKR was depreciated by 0.10%.

The foreign exchange reserves of the country have been recorded at \$13.721 billion by week ended November 04, 2022 as compared to \$14.679 billion a week ago i.e. October 28, 2022.

Besides this, the remittances sent by overseas Pakistanis in October were also shrunk by 9% and the remittance inflow was \$2.2 billion. The major debt retirement includes repayment of government's commercial loans. Refinancing of these loans is in process, which will improve foreign exchange reserves in coming weeks, the central bank said.



LAHORE: Residents of Pakattan shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Some politicians poisoning investment climate for personal interests: PEW

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said some politicians are poisoning the investment atmosphere in the country for their personal interests.

The economy is not being allowed to recover because of continuous protests which are regrettable, it said. The country cannot afford political instability and chaos but those who want to grab power are blind to these realities, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW. He said that failed politicians are bent on making the country a wasteland as development is impossible in such a situation. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that due to the increase in political temperature, the government could not focus on social welfare and the country is sinking into problems. The politics of conflict and protest have caused great damage to the country's economy, the people have been suffering from constant inflation, while some politicians are trying to gain power at any cost which is regrettable, he observed. Dr. Mughal said that the country's economy cannot afford more protests, but some elements are sabotaging the development process under a well-thought-out plan against which legal action should not be delayed. INP

Cloudy weather expected in the country

ISLAMABAD: Mainly partly cloudy weather is expected in most upper parts of the country, while rain with thunderstorm and snow over the hills is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north-Balochistan, Islamabad, Potohar region, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during evening and night during the next twelve hours.

Temperatures of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad four degree centigrade, Murree seven, Quetta ten, Lahore sixteen, Karachi twenty-two, Peshawar eleven, Gilgit zero and Muzaffarabad nine degree centigrade.

According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cloudy weather with chances of rain and wind thunderstorm in evening and night is expected in Srinagar and Leh, partly cloudy in Jammu while cloudy weather with chances of rain thunderstorm in likely to prevail in Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian, and Baramulla.

On the other hand the districts of Swat, Der Upper, and Khyber received the first snowfall of the winter, bringing down the mercury further and blanketing the hilly areas with white snow. INP



ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way during rainy weather at Jinnah Avenue.

Racing bus drivers crash into each other, injuring 15

NAROWAL: At least 15 passengers sustained injuries in an accident between two buses whose drivers were in a race to drive past each other on Muridke Road, Narowal, police said on Monday.

The footage of the accident reveals that the two buses can be seen racing on Muridke Road.

The drivers of the two buses put the lives of hundreds of people at risk in their attempt to drive past each other.

The bus travelling from Narowal to Lahore kept making attempts to cross the other bus.

"We kept requesting the driver to drive the bus slowly. But, he was drunk, and he did not listen to us," said the passengers.

"Due to the incompetence of the district administration and the traffic police, no one questions these drivers," they lamented.

"We kept requesting the driver to drive the bus slowly. But, he was drunk, and he did not listen to us," said the passengers.

"The buses travelling to Lahore are prone to accidents every day because their drivers are usually drunk," they maintained.

"Due to the incompetence of the district administration and the traffic police, no one questions these drivers," they lamented.

Heyday for Pak-China ties after 20th CPC congress

LAHORE: A first of its kind gathering of league of Pakistani scholars and Chinese diplomats jointly subscribed the outcomes of recently concluded 20th CPC national congress and underlined the need to tap new diversity into Pak-China relations as well as CPEC hailing new induction of fresh corridors including health corridor, industrial corridor, digital corridor, and green corridor in next phase of CPEC.

The Pak-China fraternity held the consensus at a seminar titled 20th CPC congress, party, policy, prospects and impacts on China-Pak Relations organized by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (HIRMR) at local hotel here on Sunday.

Shedding light on the sense of new opportunities, new cooperation and new development while discussing impacts of 20th CPC congress on Pak-China relations, Chinese consul general Lahore Zhao Shiren said that China terms people of Pakistan real stakeholder besides government and Chinese leadership is ready to work jointly with every segment of society to let CPEC fortunes to trickle down to grass root level.

On CPEC dismal activity and future momentum he said that it is not appropriate to blame anybody for CPEC slowdown because now CPEC has bounced back with its natural form and pace and all projects will be executed on fast-track to make CPEC a full-on successful story, he added.

At the time of conclusion of 20th Congress that has put the new leadership in place and solidified the party self-innovation outlining major policy initiatives both at domestic and foreign fronts, Mr Zhao announced that 2023 is to be marked as a year of China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchange. In this regard, he said the Gandhara Art Exhibition will be held at the Palace Museum in Beijing to showcase Pakistan's diverse culture and long history of interaction with China.

TENDER NOTICE

THE DIRECTORATE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY DEPARTMENT invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-222311153942 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DIRECTORATE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS BALUCHISTAN PRQ No.980/14-11-2022 www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov dprgob @dpr_baluchistan

