



Laboratory Publication by the Students of Mass Communication & Media Studies, Greenwich University

Greenwich University
Karachi

Volume- V

January 2015

Issue-I

Nine projects of Rs4.72bn cleared by CDWP



Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved on Tuesday nine projects in the education, culture, agricultural engineering, livestock, women development and communication sectors at a cost of Rs4.72 billion.

In addition, the CDWP recommended to Ecneec for approval two projects in the energy and education sectors



worth Rs14.64bn.

The CDWP meeting chaired by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal approved a project for enhancement of research facilities at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Pattoki, costing Rs980.22 million.

Contd.... Pg.7

Solar energy to be brought into national power grid



Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Amid a worsening energy crisis, Pakistan has approved the use of grid-connected solar energy, rooftop solar installations and mortgage fi-



nancing for home solar panels to boost uptake of clean energy in the country.

The government has also reversed course and eliminated a 32.5 per cent tax imposed on imported solar equipment in the country's 2014-15 budget. The reversal aims to bring down the cost of installing solar panels.

The approval of net-metering — which allows solar panel purchasers to sell power they produce to the national grid

Contd.... Pg.7

5 items identified for export to Russia



Shehroz Sohail
BS41 3610

The Ministry of Commerce has evolved a strategy for a share in the agriculture and food market of the Russian federation and in this regard five products including citrus varieties, potato, rice, dairy products and tobacco have been identified for exports.

Talking to Dawn an official of the ministry said a business delegation of leading food exporters will visit Russia by end of January.

The delegation will interact with Russian buyers to identify the routes and mode of payment during the period of US trade sanctions on Russia. Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at \$419.34 million in 2013-14 as against \$484.47m in the previous year, reflecting a decline of \$65.13m or 13.45 per cent. The decline is mainly driven by falling Pakistan's exports to Russia, which fell by 10.36pc during the period under review.

Currently, Pakistan's major export items to Russia include woven cotton fabrics, fruit and fruit preparations, synthetic fabrics, rice all sorts, articles of apparel other than textile material, vegetables, medical and surgical instruments.

Contd.... Pg.7

Pakistan resumes wheat exports



Raafe Hassan
BS41 3697

Wheat from Pakistan is again being offered in world export markets following a long period in 2014 when the country was a major importer, European traders.

A European trader said he had received offers from Pakistani traders for wheat from government inventories.

"It appears stocks are being cleared ahead of the start of Pakistan's upcoming harvest around April," the trader said. Traders said Pakistan could add several hundred thousands of tonnes of extra supply in world markets, helping to compensate for the exit of Russia from the export sector.



Pakistani importers made a series of large wheat purchases in 2014 following a disappointing harvest that pushed up local prices.

In November, the country imposed a 20 per cent import duty on wheat to help protect local farmers from imports, leading to the cancellation of some of the import deals.

"Traders are seeking to sell wheat but with fob (free on board) prices of around \$345 a tonne, I do not expect im

Contd.... Pg.6



EDITOR'S NOTE

Ends are not bad things, they just mean that something else is about to begin. And there are many things that don't really end, anyway, they just begin again in a new way. 2014 was indeed a year full of happy and sad moments for everyone. Some people lost their loved ones and some were bound into new beautiful relations as new people entered their lives. We should not dwell on the negative, instead should look forward to new bright beginnings.

It's still not late to Make New Year's goals. Dig within, and discover what you would like to have happen in your life this year.

This helps you do your part. It is an affirmation that you're interested in fully living life in the year to come.

Goals give us direction. They put a powerful force into play on a universal, conscious, and subconscious level. Goals give our life direction.

What would you like to have happen in your life this year? What would you like to do, to accomplish? What good would you like to attract into your life? What particular areas of growth would you like to have happen to you? What blocks, or character defects, would you like to have removed?

What would you like to attain? Little things and big things? Where would you like to go? What would you like to have happen in friendship and love? What would you like to have happen in your family life?

What problems would you like to see solved? What decisions would you like to make? What would you like to happen in your career?

Write it down. Take a piece of paper, a few hours of your time, and write it all down - as an affirmation of you, your life, and your ability to choose. Then let it go. Then embrace the new beginning.

A compilation of news made by students of Mass Communication and Media Studies of Greenwich University to highlight the positive aspects of Pakistan

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Acknowledgement

Positive Post is grateful to the newspapers/ agencies from which the news have been gleaned by students.

Punjab to get 3,000 cabs next month



Laraib Rajput
BS38 3345

The Pak Suzuki Motor Company Limited (PSMCL) has planned to deliver 3,000 vehicles next month under 'Apna Rozgar Scheme' to the Punjab government.

The contract for delivery of 50,000 vehicles in total would be completed by February 2016, according to Sherman Research.

Analysts said the company would be selling 129,000 units this year, including the Punjab's taxi scheme, due to the anticipated rise in de-

mand on the back of falling oil prices and declining inflation.

They said the car financing, which is currently at Rs70 billion, would increase this year as the interest rate is expected to be cut to 8.5 per cent in the coming monetary policy.

"In 2007, when local industry sold around 180,000 units, PSMCL sold 124,000 units," they added.

The Apna Rozgar Scheme was to be initiated in the last quarter of 2014, but was delayed due to political turmoil and floods. Punjab allocated Rs25bn for the scheme in the latest budget.

Courtesy: Dawn

Rare turtle rescued



Adeel Qureshi
BS413635

A 60 inches long leatherback turtle that accidentally got entangled in fishing net in Gwadar was successfully released back into the deep sea.

It's the second time in 10 months that leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) that are rarely found along Pakistan's coast has been caught and released.



"When the turtle was caught in our net, we swiftly recognised that it was the same rare species fishermen had been told about during sessions on turtle awareness," said Lal Bakhsh, one of the crew members of the fishing

boat that caught the turtle.

Fishermen, he said, now realised the significance of turtles that kept marine habitat clean. "That's why we decided to sacrifice our gillnet and rescue the turtle," he added.

According to World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan official Abdur Rahim, whose organisation is creating awareness among fishermen about how to release non-targeted marine species back into the sea, the turtle was brought to the Gwadar Fish Harbour where the staff measured the species and later released it into the deep waters.

Technical Adviser WWF-Pakistan Mohammad Moazzam Khan said leatherback turtles have been reported only on five occasions in recent history; twice they were reported from Karachi about 25 years ago and once from Gwadar (West Bay) a decade ago. But, all three were dead

Contd.... Pg.7

Sharif invites Bahraini businessmen to invest in Pakistan

Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Wednesday that Pakistan was keen to work with Bahrain to further improve economic relations between the two friendly countries.



“There is immense scope for expanding the existing volume of bilateral trade between the two countries which currently stands at \$200 million,” he said at meeting between delegations of the two sides in the Gudabiya Palace.

The Bahraini delegation was led by Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa.

Prime Minister Sharif, who earlier held a one-to-one

meeting with his Bahraini counterpart, said the two countries shared common perceptions on many regional and international issues and enjoyed exemplary cooperation at the UN and other international forums.

Mr Sharif said Pakistan had become an attractive destination because of his government’s liberal investment policy and high rate of return. Pakistan wanted Bahraini entrepreneurs and businessmen to invest in the country, particularly in the energy sector.

He underlined the need for reactivating the Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Business Council which was established in 2007.

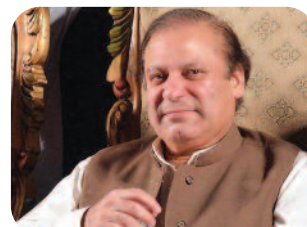
At the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the status of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defence and security.

Courtesy Express Tribune

PM announces reduction in POL prices

Shehroz Sohail
BS41 3610

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday announced that per litre price of petroleum has been further slashed by Rs7.99, with the new at Rs70.29 per litre now.



With the new reduction in petrol prices, petroleum will now be cheaper than Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), the price of which stands at Rs76.35 for region I (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan

and the Potohar zone including Rawalpindi and Islamabad) and Rs71.50 per kg for region II (Sindh and Punjab excluding the Potohar zone). The current price of petrol is 78.28 per litre.

Courtesy Express Tribune

Cotton production records 10 per cent increase

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The country is poised to produce bumper cotton crop this season (2014-15) as phutti (seed cotton) arrivals jumped 10.16 per cent to 13.958 million bales up to January 1, 2015 compared to 12.670 million bales in the corresponding period last season (2013-14).

The higher phutti arrivals during period under review could well be judged from the fact that last year only 420,953 cotton bales were harvested during outgoing fortnight (Dec 15 to Jan 1) whereas this season around 724,462 bales were processed. This shows that 303,508 more bales were produced.

In total, Punjab harvested 10.090 million bales up to January 1, 2015 compared to 8.999 million bales last year and Sindh 3.867 million bales as against 3.671 million bales in the same period last season.

On the consumption side there was higher off-take by spinners who purchased 11.457 million bales up to January 1, 2015 as against 10.618 million bales last season.

Similarly, exporters bought 391,465 bales compared to 329,090 bales last year.

Ginners were also holding 2.016 million bales as against 1.723 million bales they held in the same period last year. Around 799 and 156 ginning factories were still operating in Punjab and Sindh, respectively.

Courtesy: Dawn



Both Punjab and Sindh recorded higher cotton production this season, suggested the latest figures released by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners’ Association. However, 1.091 million more bales, a growth of 12.13pc over the corresponding period of last season, by Punjab was a major contributor to overall higher production. Whereas Sindh harvested 196,301 additional bales or 5.35pc this season.

2,192 firms enrolled in July-Dec

Raaf Hassan
BS41 3697

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) enrolled 2,192 firms during the first half (July-Dec) of this fiscal year as compared to 1,950 firms registered in the same period last year, a growth of 12.41 per cent.

An SECP statement on Wednesday also showed registration of 469 companies in December 2014, including two foreign and 41 local firms with foreign investment.

The growth indicates a shift towards documentation of the economy as well as favourable policies undertaken by the government for businesses.



During the period under review, around 91pc firms were registered as private limited, 6pc as single member and 3pc as public limited companies.

The service sector took the lead with 281 registrations followed by trading 250; tourism 197; information technology 192; construction 148; corporate agricultural farming 79; food and beverages 64; communication and education 61 each and oil and gas with 58 new enrolments.

Courtesy: Dawn

28-year-old Fiza Farhan in Forbes list of 2015's young entrepreneurs

Raaf Hassan
BS41 3697

Twenty-eight-year-old Fiza Farhan, co-founder of Buksh Foundation, has made it to the list of American business magazine Forbes' list of 30 under 30 social entrepreneurs for 2015.

Farhan runs Buksh Foundation, a microfinance institution that brings clean energy projects to poor and rural areas.

The foundation has trained 135 women as energy entrepreneurs and has brought solar-powered lights to 6,750



households.

In May 2014, Farhan was presented with the title of co-chairperson of the Italian Development Committee (IDC), a body working to promote bilateral trade and investment between Italy and Pakistan. Last year, Shiza Shahid, co-founder of Malala Fund, was awarded the distinguished position.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Customs collects Rs2.27bn revenue in Quetta

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

The Quetta Customs collected Rs2.27 billion during the first half (July-Dec) of this fiscal year, around 20 per cent higher than the set target of Rs1.89bn by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Talking to media on Friday, Collector, Model Collectorate Customs Quetta, Zahoor Akhtar Raja and Deputy Collector Aamir Nawaz informed that the revenue generated under different heads in-



cluded Rs420 million under customs duty, Rs250m under sales tax and Rs4.1m under federal excise duty.

They said that around 474kg heroin, 123kg morphine and 27kg opium were seized during this period that worth over Rs3bn in international market.

Courtesy: Dawn

Indo-Pak Peace Calendar launched

Adeel Qureshi
BS413635

The Indo-Pak Peace Calendar-2015 was launched at the Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture (Pilac).



The calendar contains paintings by the schoolchildren of India and Pakistan on the subject of peace under Aghaaz-i-Dosti initiative by the organisations from both the countries, says a press release.

From Pakistan, the students from Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Chitral and Karachi contributed to the calendar with their paintings while from India students of Vadodara, Telangana and New Delhi put in their efforts. Political activist and lawyer Raza Kazim said the youth of India and Pakistan needed to study history. He said history recorded until the British who published the Cambridge History of India, adding that the book was biased because it was written to serve colonial rulers.

Social activist Diep Saeeda said visa restrictions between India and Pakistan should be relaxed. She regretted political governments in Pakistan were not strong enough to go against the 'behind the scene forces', adding that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, had made better relations with India a part of his election campaign but he could not do anything after coming to power.

Naeema Malik, Sara Shiraz, Safia Bukhari and Sajjad Amer also spoke. Raza Naeem did the reading from Manto's works. Painter Ajaz Anwar distributed certificates among the students, in the event organised by Social Awareness Media and Art Junction (Samaaj) and South Asian Writers and Artists Network (Sawan).

Courtesy: Dawn

Sindh collects Rs157.5m WHT on vehicles

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The Sindh government collected over Rs157.5 million withholding tax (WHT) on motor vehicle registration during the first half of 2014-15 compared to Rs87m a year ago.

The considerable year-on-year difference was due to substantial increase in WHT on vehicle registration by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) from July 2014. The new schedule requires motorists to pay WHT on every transfer up to five years.

The FBR imposed the WHT under section 231(b) of the Finance Bill 2014-15, payable at the time of registration and under section 234 which requires motorists to pay withholding tax along with road tax.

Director Motor Vehicle Registration (MVR) of the Excise and Taxation department, Noor Ahmed Odhano, said the department has decided to destroy record of vehicles registered before 1980. Before destructing record of such vehicles, which run in



hundreds and thousands, the department made extensive publicity informing owners of old vehicles to collect their files.

He said the MVR division plans to introduce security-featured number plates for vehicles in Sindh on the pattern of Punjab. The work is in progress to arrange manufacturing of secured number plates which would be machine readable and would not be prone to counterfeiting.

He said the department has stopped issuing number plates with particular names. However, plates with chosen numbers are allotted on extra payment. Giving example, he said the most sought after number is 786 which carries a charge of Rs75,000. This number has been booked for many future series and is not available now.

The number plates with three
Contd.... Pg.7



Fawad Khan picks up his first ever Filmfare award

Shehroz Sohail
BS41 3610

Pakistani actor Fawad Khan picked up the best film debut-male award at the 60th India Filmfare awards at the Yash Raj Studio in Mumbai on Saturday evening, theTimes of India reported.

He was presented the award by Jhataleka Malhotra and Fawad's co-star in the film, Sonam Kapoor. Sonam herself has been nominated for the best actor-female in a leading role award. He thanked Anil Kapoor, Khoobsurat's producer Rhea Kapoor, Disney Productions along with the entire cast and crew of Khoobsurat.



"You guys are the instrument of my success. It is beautiful to get love from people in India and Pakistan."

He beat off competition from the likes of Tahir Raj Bhasin (Mardaani), Tiger Shroff (Heropanti), Sharib Hashimi (Filmistaan) and Freddy Daruwala (Holiday) to win the award.

Contd.... Pg.6

Deepak Perwani showcases designs in Bulgaria

Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

Pakistani fashion designer Deepak Perwani showcased his collection at Bulgaria's National History Museum in Sofia on Friday ahead of receiving the International Bulgarian Fashion Council



award. Perwani had been selected from amongst 285 nominees from nine continental regions for the award, and his House of Deepak Perwani will become the first Pakistani design house to receive the award.

Pictures from Perwani's companion, photographer Tapu Javeri, showed that Pakistan's Ambassador to Bulgaria Jamshaid Iftikhar also attended the show.

The non-governmental organisation which is authorised to represent the EU in fashion and fashion design worldwide, recognised Perwani as the sixth most innovative designer in the world.

Contd.... Pg.6

The sweet harmony of cultures coming together

Adeel Qureshi
BS413635

Attending the benefit concert at Kuch Khaas on Sunday night was like stepping into a new world. Some of Pakistan's finest folk musicians collaborating with violinist William Harvey created an entirely unique sound which enchanted the audience.

The concert was organised by the Institute for Preservation of Arts and Culture (IPAC) and was appropriately titled 'Building Common Grounds'.

It aimed to raise funds for a nongovernmental organisation working for education and empowerment of girls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The event was put together by

Cultures in Harmony Director William Harvey. The skilled violinist has performed around the world with the hope of bringing cultures together.



The one-and-a-half hour long performance was a seamless collaboration between the artists, akin to musical conversation. Akbar Khamisu played the Algoza, Salman Adil the flute, Muhammad Ajmal tabla,

Contd.... Pg.6

Mahira Khan gets international acclimation

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Shah Rukh Khan, who is set to star with actor Mahira Khan and acclaimed Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui in the forthcoming film Raees, is all praises for them. He said he would now have to pull up his socks to perform as well as the two actors.

"Mahira Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui are there in the film. Both of them are very accomplished actors. I think the cast is really wonderful," Shah Rukh said on Monday at the launch of Dabboo Ratnani's annual calendar.

"Now, I would have to excel and perform like them," added the actor, who is set to join the film's shoot by March end. Mahira, who became popular in India with her suc-



cessful TV show Humsafar, will be seen as Shahrukh's leading lady in Raees.

Shah Rukh, who has already met Mahira and seen her television work, is quite impressed with her talent. "Rahul (Dholakia) liked her. She suited the film a lot. I have seen a small part of her television work. I have met her and she is marvellous actor," the 49-year-old said. To be directed by Dholakia, Raees is being co-produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Cont.. from Pg 8: Renewed hopes for the football-loving....

"It's like a new life for us," Jihand told The Express Tribune. "My club wasn't playing in local tournaments for the last 10 years because most of our players had either left, and at other times, the law-and-order situation would worsen for us, especially in Kalakot.

"We couldn't continue, but this tournament has given us a new lease on the field not just for my club but for 31 other clubs too."

Defender Anees Ahmed said that the tournament has given hope to players in the area.

"The football field is our home, it's our refuge from drugs and other bad things that we see every day in Lyari," said Ahmed. "Football

keeps us away from getting involved in illegal or wrong activities. This tournament and preparing for it for the past few months was all we had."

Azad Baloch FC lost their pre-quarterfinal match 3-1 to Karachi City FC – featuring players from Cheel Chowk and Usmanabad area – on penalties yesterday.

"We feel like winners despite the loss because the purpose for us is to survive and keep our players motivated to continue playing," said Jihand.

Local coach Ghulam Hus-sain Baloch added that even a local tournament in Lyari is very competitive and normally gets decided on penalty-kicks.

Courtesy Express Tribune

Cont... from pg 8: Hat-trick boy Raza, All shine as Badshah seal...

Cashing in on their rivals' shortcoming, the batsmen scored at will against part-time spinner Awais Zia, who went for eight an over in his first spell of five.

Earlier, Umar Amin was the mainstay of the Federal United innings with a sublime 110 after they had lost Kamran Akmal to the first ball of the match when Badshahs elected to field first once Haris Sohail had won the toss.

Kamran injudiciously went for a drive against a full-length delivery from Mohammad Talha but complete missed the line and was sent on his way by Ahsan Raza's left index finger.

Imran Farhat (24) and Awais Zia (49 off 48 balls, seven fours) repaired the early loss by putting 68 before Imran was trapped lbw off Wahab Riaz and Awais departing in the same manner to Raza. It was Umar Amin's turn to

take the centre stage. The discarded Pakistan's left-hander's fourth three-figure knock in 84 one-day games came off 96 balls with the aid of nine boundaries and one six.

On the way, the elegant left-hander was involved in successive century partnerships with Babar Azam and Ali Sarfraz.

With the talented Babar (59 off 83, four boundaries), Umar put on 104 from 131 balls before Ali Sarfraz (39 off 38, four fours) came together in a quick-fire 69-ball stand worth 107 for the fifth wicket.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from Pg 1: Pakistan...

mediate export sales apart from possibly to Sri Lanka where Pakistani wheat receives specially low import duties," a second trader said.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 5: Fawad Khan picks up his first ever Filmfare...

Fawad becomes the first-Pakistani to win the Filmfare awards in the actor category. The Filmfare awards are one of the oldest and most prominent film related awards in India.

Prior to receiving the award, Fawad, who looked dapper in a grey Dior suit with a pin

striped waist coat, said on the red carpet that he was excited to be attending his first Filmfare event. He said that he was having a bit of a "fan-struck moment" for being among the creme of Bollywood's stars at probably the most prestigious film event in the region.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Cont... from pg 5: Deepak Perwani showcase design in Bulgaria

He is also expected to bag the "Fan's Favorite Award", "Unique Guinness Acknowledgement", and "Charitable Initiatives".

It is expected that he will also be a part of the diplomatic fashion reception for Pakistan as part of the European Fashion Capital initiative.

It is not clear whether Per-

wani will be part of the 'Ones to Watch' exhibition curated by On Off as part of a designer support programme facilitated by London College of Fashion in the International Fashion Showcase.

Apart from Pakistan, the exhibition will feature countries such as the Netherlands, Morocco, and Thailand.

Courtesy Express Tribune

Cont... from pg 8: Women's team to play series against SL in UAE

eam along with four standby players is undergoing a training camp here at Southend Club ground these days.

Led by skipper Sana Mir, the Pakistan team will play three one-dayers and as many T20s in Sharjah. The three one-dayers are part of the qualification process for the ICC ODI Championship, which in turn is also the qualification process for the 2018 ICC Women's World Cup to be held in England.

Squad:

Sana Mir, Nain Abidi, Bismah

Maroof, Nida Rashid, Javeria Wadood, Sania Iqbal, Marina Iqbal, Sidra Nawaz, Asmavia Iqbal Khokhar, Qanita Jalil, Sumaiya Siddiqui, Sadia Yousuf, Kainat Imtiaz, Nahida Bibi, Iram Javed, Naila Nazir.

Reserves: Aliya Riaz, Anum Amin, Sidra Amin, Rabiya Shah.

Officials: Ayesha Ashhar (manager), Mauhtashim Rasheed (coach), Ibrar Ahmed (trainer), Riffat Asghar Gill (physiotherapist).

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from Pg 5: The sweet harmony of cultures coming....

while Muhammad Khan played the dholak. When played along with the violin, the sound of each familiar folk instrument became new.

Audience was equally mesmerised by Zainullah Jan on

Chitralsitar combining with the powerful vocals of Kurban Ali Niazi and Akhtar Chanal. The music from the flutes of Salman Adil and Khamisu Khan appeared to make the night sway.

Courtesy Express Tribune

Cont... from pg 4: Sindh collects Rs 157.5m WHT on vehicles

uniform digits, such as 777, are allotted on a charge of Rs25,000, while number plates with three digits with zero in between, like 707, are provided at extra payment of Rs20,000.

To a question, the MVR director pointed out that the number of vehicles with tax default run in hundreds and thousands.

The Sindh government is the biggest defaulter of the motor vehicle tax followed by K-Electric, banks, leading commercial firms and insurance

companies. Notices have been issued to these defaulters to clear their vehicle dues at the earliest.

A move is under way to check dual registration of vehicles by the owners belonging to a particular province in another province, MVR sources said.

It is a general practice that owners of vehicles registered in other provinces seek dual registration in Karachi because vehicles bearing Karachi number plates fetch a better price on sale.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 1: 5 items identified for export to Russia

According to a ministry document, Russian food and agriculture imports stood at \$43 billion last year. The major imports include beef products, dairy products, citrus, tomatoes, potatoes, tobacco, fish, apples, pears etc.

The second potential item is potato. Its exports to Russia stood at \$16.182m, a share of 6.933pc in the Russian total imports of potatoes. There is a great potential in export of potatoes to Russia once Pakistan improves its quarantine and quality standards.

The leading exporters of potatoes to Russia are Egypt (\$233 million), the Netherlands (\$27 million). Other exporters include China and Azerbaijan.

Rice is another product, of which Pakistan is the 4th largest exporters to the world. Russia has imposed ban on imports of rice from Pakistan in the year 2011 but it was lifted in April 2012. This decision has led to a loss in share of Pakistan's exports of rice to Russia and diverted the trade to India.

"Pakistan is one of the leading milk producers in the world and has a fair chance of grabbing value added exports of dairy products," the official added.

Pakistan's export of tobacco stood at \$1.380m, which is 0.119pc share of the Russian total imports. The share in frozen vegetables exports is 1.020pc (\$1.06m) of the total Russian global imports.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 2: Rare turtle rescued.....

specimens.

"Leatherback turtles largely feed on jellyfish. We couldn't identify the reasons for the increase in jellyfish population and there is a need for research," he said.

The leatherback turtle is the largest marine turtle, in fact the largest reptile. It is widely distributed in the Indian and Pacific oceans, including

North Sea. In the Arabian Sea, it is found in India, Oman, the UAE and Yemen, but it is the rarest of all species of turtles in the area. The leatherback turtle can grow up to 900kg and has a teardrop shaped body. It is said that they have survived more than a hundred million years, but now face extinction.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 1: Solar energy to be brought into....

— is a major breakthrough that could spur use of solar energy and help Pakistan's government cut power shortages in the long run, said Asjad Imtiaz Ali, chief executive officer of the Alternative Energy Development Board, a public organisation.

"The initiative will help scale up demand for solar energy across Pakistan," he said, "and we hope the increased demand will also result in sufficient decreases in the price of solar equipment."

Ali said the government decided to cut newly imposed taxes on the import of solar panels following pressure from business owners, the public and media.

And the decision to allow solar generators to sell their excess generating capacity

means "consumers can now install rooftop solar systems and sell the extra energy to the national grid," he said.

Currently, Pakistan's rural areas face blackouts of over 11 hours a day while urban areas suffer up to eight hours of daily power cuts. The total power shortfall stands around 6,000 megawatts.

Safeer Hussain, a registrar at the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), said consumers who intend to sell solar-generated electric power to a distribution company would need to register with his authority.

"Net-metering is a sophisticated system and the applicant would be responsible for the installation of the equipment used for interconnection," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 1: Nine projects of Rs 4.72bn cleared by CDWP.....

In the communication sector, it approved two projects worth Rs1.27bn for Shangla Hill Interchange on M-3 and the dualisation of the remaining portion of Sukkur bypass. A project for 'Grow Green Gwadar and Smart' worth Rs410m was approved.

Under the Pak-China Economic Corridor, a support project of the Ministry of Railways was also approved by the CDWP at a cost of Rs252m.

Other projects approved are: the second phase of archaeology community tourism field school project worth

Rs52.53m; establishment of 'Seerat Chairs' in public sector universities involving Rs192m; strengthening of academic facilities at Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai University in Khairpur costing Rs712.60m; and strengthening of agricultural engineering and women development programme worth Rs843.18m.

The projects recommended to Ecne are 500KV substation at Faisalabad west worth Rs1.1b, and the Balochistan education project costing Rs3.57b.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 8: Four foreign based players to take part....

Olympic Qualification Round which will take place in December.

"We have a few talented players for that round and if they [Atief, Wahid, Sami and Yasmeen] show good performances, we can look forward to participation in the 2016 Rio Olympics," the PTF chief informed.

"As far as our local-based players are concerned, they will be sent to Iran and Qatar in the next two months with the junior team participating in the Asian junior team event in Chinese Taipei while the seniors will take part in the World Championships in Russia in May."

Courtesy: Dawn



Hat-trick boy Raza, Ali shine as Badshahs seal regal victory

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Inspired by a magnificent hat-trick from Raza Hasan and Ali Waqas' brilliant knock of 99, Punjab Badshahs defeated Federal United by three wickets in the Cool & Cool presents Haier Pentangular One-day Cup here at the National.

Raza, the young slow left-arter, brightened his World Cup aspirations, with figures of five wickets for 61 runs as Federal United reached an imposing total of 313-9 in the stipulated 50 overs, thanked to an excellent century from



captain Umar Amin.

Needing to get the required runs at 6.26 per over, the Badshahs, rather carelessly, lost some late wickets before sneaking home with two deliveries to spare.

At one point, it seemed they would win by a much bigger margin but for poor shot selection of the middle-order batsmen.

Left-handed Ali, who was adjudicated man-of-the-match ahead of Raza, led the way by striking 11 boundaries plus a six each over midwicket against Umar Gul and Abdur Rehman during his 99-ball knock.

The Badshahs' cause was great aided by misfortunes afflicting the fielding side since Federal United were limited to only four regular bowlers when fast bowler Ahmed Jamal limped off with a back injury that curtailed him to just five overs.

Contd.... Pg.6

Renewed hopes for the football-loving Lyari

Shehroz Sohail
BS41 3610

The football-loving youth of Lyari have reason to hope as the Sindh government initiated efforts to revive no less than 32 clubs in the football-savvy locality of Karachi.



The Sindh Sports Board has organised the Lyari Inter-Club Football Tournament at the Kakri Ground that will go on for a week. The purpose of the event is evident; to revive the old clubs that were disbanded due to the law-and-order situation in Lyari.

Azad Baloch FC owner Jihand Shaukat Ali said that the tournament is a blessing for the youth in Lyari.

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Four foreign-based players to take part in international

Raaf Hassan
BS41 3697

Four foreign-based taekwondo players of Pakistani origin have been named to represent the country at the Greece Open and the US Open later this month.

The Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) announced on Monday that Atief Arshad and Abdul Wahid, both from Scotland, and Denmark-based Sami Latif will take part in the Greece Open, a Grade 1 event, which runs from Jan 15-19. The trio have previously represented the country at international events.

Meanwhile, Yasmeen Sohail from the US will make her competitive bow for Pakistan at the US Open, a Grade 2 event, which starts from Jan 21.



"The four players have the potential to win medals," PTF president Lt Col Waseem Ahmed.

"We have high hopes that they will earn laurels for Pakistan and if they manage to win medals, we will give them the chance to take part in the Olympic qualification rounds."

Waseem said the PTF is focusing on the

Contd.... Pg.7

Women's team to play series against SL in UAE

Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

Pakistan women's cricket team face their counterparts from Sri Lanka in a series of limited-overs matches in the UAE from Jan 7 to 18.

A sixteen-member Pakistan women's t

Contd.... Pg.6

