

Bit Coins - the digital future or a threat to mankind

ZAIN TARIQ is an entrepreneur, technologist and a passionate advocate of Bit Coin with his roots in animation industry. Since October 2012 he has been involved with cryptos and is also the founder of bitcoinpk.com which is not only a bitcoin.....

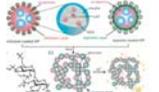


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April 14 - 27, 2014

HUMAN HEALTH Pg2

Injectable Nano-Network to control blood glucose level. DIABETES IS ONE of the leading epidemic global public health diseases. An estimated



366 million people get affected across the world at present. It results by accumulation of glucose in blood. In diabetes condition, human body loses the ability to produce enough insulin that fulfills the body requirement (type 1) or body cells fail to respond to the insulin (type 2).

SocioTECH Pg2

Techno-dependency probability. AGES HAVE PASSED seeing the use of technology in the form of skill, tool or technique



to ease the process of any task to be performed to achieve certain outcomes, goals or objectives.....

ENVIROTECH Pg2

Water issue: Worldwide and Pakistan prospective ONLY ONE PER cent of total water on earth is avail-



able for consumption. About five billion people on earth are experiencing water scarcity of various extents.....

INFOTECH Pg5

Big Data - helping take control of Asia's traffic woes

MANY CITIES across Asia Pacific are notorious for terrible traffic. In fact, just recently there were reports of



a horrific jam in China that lasted for over a week. Can you imagine the frustration of being caught in that? While this is an extreme case, dealing,

NOTICE

The office has established an Investigation Cell in order to unfold illegitimate activities as well as sensitize our readers on grey areas in various sectors including Science & Technology, Energy, Information Technology, Agriculture, Environment, Education and Health. Under this initiative, we plan to start publishing articles and news reports this Cell would clear after thorough scrutiny of information and related documents. Our readers can also share with us any information or documents about any illegitimate or non-professional activity or policy in these sectors for a good cause. Their identity would be kept confidential in any case.

Information can be shared at: +92 51 2607219 Mobile: 03336383241 Email: ic@technologytimes.pk

National media sensitised on science, technology achievements, potential

STAFF REPORT ISB: Noting with concern the inadequate coverage of science related activities in local media, speakers at a recently held workshop have stressed the need to popularize the potential, achievements as well as research and development activities of local science and technology sector through media which is the major instrument of shaping the public opinion on certain lines.

The seminar titled "Science Communication and Journalism" was organized by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in South (COMSATS) in partnership with the ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad.

A number of media representatives, scientists, faculty members of media sciences, university students, web-based forums, and officials of COMSATS Headquarters and ECO Science Foundation participated in the seminar. In his remarks, Federal Secretary Information Dr. Nazir Saeed, who was the chief guest, said that the national media can play an important role in building scientific culture among the masses by sensitizing them about the scientific and technological advances and their impact on the life of a common man. He pledged his Ministry's support to any initiatives proposed in this regard.

He urged the national media to devote at least five per cent of their media space to promoting a culture of science in the country. Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. Intimam Elahi Qureshi, highlighted the importance of the theme of the event. Dr. Qureshi stated that the work of scientific institutions mostly remains under reported and the contributions that Pakistan has



made to the progress of science and technology in the developing world are seldom highlighted, a fact which is discouraging to many important international scientific organizations based in Pakistan.

On similar lines, and Editorial Consultant Express Tribune, Khalid Rahman, delivered the keynote lectures, while Ameen Amjad Khan, a freelance journalist, Saadia Ishaq Nauman, Lecturer FJWU; Syed Paras Ali, Editor weekly Technology Times, and CEO web-based TechTV; addressed on the occasion.

In his remarks, Sayed Paras Ali said that science and technology can be a potential source to reduce poverty. He suggested that all the stakeholders need to concentrate on promoting electronic media as this medium has increasingly wider outreach in the era of advance information technology. In his online address from Italy, Edward W. Lemptien, Public Information Officer at The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), talked about science policy, diplomacy and education

and the role of various media for science communication. Chief Editor monthly 'Global Science', Karachi, Aleem Ahmed; and Editorial Consultant Express Tribune, Khalid Rahman, delivered the keynote lectures, while Ameen Amjad Khan, a freelance journalist, Saadia Ishaq Nauman, Lecturer FJWU; Syed Paras Ali, Editor weekly Technology Times, and CEO web-based TechTV; addressed on the occasion.

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in the developing world. Joanne Manaster, Faculty Lecturer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, giving her presentation from USA, highlighted the role of social media in promoting science in the modern world, while Shireen Gul, Copy-editor, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), USA, made a presentation on Science Journalism for Social Media. The event concluded with a roundtable discussion on a high note of appreciation from the speakers and the participants. Dr. Anwar Nasim, Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, made an analysis of the situation of the Science Journalism in Pakistan. An important pledge made during the discussion related to the formulation of a Science Journalist Association of Pakistan, the participants pledged to immediately initiate work to make such an institutional arrangement possible.

PTA set to hold electronic auction

STAFF REPORT KARACHI: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has chosen to hold an electronic auction, which sources say is in line with international standards and also likely to discourage collusive bidding.

Electronic auction is the standard practice all over the world and India, too, preferred this mode over the outdated open outcry method while auctioning 3G licences, said an official requesting not to be quoted. "The electronic auction will discourage collusion and ensure transparency," said the official. He said the base price for a 3G licence is already very high in the first place, which will certainly discourage collusion. Secondly, he said the bidders'

3 cent/minute cut likely for international calls

STAFF REPORT ISB: The IT Ministry has drafted a working paper to reduce the rate of incoming international calls by 3 cents per minute, or to end the "controversial" International Clearing House (ICLH), which has so far caused over \$1 billion loss to national exchequer. "Reduction in the per-minute price of the incoming international calls by 3 cent per minute is under consideration to curb grey trafficking which continues to afflict country's telecommunication sector. However, a final decision would be taken after getting the nod of minister for finance who is now a days at abroad," said an official of the ministry. He said that this initiative is being taken to discourage those elements having vested interests and want to keep the present ICH arrangement in place. He added that the national ICH has so far suffered heavy \$1 billion loss with setting up of infamous ICH, as rate of per minute of the incoming international calls was jacked up from 3 cent/minute and fixed at \$18cent/minute. He also said that cut in the rate of incoming international calls or end to ICH would be made on the basis of the working paper. Under the ICH, the entire incoming telephonic traffic was put at the disposal of PTCL.

Global efforts needed to cut emissions

MONITORING REPORT ISB: The UN experts' panel on climate change has highlighted the divide between international goals to fight global warming and what is being done to attain them. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) considered that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases must drop by 40-70 per cent by 2050 to keep the unavoidable increase in global temperature below the 2-degree centigrade. Leaked documents at the weeklong IPCC session in Berlin has identified the higher energy needs resulting from population growth and expanding economies in the developing world as the biggest reason for the rising emissions. This intensification of climate extremes will be the most visible impact of global warming on our everyday life if due attention is not given to address the dangers. Unchecked global warming could have a significant economic impact and worsen respiratory allergies and asthma. The only safe path forward is to arrive at a carbon neutral world in the second half of this century.

against expectation of the government, no new entrant is going to participate in the upcoming bidding. All existing cellular companies have submitted their sealed bids. "The good thing is that demand is more than the supply indicating a good response from the market which will pave the way for growing competition and now auction will be held on April 23, for getting increased share in up-

Four companies bid for 3G, 4G licences auction

STAFF REPORT ISB: Pakistan has received four sealed bids for spectrum auctions of 3G and 4G from the five operators, working in the country with the expectation coming transaction," top officials in PTA said. After receiving sealed bids from Mobiltalk, Telenor, Ufone and Zong, there is one operator Warid, which has not shown interest in the auction. According to the Information Memorandum (IM), there will be three (3G) and two (4G) licences, which will be auctioned. According to market sources, there has been a possibility that all the four operators might get licences for next generation technology. A new licence will be issued to the auction winner for next generation mobile services, with similar terms and conditions as of previous licence and additional terms and conditions/ amendments will be spelled out as an addendum by the PTA. As the demand is more than the supply, the allocation of spectrum will happen through an auction process.

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AJK plans major increase in hydel power generation

STAFF REPORT MIRPUR: In order to meet the increased demand of energy, the AJK government has kicked off an integrated plan to make AJK self-sufficient and self-sustained in power production. The phased plan involves the utilization of huge available potential of hydel power generation with the coordination of the private power sector for not only to meet local need of 400 MW but also to assist Pakistan for meeting the required energy needs of the country an official told the media. He said that under the plan the hydel power generation stations comprising the power production capacity of at least two to six megawatt power are proposed to be established at the selected sites with the cooperation of the Private Power Production Board. At the same time construction work is in full swing on mega hydel power generation project of 969 MW Neelum Jhelum Hydel power project in Muzaffarabad district. The 135MW Hydel Power Project at Rajaldhani and 5MW hydel power project at Jari Kass are also being launched in the public sector.

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Scientists review cotton research progress

STAFF REPORT MULTAN: Cotton scientists from across Pakistan have recently assembled in Multan for a three-day national meeting to discuss results from the research projects carried out last year and finalize a cotton research strategy for year 2014-15. Dr Khalid Khalid, who is also vice-president of PCCC, chaired the opening session of the meeting at CCRRI Multan and said that national research bodies and the private sector should work together to increase cotton production and develop technologies to counter cotton-related problems. Agriculture scientists from research institutes working under PCCC and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and provincial governments also presented their reports on experiments conducted last year and their results.

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Reforms of S&T ministry on the card

STAFF REPORT ISB: A series of meetings regarding the restructuring and reorientation of various organizations are going on in the Ministry of Science and Technology, in the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid. In this connection, a detailed presentation has recently been given by Pir Baksh Jamali, Director General and Minister for Science and Technology of the Ministry of S&T. The minister said on the occasion that after the 18th amendments the PSQCA has to reduce its domain only to export and import purposes and to formulate various standards. "Constitution is supreme in given conditions and also functions of the organization which are overlapping with the organizations working in the provinces," he said. The minister directed the Federal Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology to have a meeting with the Chief Secretaries of the provinces and offer the facilities of the PSQCA for the capacity building of the authorities and standardization of the various products.

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Telecom facility in Neelum Valley on the card

STAFF REPORT RWP: The Special Communication Organisation (SCO) is planning to lay telecommunication infrastructure in Neelum Valley of AJK to link it with the rest of the country. SCO officials said this while talking to a delegation of PML-N AJK, led by its Secretary-General Shah Ghulam Qadir who have recently called on them at the SCO headquarters in Rawalpindi. The SCO officials said that they have already provided telephone facilities to the people in Shadra, Kel and Athmuqam and very soon it would be extended to Taubant in Neelum Valley. The SCO officials said landline telephone, cellular phones, DSL and LDI services will also be provided to the people in Neelum Valley.

Did you know? Knowledge that was missing. A research based filler, which provides knowledge about things around us. One-minute screen shows hidden truths about Elements, People, Plants, Minerals, Animals, etc., to enhance the knowledge of general viewers.

Cellphone MANIA Trendy Mobiles in Pakistan. Mobile phones have a number of features in common, but manufacturers also try to differentiate their products by implementing additional functions. This program will help viewers to find a mobile phone that matches their needs. The host will also talk about the call-phone trends being followed in Pakistan.

TECHNOLOGY

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EdTweet

Need to foster technology incubation

One of the days when strength of a nation was gauged with the number of weapons and size of army. The modern times development and economic stability is, of course, the offshoot of technology. The technology incubators, a variant of more traditional business incubation schemes, is the phenomena of present times as they assist technology-oriented entrepreneurs in the start-up and early development stage of their firms by providing workspace, share facilities and a range of business support services.

We need to develop a system that accurately monitors the glucose level in body conditions. One of the strategies, in close loop insulin delivery, is to combine two techniques sensor activated insulin releasing element and glucose sensing moiety within one system. A device has been created that works on the basis of semiautomatic, in which we combine external insulin infusion pump with continuous glucose monitoring sensor.

EdMail

editorial@technologytimes.pk

Waste-to-energy THIS is about how we can transform waste material into constructive resources. There are 420 plants in Europe to provide heat and electricity through 'waste-to-energy' plants to more than 17 million people.

China, whose deep ties are often sung, can assist us in this project which will not only reduce air and land pollution but also provide job opportunities.

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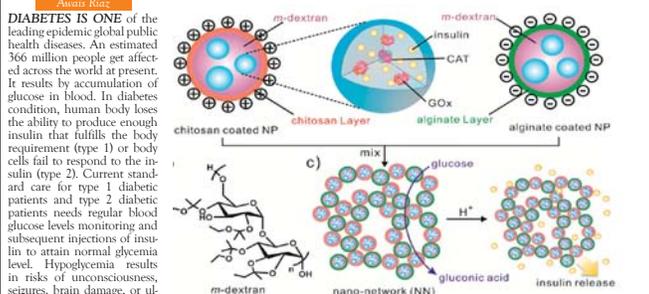
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HUMAN HEALTH

Injectable Nano-Network to control blood glucose level

insulin. Biomaterial is a composite, injectable polymeric nanoparticle-cross-linked network; dextran is degradable in the presence of acid and biocompatible matrix material. In nano-network we use the nano-particles that formed by dextran together with ethanol and acetone, which show insignificant toxicity in small quantities.



There is a dire need to develop a system that accurately monitors the glucose level in human body. Considerable efforts have been concentrated in developing the close loop system that accurately monitor the glucose level according to body conditions. A device has been created that works on the basis of semiautomatic. In that way, we combine external insulin infusion pump with continuous glucose-monitoring sensor.

the double emulsion (water in oil and oil in water) based, extraction and evaporation method. It has four components: 1) acid degradable, 2) polymeric matrix, 3) polyelectrolyte-based surface coatings which have glucose-specific enzyme and 4) recombinant insulin. Dextran is selected because it is biodegradable, modify and biocompatible and make it water soluble by using different acid catalyze reaction with ethoxypropene using the hydrophilic polyol and dextran hydroxyls with m-dextran. m-dextran is easily soluble in solvents which have organic nature used for preparation of emulsion such as acetone and dichloromethane.

In biomaterial, enzyme is immobilized or entrap in glucose responsive system, it changes its properties in response to change pH level. The pH decreases when blood glucose level increases that changes the properties of biomaterials and release the stored insulin.

SOCIOTECH

Techno-dependency probability

is being used than at least we must be using the technology of a wrist watch at least which approves that technology isn't an augment-in but a vitamin for us to live better life. It is obvious that we all use technology of one sort or the other but reality is that we, to an extent, avoid being a tech-dependent being which is like a support to a disabled person. In fact one of the researchers validated the conclusion that the independent ones don't focus on tech for socializing or the ones who have a complex of some degree as well as some sort are observed to use tech. Observations are there which

run its harms are observed to be multiplying exponentially to induce entropy in the overall natural systems despite harmony demonstrate in the outlooks of techno-societies. Probability to use tech in any virtue of their richness in independent models to live and fight back for survival. Migration of professional farmers to industry-related works gives us strong techno-dependency probability.

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ENVIROTECH

Water issue: Worldwide and Pakistan prospective

ONLY ONE PER cent of total water on earth is available for consumption. About five billion people on earth are experiencing water scarcity of various extents. On average basis daily 2000-3000 liters of water is required to meet the dietary demand of one inhabitant on earth.

Per capita availability of water in Pakistan is about 1420 m3 and has been declared water scarce country by UN. About 88 per cent of water supplied to big cities is unfit for human consumption. There is a need for proper policies and their implementation by having a glance on present and future challenges. Collection of water sources that are either useful or potentially useful are termed as resources of water. The most common sectors of water usage are agriculture, industry, household and recreation purposes. About 97 per cent of water on earth is unfit for consumption; out of the remaining around two parts are in frozen form. In short, around one per cent of total water present on earth is consumable. Common sources of water are surface/subsurface water, water obtained from desalination and from the melting frozen resources.

Agriculture sector consumes largest (70 per cent) portion of water worldwide and according to various studies, it was concluded that on average basis daily 2000 to 3000 liters of water is required to meet the dietary demand of one inhabitant on earth. Around 50 years ago water was not among the hot issues in the world, where the consumption of water was 3 times less than that at present. With the increase



Agriculture sector consumes largest portion of water, even then a large area of the country is still uncultivated due to the non-availability of good quality irrigation water, while the use of water efficient technologies is also very rare. Mostly people consume tap water for drinking purposes and the use of hand pump driven water is also very common. A PCRWR report reveals around 88 per cent of water supplied in big cities is unfit for drinking purposes because of the microbial contaminations

In Pakistan, agriculture sector consumes largest portion (96 per cent) of water. Despite of so much consumption of water, a large area of the country is still uncultivated due to the non-availability of good quality irrigation water, while the use of water efficient technologies is also very rare. Mostly people consume tap water for drinking purposes and the use of hand pump driven water is also very common. It was revealed in 2012 by the Pakistan Council of Research on Water Resources that around 88 per cent of water supplied in big cities is unfit for drinking purposes because of the microbial contaminations.

Another vital reason is the climate change due to which the total amount of available freshwater supply is decreasing. Climate change has caused receding glaciers, reduced stream and river flow, and shrinking lakes and ponds. Many aquifers have been over-pumped and are not recharging quickly. Although the total fresh water supply is not used up, much has become polluted, salty, and unusable or is simply unavailable for drinking, industry and agriculture. Due to the change in climate, among the other most important aspects are uncertainty about the floods and drought periods.

Water pollution is also among the highlighted issues. At one part where we have limited water resources and on other side we are also polluting those resources either through agriculture, household or from industrial sources. Some countries in the world, for example Sudan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Cuba have significant population but the only contaminated water is available for consumption. Smart ones are less technologically engaged and thus techno-dependency probability is low in such cases.

The writer is a Research Officer. According to a report published in 2007 by the International Water Management Institute about five billion inhabitants on earth out of 7 billion are experiencing water scarcity of various extents and around 99 per cent problem exists in developing countries. However, scientists are developing new technologies for the efficient use of water, specially focusing on agriculture and industrial sector. It has been predicted that future wars would be for water unless significant changes in governance occurred (Ismael Serageldin). Pakistan has been declared among the water deficient countries, according to the UN report. Himalayan glaciers are expected to be completely exhausted. It was also reported that Pakistan is expected to experience floods followed by droughts in coming decades. In another report by UN, the country having per capita income of water less than 1000 cubic meters per person per year was declared the title of country facing 'water scarcity', while according to a report published in 2005, the per capita income of water in Pakistan was about 420 cubic meters per person. The annual growth rate of tubewells is around 7 to 8 per cent, but most contain saline water (36 per cent ground water) that is further deteriorating our land resources.

Need stressed for sowing climate, saline resistant crops



(UAF), Prof. (Dr) Iqbal Ahmad Khan, has said that as many as 6.8 million hectares of land in the country is under the grip of salinity, raising the threat of food insecurity. However, the land could be cultivated by sowing climate and saline resistant crops to increase the production and to alleviate poverty, he added.

He was speaking at a seminar held at Kinnow under the aegis of JK Agricultural Farms.

He said that Kinnow, having the resistance against the salinity and climate changes, is a gluten-free food and also helps in lowering down the threat of increasing blood pressure.

Pointing out that demand of the gluten-free food is increasing, he said that the country has the potential to tap the international market by promoting cultivation.

The demand of the Kinnow, only in United States stood at \$43 million, he said, adding that world key players of the production include Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

Lawmakers suggest HEC vital for quality education

STAFF REPORT ISB: The convenor of the National Assembly Sub-Committee on Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education has asked the top education regulatory body to go beyond its mandated role and help find solutions to issues facing Pakistan. Taking note of this, while seemingly forgetting the quagmire that the commission is already in, the HEC chief promised to "soon" share a proposal on the formation of think-tanks regarding water, energy, agriculture and other issues in the next meeting and how universities could help in this regard.

The meeting examined the allocation of grants and scholarships and suggested that the HEC should not be dissolved following the establishment of provincial level higher education regulatory bodies.

Acting Chairperson Imtiaz Gilani commented that they were not opposed to the formation of provincial bodies, but groundwork should be done instead of making rash decisions. "It took us almost a decade to build a higher education body that is now an example for other countries. An abrupt end to it may affect quality of education at university level," he remarked.

Adopting world standards can avoid EU ban on mango



STAFF REPORT KHI: The government, private sector and all stakeholders need to join hands and work collectively to address the challenges confronted by the horticulture sector of Pakistan.

KCCI President Abdulhal Zaki has expressed while speaking at a EU-funded Public Private Dialogue (PPD) on "Enhancing competitiveness and exports of kinnow and mango".

He appreciated the efforts

being made by ITC, PITAD in collaboration with the EU towards disseminating TRIRAI exclusively for Pakistan.

He apprehended that the EU warnings may result in complete ban on Pakistani orange and mango exports to EU. Speaking on the occasion, Rabia Agha, Secretary TDAP, said that export of mango from India has been banned by EU which has provided an opportunity to Pakistan to increase its exports or face the same destiny by not reforming and adhering to international standards.

Sajid Hussain, DG PITAD, informed that eight PPDs in association with ITC have been conducted so far with a view to make contribution to the policies of the government.

UAF establishes expo centre

STAFF REPORT FSD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad has set up the first-ever expo centre in Faisalabad in order to facilitate the researchers and industries to showcase their products.

The Centre is established with the funding from Endowment Fund Secretariat (EFS) on the pattern of Lahore Expo Centre, said an official of the centre adding it will start functioning from the next month.

Situated in the heart of the city of textile, the centre comprises 14 halls and provides 37,000 square feet covered area for the commercialisa-

tion of products and providing knowledge to the industry and relative stakeholders.

The centre has started working on commercial basis and in this regard, EFS-UAF has signed an agreement with China Pakistan Marketing Company for staging Pakistan Agri Expo 2014 here on May 28. The centre is aimed at promoting technology transfer to stakeholders through models. "The research should not be piled up in the library. It must be transformed into goods and services," said UAF Vice-Chancellor Drlqar Ahmad Khan during his recent visit to the centre.

Karachi infrastructure, construction at risk

STAFF REPORT KHI: The construction infrastructure is at risk in Karachi due to use of poor quality rebars in construction which is potentially dangerous especially in case of events such as earthquake.

NED University of Engineering and Technology has recently hosted a workshop on Sustainable Quality Improvement in Pakistan Construction Industry in collaboration with (FIU) Florida International University, East Carolina University and Auburn University.

Speaking at the occasion, Executive Director Agha Steel Hussain Agha said, "Karachi's infrastructure is at danger because the current rebars used pose a severe risk to our infrastructure. It is imperative for structural engineers to use quality rebars that are designed to withstand Earthquakes".

Services of Dr. Salimzaman remembered

STAFF REPORT KHI: Pakistanists cannot put out the great services of the legendary scientist Dr. Salimzaman Siddiqui from their minds as he established state-of-the-art labs and institutes, like Husain Ebrahim Jamal (HEJ) Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi, in the country to accelerate the pace of research in science and technology.

These views were expressed by Director HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry - International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICBS), University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, while speaking at the 20th death anniversary of the legendary scientist.

Paying tribute to the great scientist, Dr. Iqbal said that Dr. Siddiqui did remarkable research on natural product chemistry. He extracted numerous important compounds from Rauwolfia Serpentina, Holarrhena and Melia azadirachta that is helpful for the field of medicinal sciences in Pakistan.

Experts for concerted efforts to tap power potential

STAFF REPORT ISB: With the help of hydel projects we can add over 15000 MW of hydropower in the next five years, 30,000 MW in 10 years and 50,000 MW in 15 years and we as a nation should concentrate on rigorous planning.

Experts expressed these views at a seminar on "Sustainable Energy for All" organized by SDPI in Islamabad.

Imtiaz Ali Qureshi, former Chairman Planning Commission Working Group on Hydropower and Alternate Energy, said that proposed that Pakistan has identified projects for the huge potential of 60,000 MW of hydropower and over 53.6maf of water storage. The initial investment on hydel projects can be between \$1.5 to \$2.5 million per MW. This is more than required for thermal projects.

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Project executed to produce solar panels up to 80KW

STAFF REPORT ISB: Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET) is in the process of executing a project to produce solar photovoltaic panels up to 80 KW per annum.

According to details, the panels produced will be installed in remote villages and help meet the growing power needs of these areas.

"Solar Test Lab has been established for provision of services to test solar thermal products, batteries and inverters etc. for quality assurance of solar energy products in the country," said an official of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Research and Development has also been focused



for indigenous development of solar tub-wells and solar appliances while during the period indigenously developed solar photovoltaic Power Units of total capacity of 313 KW have been installed for demonstration purpose.

The official said as a result of R & D activities, third generation solar cells are also manufactured at lab scale using nano-technology.

Smuggled Iranian LPG threatening local sector

STAFF REPORT LHR: Terms smuggling or under-invoiced imports from Iran a threat to the organised liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sector and public health in Pakistan, the LPG Marketing Association has said the supply chain operates on fixed margins after procurement from producers.

"The price of LPG is determined by producers and not marketing companies. Technically, the government fixes the LMR rates at 63 per cent of the gas produced is sold by public sector companies," the Association's chairman Farooq Iftikhar and other members told media.

Distributors get cylinders from marketing companies,

transport them to their premises and sell them to retailers.

LPG marketing companies' spokesman, Belal Jabbar said there is no justification for the LPG imported through sea. However, a huge quantity of Iranian LPG was being smuggled to Pakistan at almost half the producers' price.

Furthermore, some smuggled LPG was also being smuggled which emits carcinogenic fumes.

The explosive licence was earlier granted by Orap, but now the Ministry of Industries separately inspected and evaluated marketing companies for explosive licence.

"There is no justification for paying two fees for same purpose," he said.

Bahria University holds convocation

STAFF REPORT ISB: The recently convocation of Bahria University Islamabad has been held at the Jinnah Convention Center where students were honored with silver medals for their outstanding achievements in their academic career.

Pro-Chancellor of the university, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Asif Sandila NIM) was the chief guest who conferred degrees on the graduating students of Masters and Undergraduate programmes.

In total 430 students were awarded degrees. The Pro-Chancellor of Bahria University, Admiral Mohammad Asif Sandila NIM) along with the Rector of Bahria University, Vice Admiral@ Shahid Iqbal HI (M) awarded 15 gold medals and 15 silver medals to students who achieved top positions in their respective programmes.

Earlier, in his welcome address Rector Vice Admiral@ Shahid Iqbal HI (M) said that higher education is now considered and accepted as tool of economic growth, the world over. The universities have great responsibility of producing quality graduates who could contribute positively to enhance the research culture in the Country.

On the occasion, he said that the seeds being planted today through this scholarship award bear fruit for the benefit of the region and the country.

The scholarship programme is part of \$165 million USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project, which works closely with 28 universities and 116 elementary teachers colleges throughout Pakistan.

Assistance is customised, based on the priorities and plans as determined by each province and region.

French Centre, UVAS mull language courses

STAFF REPORT LHR: The French delegation on the academic programs, strength of students and campuses of the UVAS. The guests showed their strong desire to sign an MoU with the UVAS for collaboration in initiating French language courses and training.

Later, the delegation held a meeting with Dean Biosciences Prof Dr Habiru Rehman and the French universities alumni at the UVAS (the teachers who did their PhDs from France) and discussed the areas of mutual interest for collaboration and launch of language courses.

Georgian animals health experts visit UVAS

STAFF REPORT LHR: A delegation from a Georgian animal health company 'Meril' has recently visited the University of Veterinary and Animal Science (UVAS) Lahore and called on Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Naseer Pasha.

The delegation comprising Global Head of Veterinary Health Chet Meril Silke Birlenbach Potand and Marketing Head Large Animals & Veterinary Public Health Asia Sacha Seneque discussed with the Vice-Chancellor animal healthcare conditions, vaccination and treatment and productivity of animals in Pakistan.

On the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor briefed the delegation on UVAS role in the development of livestock sector, vaccine production and extension activities.

Experts call for environmental studies

STAFF REPORT KHAIRPUR: ECO Science Foundation Chairman Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Soomro, has said that climate change is a reality and a challenge as well.

"We must learn from nature. Steps would be taken to establish the institute of environmental studies at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur," said Dr. Soomro during a recently concluded two-day international conference on "Environmental issues of Sindh and its remedies" at the Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur.

The moot was being organized by the Shah Abdul Latif University in collaboration with the HEC, WWF Pakistan and Sindh Green Environmental Forum.

Isra University Chancellor Prof Dr Asadullah Kazi presided over the session and shed light on Indus water accord between Pakistan and India.

He also highlighted the importance of distribution of water among the provinces on equity.

USAD offers scholarships for KPK, FATA students

STAFF REPORT PESH: The USAID has awarded scholarships to 100 talented students enrolled in the two-year Associate Degree in Education (ADE) and four-year Bachelor Degree in Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Fata.

"We are delighted to see such bright students from KPK and Fata who have dedicated themselves to a life of learning, scholarship and service," said Tariq Khan, USAID senior education adviser.

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More climate change projects stressed

STAFF REPORT LHR: Several neighbours of Pakistan are working on projects to mitigate climate change and receiving aid from international donors, while Pakistan has not been investing in climate change projects.

"The four scenarios of climate change: extreme heat, urban flooding, drought and rise in sea level. Policymakers should start thinking about investing in climate change projects," said Farhan Anwar, an expert on strategic planning. He was speaking on the concluding day of a recently held two-day workshop on Understanding Sustainable

GCU students trained in latest telecom tech

STAFF REPORT LHR: Students must prepare themselves to face the upcoming challenges especially the technology-related issues. They should not only equip themselves with the latest technology, but also play their role in bringing innovations and give their technical input for the betterment of the country.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khaleeq-ur-Rahman Government College University Lahore said at a seminar "Internetwork Development and Engineering Aura (IDEA)" organised by the university's Department of Electrical Engineering to share the latest happenings in the area of wireless communication and networks.

Prof. Rehman said that GCU has always been vibrant in organising special technical events, seminars to provide its students a platform to update their knowledge in latest advancement.

Department of Electric Engineering Incharge Dr. Engr Junaid Zaf said the event is an ideal networking opportunity to keep abreast with the current challenges being faced by communication industry. He said the students got much benefit from the experience and expertise of technical professionals.

Innovative, modern farming solutions stressed

STAFF REPORT RWP: Punjab Governor Muhammad Sarwar has said that the upcoming era is the arena of competitive struggles and it is necessary to extirpate the inhuman evils of hunger, famine, maladies, deprivation and destitution.

Addressing the 15th convocation of Pir Mehr Ali Shah PMAS-AAUR, he said being an agrarian economy Pakistan needs innovative and modern solutions in agriculture not only for the development and prosperity, but also for food security of its people.

This university, he said, should continue striving hard to develop new technologies by generating practical knowledge and its use, with special emphasis on water harvesting and conservation, which is the lifeline of agriculture sector in such areas.

A total of 1,721 students were awarded degrees.

Earlier, university VC Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad in his welcome address informed the gathering that university has converted its research farm at Chakwal Road into a Model Farm with provision for collecting rain water into small reservoirs.

novel home décor items, modish outfits as well as homemade food.

Sabeen Siddiqui found the expo "a great opportunity for young entrepreneurs to learn, earn and interact." Sabeen, who had been previously working as business analyst, opted to explore avenues of creativity instead and initiated her brand, Dhank Rung, in March 2012.

Hina Qamar, a teacher by profession, started off her creative journey of making and sharing quilting in 2013 after winning an online art contest. The total turnout of the Mini Expo was around Rs 220,000 with Envy You Alif, Manjriq being the top three sellers.

Mini expo attracts young entrepreneurs from Islamabad

STAFF REPORT ISB: With an aim to boost self-starters, the Mini Expo 2014 has recently been organized in Islamabad by Minerva, a social youth enterprise, to encourage small scale and home based entrepreneurs who had been marketing digitally only.

"This Expo offered a platform to step out of their comfort zones, to reach a wider and real-time audience, to give them chance to explore the market, face the competitors, and go home with a great deal of learning," said Minerva's CEO Sana Khalid.

Delightfully decorated stalls featured a variety of products including brilliant crafts and floral decorations, chic jewelry and accessories,

novel home décor items, modish outfits as well as homemade food.

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TUSDEC to set up engineering support centre

STAFF REPORT KHI: The Technology Upgradation and Skill Development Company (TUSDEC) is going to establish Hyderabad Engineering Support Centre (HESC) in Hyderabad in order to provide trained skilled manpower to the local industry.

"A plot has been purchased for the construction of the HESC in Sindh Small Industries Trading Estate and the construction work would be completed in one year," said Chief Executive Officer TUSDEC, Basit Maqsood, told the media.

He added that the industrialists of Hyderabad could make use of this centre for dies and molds making and other engineering technologies which they imported from foreign countries.

On the occasion, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Industries and Production, Neelofar Hafeez, informed that the federal government is going to establish such Common Facility Centres (CFC) in all the four provinces with the co-operation and collaboration of local chambers.

She said that the budget would be provided to run these centres for three years, later on under the public private partnership these centres would be handed over to the Board of Governors.

It is hoped that by the end of three years, the Hyderabad centre should be self-sufficient and sustainable and could stand on its own feet in this regard.

She said, "We have received a lot of cooperation from the Hyderabad Chamber and similar cooperation is hoped from the Sindh government."

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