

Federal govt, provinces should review respective clauses in Minerals Act: SC

ISLAMABAD, Nov 21 (NNI): The Supreme Court of Pakistan while hearing the presidential reference on the Reko Diq project has directed that the federal government and the provinces should review their respective clauses in the minerals act.

A five-member larger bench of the apex court led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial heard the reference on Monday.

President Arif Alvi, on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had filed the reference to seeking the apex court's opinion on the Reko Diq out-of-court settlement deal.

During the hearing, a friend of the court, advocate Salman Akram Raja told the court that there are two types of minerals laws federal and provincial. "The Minerals Act 1947 is both federal and provincial in nature, he said, adding that the proposed amendment to the Minerals Act, 1947 is contrary to the scheme given in

the Constitution.

Justice Yahya Afridi proposed that why not let the Minerals Act of 1948 remain in its original form? Thus, federal and provinces should review their own clauses of the minerals act, Justice Yahya Afridi upheld.

Salman Akram Raja told the court that the Balochistan Assembly can bring temporary amendments to the legislation. "Apart from gas, oil, and nuclear energy, other minerals should be legislated by provinces, said Raja. A law can be adopted temporarily, Salman hinted.

Giving arguments, another friend of the court, Zahid Ibrahim told the court that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa brought a law regarding minerals and mining in 2017. "The Reko Diq case began with an article published in the newspaper, which was retracted weeks later," Ibrahim said, adding that as a result of the Pakistani court action, the Reko Diq case

went to the International Court of Arbitration.

Zahid Ibrahim further submitted to the court that the Reko Diq project will open doors for foreign investment in Pakistan. This project will promote political harmony between past and present governments, he added.

Counsel for Barrack Gold Makhdoom Ali Khan said that we can adopt two ways for bringing amendments to the Minerals Act for the Reko Diq project.

In the first case, the Court can interpret the Minerals Act as a hybrid law and in another case, the proposed amendment of Balochistan province is not violating the federal law, Makhdoom Ali Khan pleaded.

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh governments have already amended the Minerals Act, Makhdoom Ali Khan," he added.

The court adjourned the further hearing of the case till November 22.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi looking at different Still Life paintings at the "Life is Not Still" exhibition, held at PNCA.

ICCI and ICSTSI call for promoting ease of doing business to revive the economy



ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries to congratulate President Sajjad Sarwar and his team. Both Chambers discussed matters of mutual interest and called upon the government to focus on promoting ease of doing business in order to revive the economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the small businesses are playing im-

portant role in promoting the economic activities and stressed that the government should allot plots to Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industries so that these institutions can play more effective role in promoting small businesses that will facilitate the growth of new start-ups, enhance exports, generate jobs and help revive the economy. He said that due to the high transaction costs and tough collateral requirements, small businesses are facing great problems in getting loans from banks and emphasized that the government should address this issue to increase their share in the total pri-

vate sector credit so that these businesses can play an enhanced role in the economic development of the country. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with ICSTSI in resolving the key issues of small traders and small industries to facilitate their better growth.

Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries said that close liaison and cooperation between ICCI and ICSTSI will be very helpful in serving the cause of the business community. He said that the economy of Pakistan is passing through a difficult time and stressed that promoting the ease of doing business should be the top priority of the government to improve the economy. He emphasized that CDA should construct parking plazas in markets to address the long standing issues of traders and focus on better development of markets. He said that small traders and small industries are making useful contributions towards the economy and urged that the government should focus on resolving their key issues to facilitate their better growth. - PR

2ND STEERING COMMITTEE OF PROJECT OLIVE CULTURE HELD Italy will continue to support Pakistan in olive production: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese

Govt of Pakistan always acknowledges the support of Italy: Federal secretary NFS&R Zafar Hassan

secretary of National Food Security and Research Mr. Zafar Hassan shared his views and said that Govt of Pakistan always acknowledges the support of Italy. He remarked that every year we spend our precious foreign reserves on import of edible olive oil, this project will help to replace it with the domestic production. He hoped that the private sector will multiply the project and take it forward

On this occasion Director of the "Italian Agency for Development Cooperation" Islamabad, (AICS) Ms. Emanuela Benini expressed his thoughts, she explained how AICS & Pakistan put energy together on all segments of olives to bring on the local level.

Secretary of National Food Security and Research Zafar Hassan, while thanking the Government of Italy for the support, said that the Pakistani side will make every effort to make it a success. He said that the project is aligned with the PSDP Project "Promotion of Olive Cultivation on Commercial Scale in Pakistan (Phase-II)", under which cultivable waste land in all provinces and autonomous regions of

AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan will be brought under olive cultivation. Following were the attendees, H.E Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Andreas Ferrarese. Federal Secretary MNSF&R, Zafar Hassan. Director of the Italian International Cooperation, Ms. Emanuela Benini, Secretary Govt



Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, His Excellency, Andreas Ferrarese at the steering committee meeting said, Pakistan has a huge potential for olives. He further said that we have received manifestation from the private sector and a huge market will replace by local production. He appreciates the role of AICs for their commitment. He assured that Italy will continue to support Pakistan in olive production, He thanked and expressed his best wishes for the future of Pakistan.

On a welcome note, Federal

While apprising the forum on the progress of the project, Marco Marchetti International Project Coordinator said that preliminary assessments were completed and policy support in the drafting of the Olive Policy was provided to the Government of Pakistan.

Dr. Costantino Parma International Expert shared his view regarding the beneficial segments that have been taught to the communities in Pakistan in the suitable provinces by the Italian Experts brought through this olive project from Italy.

of Punjab, Agriculture Department, Dr. Zafar Iqbal, DG, ARI, Balochistan, Mr. Inam Ul Haq, Joint Secretary, NFSR, Ejaz Ahmad Bajwa, National Project Director, Promotion of olive Cultivation, Dr. Muhammad Tariq Deputy Secretary M/O Economic Affairs, Govt of Pakistan, International Project Coordinator, Dr. Marco Marchetti, International Expert, Dr. Costantino Parma, Account / Administrator, Mr. Sanam Samuel, Assistant Communication, Ms. Aimen Nazir, Dr. waqas Cheema, Scientist. - PR

ANF seizes 1953.182 kg drugs & 3936 lit HCL worth us\$ 62.038 million

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan seized 1953.182 Kg Drugs, 3936 Liters Hydrochloric Acid worth US\$ 62.038 Million internationally, arrested 29 persons including 1 Foreigner, 2 Women and impounded 8 vehicles while conducting 29 counter narcotics operations throughout the country. The seized drugs comprised 98,200 Kg Opium, 231.04 Kg Heroin, 1528.822 Kg Hashish, 89,710 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 0.130 Kg Cocaine, 0.600 Kg Weed, 3,380 Kg Clonazepam Tablets (18000 x Tabs), 1,300 x Tramadol Tablets (2200 x Tramadol Tabs) and 3936 x Liters Hydrochloric Acid (HCL).

ANF Sindh recovered 1266.400 Kg drugs in 6 operations while 5 persons arrested in drug smuggling and seized 2 vehicles. The

seized drugs comprised 21 Kg Opium, 160,200 Kg Heroin, 1074,900 Kg Hashish, 9,700 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 0.600 Kg Weed.

ANF Balochistan recovered 422 Kg drugs & 3936 Liters Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) in 8 operations, arrested 5 persons including 1 foreigner in drug smuggling while seized 1 vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 10 Kg Opium, 65 Kg Heroin, 268 Kg Hashish, 79 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 3936 Liters Hydrochloric Acid (HCL).

ANF North recovered 147,238 Kg drugs in 9 operations, arrested 10 persons in drug smuggling including 1 woman while seized 2 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 40,800 Kg Opium, 3,180 Kg Heroin, 97,568 Kg Hashish,

1,010 Methamphetamine (Ice), 1,300 Kg Tramadol Tablets (2200 x Tabs) and 3,380 Kg Clonazepam Tablets (18000 x Tabs).

ANF KPK recovered 104,400 Kg drugs in 1 operation while 2 persons arrested in drug trafficking and seized 1 vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 26,400 Kg Opium and 78 Kg Hashish.

ANF Punjab recovered 13,144 Kg drugs in 5 operations while arrested 7 persons including 1 woman in drug smuggling and seized 2 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 2,660 Kg Heroin, 10,354 Kg Hashish and 0.130 Kg Cocaine.

All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process. - PR

KSRC Pakistan provides medicines and medical equipment to the Diabetes Association of Pakistan in Karachi

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center Pakistan provided medicines and medical equipment to Diabetes As-

sociation of Pakistan Karachi examining blood samples, 7890 different types of insulin pens for patients, and 1,620 units of different medicines for diabet-

and another for examining nerves, in addition to delivering 318 different surgical tools for examination and treatment



sociation of Pakistan Karachi so that the poor and underprivileged diabetic patients can get free and timely treatment and lead a healthy lifestyle. The package includes devices for

ics. The center also equipped a diabetic foot examination clinic with two examination beds, a sterilization device for surgical instruments, a doppler device for examining blood vessels,



of the diabetic foot. About 4,160 people will be benefiting from this assistance. This assistance comes within the framework of the health projects that the Kingdom of Saudi



Arabia is implementing the health sector, care for patients, and improve the performance of medical facilities through the center to support patients, and improve the performance of medical facilities in countries in need. - PR