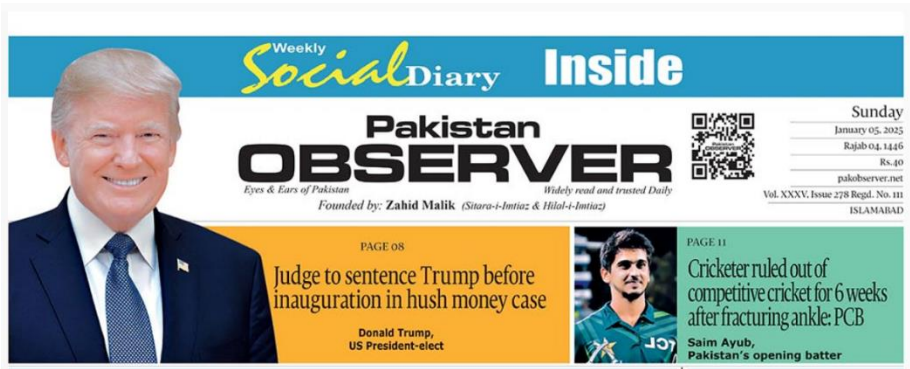


Graduation Ceremony of DAFI Scholars under UNHCR funded Poverty Graduation Programme

Media Coverage Report

Pakistan Observer:



30 Afghan refugee startups pass out at NSTP-NUST under UNHCR-PPAF poverty graduation programme

ZUBAIR QURESHI

The National Science and Technology Park (NSTP)-NUST hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 30 Afghan refugee graduates, marking the successful completion of the UNHCR-funded Poverty Graduation Programme.

The initiative, led by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and implemented by IDEA, aims to empower Afghan refugees through entrepreneurial skills development and support for sustainable livelihoods.

The ceremony recognized the remarkable journey of 30 startups, which underwent four months of intensive training and mentorship. Notable dignitaries at the event included Mr. Sohail Sajid, Country Head of Turkish Aerospace Industries; Dr. Usman Hassan, Pro-Rector Academics, NUST; Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programmes, PPAF; Ms. Saadia Tariq, Project Manager, PPAF; Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Live-

lihood and Economic Inclusion Officer, UNHCR; and Mr. Muhammad Ammad, Executive Director, IDEA.

The event was attended by Dr. Usman Hassan, Pro-Rector Academics, NUST as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Sohail Sajid, CEO of Turkish Aerospace Industries as the Guest of Honor.

The speakers highlighted the programme's significant impact in fostering self-reliance, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Dr. Hassan expressed his admiration for the participants' dedication and resilience, emphasizing the critical role of entrepreneurship in empowering youth and building stronger communities. Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Live-
lihood and Economic Inclusion Officer at UNHCR, highlighted the importance of the Entrepreneurship Skills Program in empowering Afghan refugee youth. "Through this initiative, UNHCR has equipped young refugees with the skills and resources they need to

create sustainable livelihoods, enabling them to build a better future. The graduates are now empowered to drive positive change in their communities," he said. Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programmes at PPAF, thanked UNHCR for its longstanding partnership with PPAF since 2017, emphasizing the shared commitment to improving the livelihoods of marginalized populations. He proudly shared that the program had achieved a 54% graduation rate out of poverty among its beneficiaries, alongside significant improvements in household income and the quality of productive assets. "This graduation ceremony represents not only the completion of a training program but the beginning of a new chapter for these entrepreneurial graduates," he remarked.

The ceremony also featured speeches from representatives of IDEA, with Mr. Ammad, Executive Director, commending NSTP-NUST for its exceptional role in providing high-quality training and mentorship.

He stressed the importance of such programs in preparing Afghan refugees to overcome entrepreneurial challenges and succeed in the business world. The Entrepreneurial Skill Development for Startups and Youth program provided a comprehensive curriculum covering customer discovery, market research, business model development, and financial planning. Participants received hands-on guidance from experienced trainers and industry experts, ensuring they were well-equipped to launch and sustain their startups. The highlight of the event was the distribution of cheques worth PKR 400,000 to each graduating participant as seed funding to help graduates further develop their businesses.

The ceremony serves as a testament to the transformative impact of the UNHCR-PPAF Poverty Graduation Programme, which has successfully empowered Afghan refugees, providing them with the skills and support necessary to build a brighter future.

Daily Asian Sun:



Graduation Ceremony of Afghan Refugees Youth at NSTP-NUST

**Staff Reporter
Islamabad**

The National Science and Technology Park (NSTP)-NUST recently hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 30 Afghan refugee graduates, marking the successful completion of the UNHCR-funded Poverty Graduation Programme. This initiative, led by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and implemented by IDEA, aims to empower Afghan refugees through entrepreneurial skills development and support for sustainable livelihoods. The ceremony recognized the remarkable journey of 30 startups, which underwent four months of intensive training and mentorship. Notable dignitaries at the event included Mr. Sohail Sajid, Country Head of Turkish Aerospace Industries; Dr. Usman Hassan, Pro-Rector Academics, NUST; Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programmes, PPAF; Ms. Saadia Tariq, Project Manager, PPAF; Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer, UNHCR; and Mr. Muhammad Ammad, Executive Director, IDEA. The event was graced by Dr. Usman Hassan, Pro-Rector Academics, NUST, who served as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Sohail Sajid, CEO of Turkish Aerospace Industries, who participated as the Guest of Honor. Distinguished speakers highlighted the program's significant impact in fostering self-reliance, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Dr. Hassan expressed his admiration for the participants' dedication and resilience, emphasizing the critical role of entrepreneurship in empowering youth and building stronger communities. Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer at UNHCR, highlighted the importance of the Entrepreneurship Skills Program in empowering Afghan refugee youth. "Through this initiative, UNHCR has equipped young refugees with the skills and resources they need to create sustainable livelihoods, enabling them to build a better future."

Associated Press of Pakistan:



UNHCR -PPAF host youths' graduation ceremony



ISLAMABAD, Jan 02 (APP): The National Science and Technology Park (NSTP)-NUST recently hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 30 Afghan refugee graduates, marking the successful completion of the UNHCR-funded Poverty Graduation Programme. This initiative, led by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and implemented by IDEA, aims to empower Afghan refugees through entrepreneurial skills development and support for sustainable livelihoods.

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Financial Times:



Graduation Ceremony of Afghan Refugee Youth at Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar Highlighting the Impact of the UNHCR-PPAF Poverty Graduation Program



RAWALPINDI (ANI) Under the UNHCR-funded Poverty Graduation Program, led by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and implemented by IDEA, the Institute of Management Sciences (IM Sciences), Peshawar, hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 30 Afghan refugee graduates. These individuals successfully completed an Enterprise Start-up Support and Entrepreneurial Skills Training Program, designed to empower Afghan youth by enhancing their business development capabilities and contributing to Afghanistan's sustainable economic growth.

In his welcoming address, Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani, Director of IM Sciences, emphasized the institution's commitment to fostering impactful initiatives that contribute to the socio-economic empowerment of marginalized communities. He lauded the collaboration between IM Sciences, UNHCR, and PPAF as a model for addressing critical challenges such as unemployment and skill development among Afghan refugees.

Dr. Qazi Waheed uz Zaman, Head of the Business Incubation Center at IM Sciences, provided a comprehensive overview of the UNHCR-PPAF partnership program, outlining its milestones over the past five years. He highlighted how this partnership has supported thousands of refugee households through innovative

interventions, including asset transfers, skills training, and entrepreneurship development.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programs at PPAF, emphasized the program's alignment with national and international development goals, particularly its focus on gender inclusion and sustainable poverty alleviation. He shared findings from the latest impact assessment, revealing a 54% graduation rate out of poverty among the beneficiaries, along with significant increases in household income and productive asset quality.

Mr. Shakeel Safi, Commissioner for Afghan Refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed his commitment to supporting refugees and assured that the Commissionerate's doors would always be open for such initiatives. He emphasized his willingness to promote refugee ideas on various platforms, including the Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he expressed interest in collaborating with IM Sciences on activities aimed at refugee welfare. Mr. Safi extended his gratitude to UNHCR, PPAF, and IDEA for organizing this meaningful program and reaffirmed CAR's readiness to work closely with PPAF and UNHCR to enhance refugee welfare.

Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer for UNHCR, stated that UNHCR employs the unique Poverty

Graduation Approach to deliver sustainable livelihood support to the most vulnerable Afghan refugee groups, including women, youth, and smallholder farmers. This initiative empowers them to build livelihoods, increase incomes, and diversify assets, enabling steady progress out of poverty.

Mr. Sohrab Altaf, Field Associate for UNHCR, echoed these sentiments by sharing inspiring stories of beneficiaries who overcame adversity to establish sustainable livelihoods. He underscored the importance of continued investment in initiatives that empower refugees to contribute positively to their communities. He added that this final session and closing ceremony marked the successful completion of the training program, showcasing the scholars' potential and their readiness to make an impact in the business startup ecosystem.

Mr. Amad, Executive Director of IDEA, highlighted the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in the program's success. He called for sustained collaboration among all stakeholders to expand the program's reach and ensure the long-term socio-economic integration of Afghan refugees. He assured that IDEA would actively support the development of linkages with the private sector and remain committed to helping these startups scale their operations both within Pakistan and Afghanistan.

BIJ Times Karachi:

Daily **BIJ**



Times

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President urged nation to review successes, failures of past year for better 2025



PM urges nation to strive for better, stronger Pakistan in 2025

Website: www.dailybijtimes.com, Email: bilal@dailybijtimes.com

Graduation Ceremony of Afghan Refugee Youth at IM Sciences Peshawar Celebrates Success of UNHCR-PPAF Poverty Graduation Program



STAFF REPORTER- PESHAWAR: The Institute of Management Sciences (IM Sciences) Peshawar recently hosted a graduation ceremony to mark the successful completion of the Enterprise Start-up Support and Entrepreneurial Skills Training Program, part of the UNHCR-funded Poverty Graduation Program, led by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and implemented by IDEA. The event celebrated the achievements of 30 Afghan refugee graduates, who are now equipped with business development skills to contribute to Afghanistan's sustainable economic growth. In his address, Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani, Director of IM Sciences, emphasized the institution's role in empowering marginalized communities and praised the collaborative efforts of IM Sciences, UNHCR, and PPAF in addressing critical challenges such as unemployment and skill development. Dr. Qazi Waheed uz Zaman, Head

of the Business Incubation Center at IM Sciences, provided an overview of the partnership's achievements over the past five years, highlighting how the program has supported refugee households through asset transfers, skills training, and entrepreneurship development. Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programs at PPAF, shared key findings from the program's latest impact assessment, revealing a 54% graduation rate out of poverty among the beneficiaries, along with significant improvements in household income and asset quality. Mr. Shakeel Safi, Commissioner for Afghan Refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, reiterated his commitment to supporting refugees and expressed his willingness to collaborate with IM Sciences on future initiatives aimed at refugee welfare. Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer for UNHCR, emphasized the importance of the Poverty Graduation

Approach in providing sustainable livelihood support to vulnerable Afghan refugees, including women and youth. Mr. Sohrab Altaf, Field Associate for UNHCR, shared success stories of beneficiaries who overcame adversity to establish sustainable livelihoods, underscoring the program's role in empowering refugees to contribute positively to their communities. Mr. Amad, Executive Director of IDEA, stressed the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in the program's success and called for continued collaboration to expand the program's reach and ensure the long-term socio-economic integration of Afghan refugees. This ceremony marked a significant milestone in the efforts to empower Afghan refugees, providing them with the tools and support to succeed in business and contribute to their communities' economic resilience.

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Youth at Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar Highlighting the Impact of the UNHCR-PPAF Poverty Graduation Program

By Webdesk — Last Updated Dec 31, 2024

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Graduation Ceremony of Afghan Refugee Youth Highlights Impact of UNHCR-PPAF Poverty Graduation Program



PESHAWAR

STAFF REPORT

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Urdu Point:



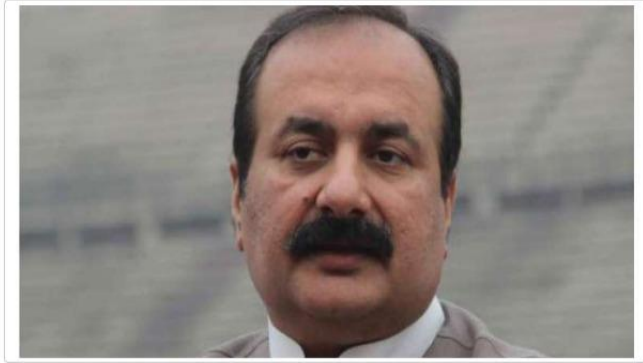
مسئلہ اشاعت 24 سالہ

کلام معاصرین و انٹرویوز، باگ، تھمب، کاٹن، ساہو، اخبارات، نیشنلسٹ، سوشل میڈیا، مزہ، میٹریکل

پاکستان، بنگلہ دیش، بھارت، افغانستان، ایران، عراق، اردو، 22 دسمبر

افغان نوجوانوں میں لے پناہ ٹیلیٹ موجود ہے ان پچھل کے ساتھ افغانستان اور پاکستان دونوں کا مستقبل جڑا ہے، چیئرمین وزیر اعظم یوتھ پروگرام رانا مشہود احمد

19 دسمبر 2024، 19:20



کوئٹہ (آرڈو پوائنٹ اخبارتہ تین - اسے لپی پی - 19 دسمبر 2024ء) چیئرمین وزیر اعظم یوتھ پروگرام رانا مشہود احمد خان نے کہا ہے کہ افغان نوجوانوں میں لے پناہ ٹیلیٹ موجود ہے، ان پچھل کے ساتھ افغانستان اور پاکستان دونوں کا مستقبل جڑا ہے، پاکستان ہمیشہ افغان مہاجرین کو ان پیروں پر کھڑا کرنے لے تھانوں کرتا آ رہا ہے، چاہتے ہیں یہ افغان بچے ہنرمند ہوں سے سیکھ کر اپنے ملک کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں لیا کردار ادا کریں۔

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کوئٹہ (قدرت روزنامہ) چیئرمین وزیر اعظم یوتھ پروگرام رانا مشہود احمد خان نے کہا ہے کہ افغان نوجوانوں میں لے پناہ ٹیلیٹ موجود ہے، ان پچھل کے ساتھ افغانستان اور پاکستان دونوں کا مستقبل جڑا ہے، پاکستان ہمیشہ افغان مہاجرین کو ان پیروں پر کھڑا کرنے لے تھانوں کرتا آ رہا ہے، چاہتے ہیں یہ افغان بچے ہنرمند ہوں سے سیکھ کر اپنے ملک کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے اقوام متحدہ کے ادارہ برائے مہاجرین کی جانب سے افغان مہاجرین کے دستکاری سمیت مختلف ستر کا کورس مکمل کرنے کے حوالے سے منعقدہ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ تقریب میں پروفیسر ڈاکٹر مغیز اسم ذین اینڈ کمیٹی ڈائریکٹر نرسٹ بلوچستان، نادر گل بڑیچ، سمیت طلبا اور سول سوسائٹی کے لوگ بھی موجود تھے۔ چیئرمین وزیر اعظم پاکستان یوتھ پروگرام رانا مشہود نے کہا کہ افغان بچوں اور بچیوں میں کچھ کرگزرنے کا جذبہ دیکھا ہے جو اپنا