

Food Briefs National

- ❖ Malaysia would import Halal meat and rice from Pakistan, said Finance Minister Asad Umar. Pakistan and Malaysia signed MoUs in five sectors and agreed to open branches of local banks in their respective countries. The meeting between the two countries encompassed diverse areas which included cooperation in trade, automobiles, agriculture, tourism, and food processing, particularly Halal meat.
- ❖ The government of Pakistan will launch 18 projects, worth Rs 290 billion, in five different areas of agriculture sector in financial year 2019-20 on cost sharing basis between the federal and provincial governments.
- ❖ According to Economic Survey of Pakistan, "the country is assessed to be one of the vulnerable countries to climate change and this vulnerability is mainly due to its geographic location, demographic and diverse climatic conditions. To reduce losses, Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) is one of the important steps towards identifying and assessing climate change."
- ❖ A delegation of MEDEF (Movement of the Enterprises of France) met with Prime Minister Imran Khan and showed interest in investing in various sectors of Pakistan including the manufacturing sector, agriculture, energy, and others. In the meeting the PM highlighted Pakistan's investment potential and business-friendly policies.
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) signed an agreement to develop the first national State of Food Security and Nutrition in Pakistan (SOFI) report that will provide timely and accurate data regarding overall food security situations.
- ❖ Planning, Development and Reform Minister Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar said that the government was focused on developing the agriculture sector on modern lines in order to improve the livelihoods of small farmers and to enhance the sector's contribution to the national economy.
- ❖ The government is working to rationalize taxes on the milk supply chain to incentivize the sector in order to expand collection and processing units across the country, said Razak Dawood in a meeting with the delegation of International Finance Corporation.
- ❖ Pakistan's seafood exports declined 5.07 percent to 130,830 tons in the first nine months (July-March) of the current fiscal year (2018/19) compared to 137,819 tons during the same period of the last fiscal year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data showed recently. ◆

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- ❖ A deal was signed by Argentine Prime Minister Marucio Macri and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi recently regarding a sanitary protocol allowing the export of Argentine lemons to India. The deal will be opening up opportunities and extending bilateral trade between the two countries.
- ❖ For the last couple of years, Azerbaijan is paying special attention to the implementation of agrarian reforms and the development of agriculture. Production in the agriculture, hunting and fishing sector increased by an annual average of approximately 4.6 percent from 2015-2018 to more than \$4 billion in 2018.
- ❖ A geographical indicator (GI) tag has been granted to the Khirsapat mango, popularly known as Himsagar, in a development expected to open up branding opportunities for local Bangladesh growers. It is the third product, joining Bangladesh's national fish and popular textile.
- ❖ NGK Trading has received its first sea shipment of Chilean cherries sent by Exportadora Del Sur and Natire South Exports. Arriving recently, a seafreight shipment of Chilean cherries has landed successfully at a port in India.
- ❖ As the 2019 season draws closer, the New Zealand apple and pear industry is preparing for a modest year-on-year increase in crop volume. Peak body New Zealand Apples & Pears has predicted a gross crop of 604,500 tonnes, 2.5 per cent up on last year.
- ❖ Mexican avocado exports increased by 21 per cent to 1.198m tonnes in 2018, but the corresponding value fell by 11.7 per cent to US\$2.392bn according to data from the Bank of Mexico and the Agri-Food and Fisheries Information System. Shipment volumes rose sharply last year following production issues in 2017 but export values hit by lower prices.
- ❖ Production of Peruvian citrus increases expected to lead to a rise in exports in 2019. Peruvian citrus exports are on course to reach 200,000 tonnes this year, an increase of 10 per cent on the 180,239 tonnes shipped during 2018.
- ❖ The European Commission is to launch new market observatories, for fruit and vegetables, to bring greater transparency to these sectors and help them to address market volatility. The Move will improve transparency and enable sector to cope more effectively with market volatility.
- ❖ Italian red oranges Tarocco and Moro have arrived by sea from Italy into China. In Ningbo, Zhejiang, an inaugural ceremony was held in Shanghai, in Dahua, at Jinxiu Dongjiao Industrial Park.
- ❖ The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a pilot program in New York that allows consumers dependent on food stamps to use them to buy groceries online, a move that is likely to boost sales at retailers like Walmart Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. ◆