

THE NEWS

Tuesday

November 6, 2007

Shawwal-ul-Munkarram 24, 1428 A.H

'Musalihat Anjumans' lauded for giving justice to masses

Islamabad

The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) members appreciated the efforts being undertaken by Gender Justice Through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) for providing accessible, free and effective justice to the common masses through Musalihat Anjumans (MAs).

Programme Manager Pakistan, South Asian Division of SDC in Bern, Switzerland Chloe Milner and National Programme Officer SDC, Pakistan Aamir Khan Goraya stated this during their visit to District Abbottabad as one of the project districts, says a statement issued here Monday.

They were accompanied by National Project Manager GJTMAP Hamid Raza Afridi, Provincial Project Manager GJTMAP, NWFP Ms Sajeela Sohail and other members of the project team.

The purpose of the SDC team visit was to examine the functioning of local government (LG) sys-

tem, particularly the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism viz GJTMAP, progress review and feedback from government counterparts including local government, police, judiciary, civil society organisations and MA representatives.

The team called on Sahibzada Mohammad Anis, DCO Abbottabad in his office.

The DCO said the project, being carried out by Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development in coordination with UNDP, is doing a great job in helping common people in resolving their issues as well as the police and judiciary in reducing their caseload.

Besides the project team members, ACO Abbottabad, ASP Abbottabad, female members of Musalihat Anjuman Justice Advocates (Maja), union nazims, naib nazims and secretaries were also present.

Project Manager GJTMAP Hamid Raza Afridi apprised the team, saying that the project is

presently working in 20 districts (five from each province) all over the country and 991 MAs have been formed out of 1,051 union councils (94 per cent) with an effort to ensure female representation in them, adding that out of a total of 4,622 cases received by the MAs, 2,896 (63 per cent) cases had been amicably resolved.

He told the team that the project has been short listed as one of the top cases of good practices in capacity development in Pakistan for an ongoing "Scoping Study on Capacity Development" carried out by the Economic Affairs Division of Asian Development Bank.

During the question answer session, the female members of Maja said the MAs are doing a tremendous job in alleviating the sufferings of women, as they are accessible, free and effective.

Later, the team visited Union Council Mirpur, which is one of the leading MAs in Abbottabad.
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