

# Banks start loans for tobacco growers

OUR STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR - On the directives of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), commercial banks have initiated special agricultural loans scheme for tobacco growers in the province.

The scheme was made possible with the efforts of the Pakistan Tobacco Board (PTB) in facilitating the central bank and commercial banks on one platform for the issuance of the loans for growers. In this connection, the board carried a comprehensive awareness campaign amongst the tobacco growers for the scheme.

The scheme was formally launched in a workshop organised by Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) in Chargbagh, Swabi district. The PTB Secretary Noman Bashir, Development Finance Officer of SBP Fazal Muqem and

others attended the workshop.

The representatives of commercial banks, tobacco companies and tobacco growers of the area also attended the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, the PTB Secretary Noman Bashir urged the representatives of the commercial banks to release maximum amount of Rs 50,000 each for tobacco growers before the end of the current month.

The representative of SBP, Fazal Muqem also directed the commercial banks for issuance of agricultural loans and assured that tobacco growers would be provided timely loans for the purchase of agricultural inputs.

Later, the scheme was formally launched with the distribution of four cheques of agricultural loans amongst the tobacco growers on behalf of the Zari Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZBTL).