

CELEBRATION OF WORLD FORESTRY DAY.



Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khattak, Governor, N.W.F.P., planting a 'Chanar' sapling in the International Tree Grove in the P.F.I. on 21st March, 1973.

FAO., in its general conference on 1st November, 1971 decided to organise a World Forestry Day on 21st March, 1972. The idea behind fixing one day every year for celebration of this festival was that each country should bring into focus the importance of forests and their multiple aspects of production and recreation and also project the multifarious national forestry problems. This Day was also to be used for providing guidance to the people in the planting of trees and their benefits.

In pursuance of this decision, the Day was celebrated in the province of N. W. F. P. in a befitting manner on 21st March, 1973. The programme was sponsored jointly by the Forest Department, Govt. of N. W. F. P. and the Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar. The highlight of the programme was planting of a tree by Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khattak, the Governor of N. W. F. P. who sapling planted a Chanar

(*Platanus orientalis*) in the International Tree Grove started in the premises of the Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar. The Governor before planting the tree emphasised the need for conservation of the forest resource and its development through sustained efforts. Other salient features of the function included on-the-spot advice for planting of trees in schools colleges, hospitals and other Government buildings and guided tours of the Pakistan Forest Institute and the Research Garden for the school children. A panel discussion in urdu was broadcast from Radio Pakistan, Peshawar covering the importance of forests and rangelands. A slide lecture giving a panoramic view of the present state of forest lands in N. W. F. P. and measures required for their improvement was delivered by Dr. G. M. Khattak, Chief Conservator of Forests, N. W. F. P. The programme concluded with a film show on forestry and allied aspect organized in collaboration with U. S. I. S. in the auditorium of the Pakistan Forest Institute.