



Egoistic Imran showing sheer disregard for Constitution & law: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that the person, who had rendered the law of the land as the law of the jungle, had been defying and sheer disregard for the Constitution and the law for the last two days.



Pakistan to welcome investment from UAE: Dar

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Monday that Pakistan would welcome investment from UAE. During a call on meeting with Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director and Managing Director of International Holding Company (IHC), Syed Basar Shueb explained to him various investment opportunities in Pakistan, according to statement issued by finance ministry. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Visit for solidarity

President of Turkiye H.E Recep Tayyip Erdogan receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival in Turkish Presidency, Ankara, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM arrives in Turkiye to express solidarity with quake-hit nation

Spokesman Report

ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Turkiye on Thursday to express solidarity with the Turkish people in wake of a massive earthquake.

Pakistan's ambassador to Turkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid and senior officials of the government of Turkiye received the prime minister.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi, and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt Gen. Inam Haider accompanied the prime minister.

Earlier, Shehbaz Sharif in a tweet said, "I am leaving for Turkiye with a message of unwavering solidarity and support for our Turkish brothers and sisters from the people and government of Pakistan."

"True to the spirit of one nation living in two states, we consider



their loss as ours," he said.

During his two-day stay, the prime minister will meet President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip

Erdogan to personally convey heartfelt condolences on behalf of the entire Pakistani nation over the loss of lives and the wide-

spread damage. The prime minister will reiterate Pakistan's firm commitment to stand by the Turkish people

during difficult times and to continue extending all possible support to the ongoing relief effort.

The prime minister will also visit earthquake-affected areas in southern Turkiye, and interact with the Pakistani search and rescue teams deployed in the area as well as survivors of the earthquake.

In the wake of the devastating earthquake in southern Turkiye, the prime minister had spoken to President Erdogan on February 6 and assured him of all possible assistance for the rescue and relief effort.

All available resources have been fully mobilized to help the Turkish people and the prime minister is personally overseeing the relief effort.

Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy deep fraternal ties. The two countries have resolutely stood by each other during every trial and tribulation.

Bilawal to attend Munich Security Conference in Germany from Feb 16-20

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will undertake a visit to Germany to attend Munich Security Conference-2023 from February 16-20.

During his visit, he will participate in several events and engage with international media, a Foreign Office press release said.

The foreign minister will also hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers from around the world. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will also attend the Munich Security Conference.

Besides, on the invitation of the Lithuanian counterpart, Foreign Minister Bilawal will undertake a bilateral visit to Vilnius on February 20-21.

During the visit, MoU on

establishment of Bilateral Political Consultations between the governments of Pakistan and Lithuania will be signed.

Foreign Minister Bilawal will hold talks with his Lithuanian counterpart and call on the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament.

In the last leg of his tour, the foreign minister will visit Hungary from February 21-22.

He will hold official talks with his Hungarian counterpart where the two sides would deliberate upon the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both the Foreign Ministers would also sign two MoUs on bilateral cooperation on Sports and Sports Education, and on cooperation between diplomatic academies of the two countries.

Dar sympathises with Turkish finance minister on earthquake losses

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, in a telephone call with his Turkish counterpart, Dr. Nureddin Nebati, offered his heartfelt condolences and sympathies on human and material losses in the recent deadly earthquake in Turkiye.

The minister offered all-out relief support in this difficult time, tweeted the finance

ministry here Thursday. Finance Minister of Turkiye, Dr. Nebati expressed gratitude to Finance Minister Dar for his call and earlier letter and admired the government of Pakistan for sending immediate relief aid and necessary help for the earthquake victims in this hour of need.

He further stated that in a cabinet meeting, the Turkish president greatly appreciated the support Pakistan has been extending to the earthquake victims.

Audio Leak: Rana Sanaullah says 'directed FIA to arrest Pervaiz Elahi'

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has hinted at the arrest of former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi after a purported audio

leak surfaced today. While addressing a press conference, Rana Sanaullah played the leaked audio conversation of former Punjab CM Pervaiz Elahi in which he was allegedly

Fourth Pak-KSA joint mili drill 'Al Kassah-IV' concludes at Risalpur

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of the fourth Pakistan-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise "Al Kassah-IV" was held at the Military College of Engineering, Risalpur on Thursday.

It was the 4th joint exercise of the Al-Kassah series as part of bilateral military cooperation between both friendly countries. The troops from Royal Saudi Land Forces and Pakistan Army participated in the exercise, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The two-week-long exercise was aimed at sharing mutual experiences in the field of route search, area search, vehicle/ personal search, and area clearance operations.

Pakistan to continue moral, political support to Kashmiris: FO

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Speaking at a weekly press briefing, the Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said, "the human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continue unabated."

According to the reports, a young Kashmiri, Shamsuddin son of Jamaluddin, died at an interrogation center in Udhampur after he was subjected to torture that he had to endure since his arrest from his house about



efforts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory was an illegal act. "We have reiterated this position time and again, including in my last briefing which focused on this particular aspect."

"We have said that these acts are a violation of international law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention that interdicts the occupation forces to make any material change in the demographic structure of the occupied territory," she remarked.

The Spokesperson said, "Pakistan has consistently raised the issue of Jammu & Kashmir dispute, human rights violations there and the issues of demographic changes at all relevant platforms including OIC."

"This has been raised in meetings of our leaders and officials with international stakeholders and

global leaders. The Foreign Minister has addressed letters to the Secretary General of OIC, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the United Nations Security Council and the President of the United Nations General Assembly only in this month.

In these letters, he has highlighted the grave violations of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the illegal and unilateral steps being taken by India since 5th August 2019."

"We also are encouraged with the recent statements and resolutions of the OIC including at the Council of Foreign Ministers and Senior officials," she added.

She said Pakistan was pleased with the progress in its engagement with the United States.

Housing minister directs to stop operation against illegal structures in govt residencies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Maulana Abdul Wasay on Thursday directed to immediately cease the ongoing anti-encroachment operation against the illegally constructed structures in federal government residencies.

The minister gave the directives in a meeting with the representatives of government residencies allottees of Islamabad, on the recommendations of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Housing and Works, due to the current economic circumstances of the country.

Ex-federal minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, and Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani also attended the meeting.

Imran Khan calls on President Alvi to order inquiry against Gen Bajwa

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday asked President Arif Alvi to order an immediate inquiry against former chief of army staff General (ret) Qamar Javed Bajwa for "violating his oath and Constitution of Pakistan."

In a letter dated Feb 14, Imran Khan referred to an article of journalist Javed Chaudhry in which startling revelations were made attributing General (ret) Bajwa. "Some very disturbing information has now come into the public domain whereby it is clear that Gen ret Bajwa as COAS violated his oath of office repeatedly," the PTI chief stated in a letter written to the president on Thursday.

"He [Mr Bajwa] has admitted to journalist Javed Ch that 'we' (and it would be critical to ascertain from him who was the 'we' in reference to) considered Imran Khan dangerous to the country if he continued to stay in power," Khan told the Presi-

dent in the letter. "The question that arises is who gave him the power to decide that an elected PM was supposedly a 'danger to the country if he continued to stay in power'. Only the people through elections can decide who they want to elect as PM."

"Taking such a right on himself is in clear violation of his oath as given in Third Schedule Article 244 of the Constitution," he stressed.

In the letter, Imran also mentioned Gen Bajwa's alleged admission that he "managed to get NAB (National Accountability Bureau) case against Shaukat Tarin dismissed".

"Regardless of the merits of his claims in this case, he has also admitted he managed to get NAB case against Shaukat Tarin dismissed revealing that NAB was under his control - again a clear violation of the Constitutional oath because the army itself is a department under the Ministry of Defence and civilian official autonomous institutions do not come military control," Khan wrote.

Meeting

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting with the delegation of Overseas Investors Chambers CChamber of Commerce and Industries at Governor House on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan to welcome investment from UAE: Dar

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Monday that Pakistan would welcome investment from United Arab Emirates (UAE). During a call on meeting with Chief Executive Officer,

Executive Director and Managing Director of International Holding Company (IHC), Syed Basar Shueb explained to him various investment opportunities in Pakistan, according to statement issued by finance ministry. He the CEO of IHC regarding the recent visit of the

Prime Minister and his various meetings held with the Emirati businessmen and investors. He thanked the management of the IHC for their interest in making investments in Pakistan. He discussed the ways to accelerate economic cooperation between the two countries and expressed the desire

to strengthen the existing economic ties to a next level. He further stated that the government of Pakistan was pursuing various reforms for providing greater facilitation to investors and businessmen. The Finance Minister assured the CEO of maximum facilitation by the government for Emirati

investors in Pakistan, the statement added. Welcoming the Finance Minister, the CEO H.E. Syed Basar Shueb highlighted the cordial relation that exists between the two countries and appreciated the role of the government to attract investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Air Chief Awards HI (M) to DG Bometec on behalf of government of Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On behalf of Government of Pakistan, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Fan Jianjun, Director General Bureau of Military Equipment Technical Cooperation (BOMETEC), People's Republic of China, during his visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. The award was conferred in recognition of his wholehearted efforts in enhancing bilateral military relations and the pivotal role played by General Fan in PAF's capability enhancement thus ensuring regional balance of power. The visiting dignitary called



on the Air Chief in his office. During the meeting several key areas of mutual interest along with regional developments were discussed. Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of his vision and PAF's modernization drive to further augment current operational capability necessitated in contemporary warfare especially in Artificial Intelligence, Cyber and Space domains. He also briefed the visiting dignitary about various ongoing projects for PAF's Operational Construct in line with the emerging trends. The Air Chief also highlighted that both the countries enjoy historic and unprecedented strategic

partnership and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in military to military cooperation and training domains between PAF and PLAAF. CAS further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, defence relationship and time-tested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability". The Air Chief also lauded the cooperation offered by China as Pakistan's strategic partner in the realization of an independent technology-driven PAF and its innovative plans. General Fan Jianjun thanked the Air Chief and the Government of Pakistan on being awarded with

Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) and hoped that cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries will continue to expand in future. The visiting dignitary praised the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. General Fan appreciated the CAS efforts in steering PAF towards modernization and said that the vision of establishing National Aerospace Science and Technology Park was emulating. He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace. Both leaders vowed to further consolidate cooperation in various fields including emerging technologies and mutual cooperation in the military industry.

ISLAMABAD: The allied parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Thursday ruled out the possibility of contesting the National Assembly by-elections. Sources privy to the development said the heads of the allied parties of the PDM had directed their lawmakers to withdraw their nomination papers. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also directed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmakers to withdraw the nomination papers. As per the sources, the premier had taken this decision after consultations

Moonis Elahi summoned by NAB

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) leader Moonis Elahi on February 20. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) issued a call-up notice to PML-Q leader Moonis Elahi for February 20. The anti-graft watchdog is probing into irregularities in the transfers and contracts of the Punjab Communication and Works Department. According to the call-up notice, the politician was summoned by the NAB in a case related to the principal secretary of the former Punjab chief minister. The notice stated that kickbacks had been received in the tenders of the high-ways division. It added that Moonis will be questioned for the alleged irregularities. In another development today, an accountability court (AC) barred the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) from arresting former chief minister Punjab Usman Buzdar in assets beyond income case. The court, after hearing arguments of the counsel, granted interim bail to former chief minister Punjab till February 27 and restrained the bureau from his arrest.

'Being prevented from exercising my powers,' ECP chief tells SC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) chief complained that he was being prevented from exercising his powers and fulfilling constitutional requirements. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja informed about his concerns the Supreme Court of Pakistan during the hearing of a case pertaining to transfer of Ghulam Muhammad Dogar. He explained the impediments to holding of elections when Justice Ijazul Ahsan

remarked that elections, as per the Constitution, should be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies. Justice Ahsan remarked it was a violation of the Constitution if elections were not held in 90 days, adding that the ECP was responsible for holding transparent elections. The comments come as uncertainty prevails over elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) dissolved the assemblies in January last as the governors and the electoral body have not

announced a date for elections in the provinces. Several cases against the governors and ECP are being heard by the Lahore High Court and Peshawar High Court regarding election dates. The chief election commissioner lamented that the army had excused itself from providing security while judiciary was not ready to provide returning officers (ROs). "When funds were sought for elections we were declined," he said. Mr Raja also highlighted that it would be a violation of the Constitution if election date

was announced by the ECP chief. While commenting on the transfer and postings by the interim governments, Justice Ahsan said the caretaker set-up had to provide solid reasons for transfers and postings. To which, the ECP chief said it would put a bar on the reshuffle of government officers if an order was issued by the court. The top court has directed the CEC to submit a detailed report on hurdles being faced by him in holding the elections and adjourned the hearing.

Leopard attacks man in private housing society in Islamabad

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A person was allegedly injured after a leopard attack in a private housing society in Islamabad. After injuring a person, the leopard found shelter in an under-construction house, making it challenging for the authorities to capture the predator. The security officials and housing society administration are trying to get the leopard out of the area to ensure

the safety of the residents. Meanwhile, the administration closed the public places and parks inside the society premises. The Assistant Commissioner (AC) requested the residents to take precautions and stay inside their houses. Islamabad Wildlife Management officials also reached the spot and reported that the leopard has taken cover inside different under-construction houses in the society. Wildlife officials are still trying to capture the animal. Last year in November, a contingent of Islamabad Capital Police has been deployed in Saidpur village, after three leopards entered the territory of Margalla hills in Islamabad. The residents of Saidpur Village were in a state of fear as three leopards entered the territory. Wildlife Management Board has advised the residents to be cautious and restrict their movements,

while announcements were made from the local mosques. In a statement, Wildlife officials said leopards generally do not attack humans, however, they can attack in panic after seeing a large number of people. Meanwhile, a contingent of Islamabad Capital Police has been deployed in the village and local administration requested the residents to remain calm. "In case of any emergency, call 15", the Capital Police said.

ISLAMABAD: The allied parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Thursday ruled out the possibility of contesting the National Assembly by-elections. Sources privy to the development said the heads of the allied parties of the PDM had directed their lawmakers to withdraw their nomination papers. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also directed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmakers to withdraw the nomination papers. As per the sources, the premier had taken this decision after consultations

Punjab Assembly polls: SC refers matter to CJ for suo motu

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In connection with delay of elections in Punjab, a two-member bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday sent the matter to the Chief Justice for suo motu notice. The SC had issued a written order and said that the Punjab Assembly

was dissolved on January 14. As per the constitution, "Elections must be held within 90 days. So far, no progress had been made for the elections in Punjab". In the written order of the SC, it had been further stated that if the provincial elections will not be held within 90 days, it will be a clear violation of the constitution.

Sheikh Rashid strikes a defiant note after release from Adiala Jail

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has been released from Adiala Jail hours after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) approved his bail in a case pertaining to murder plot allegations against former president Asif Ali Zardari. Judicial Magistrate Umer Shabbir issued Sheikh Rashid's release orders on the direction of the Islamabad

High Court (IHC) and his lawyers reached Adiala Jail with the release orders. A number of party workers were present outside Adiala Jail at the time of his release and showered his car with flowers. Speaking to the media after his release, the AML chief said he had forgiven everyone who was involved in his arrest but also warned of filing a case if the belongings including watches were not returned.

PDM rules out possibility of contesting NA by-elections

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The allied parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Thursday ruled out the possibility of contesting the National Assembly by-elections. Sources privy to the development said the heads of the allied parties of the PDM had directed their lawmakers to withdraw their nomination papers. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also directed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmakers to withdraw the nomination papers. As per the sources, the premier had taken this decision after consultations

with the bigwigs of the allied parties, adding that further discussion on not contesting the NA by-elections was still underway. On Wednesday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said national and provincial elections should be held together. In a statement, Mr Sanaullah said the PTI chief would start a blame game if he lost the elections, claiming that there was no caretaker setup in the center. He said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should take a better decision, as elections should ensure stability instead of creating unrest in the country.



Islamabad: DG NIMA called on the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs on 13 Feb 23. DG thanked the minister for giving his personal attention in making PIMEC-23 a complete success. The Minister, in response, appreciated the pivotal role of NIMA in this regard. He also agreed to develop a close working relationship on the matter of mutual interest.

Hyderabad: Customs foils bid to smuggle Iranian oil

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: The officials of Anti-Smuggling Organisation Cell of Customs foiled an attempt to smuggle Iranian oil during an operation in Shaheed Benazirabad district on Wednesday, Dunya News reported. According to details, the Customs officials carried out an operation near Moro Bypass and seized a tanker

containing Iranian oil. According to details, the Customs officials seized a tanker, containing diesel which was being smuggled from Iran into Pakistan, during an operation carried out near Moro Bypass. Customs collector Mumtaz Ali Khoso informed that the seized Iranian diesel has a value of more than Rs 9 million.

Pervaiz Elahi reacts to Rana Sanaullah's statement on audio leak

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi has reacted to Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's statement on the alleged audio leak and said that the government wanted to jail its opponents in fake cases. Regarding the audio leak, Pervaiz Elahi said that there is nothing wrong in the audio conversation. He said that his conversation with the lawyer about Muhammad Khan Bhatti's case was given the wrong angle.

He said that Punjab Assembly secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti is missing for 10 days and his wife appealed to the Supreme Court (SC) for his recovery. He slammed Rana Sanaullah saying that the government is trying to declare people guilty for approaching the court via lawyers. He alleged that the ruling PML-N is running an organised campaign to malign the judiciary. "We have always respected the judiciary and the courts are currently the centre of hope for the nation."

IRD holds seminar to commemorating solidarity with Kashmiris

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that the time has come to support the people of Kashmir with unity and show solidarity with them at all levels. He was addressing during a seminar on "Commemorating Solidarity with Kashmiris" organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research & Dialogue, IRD of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) at Allama Iqbal Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus on Thursday.

Advisor to the Prime Minister said that Pakistani Nation should highlight the Kashmir Cause at international forums by spreading the strapping

message of supporting their right to self-determination. Addressing participants of the seminar Qamr Zaman Kaira said that Kashmir is a jugular vein and an integral part of Pakistan, adding the whole nation is endorsing the Kashmir cause since generations to generations.

Former Diplomat Abdul Basit briefed the seminar participants about the historical background of Kashmir cause and highlighted the efforts of Pakistan in this regard at international level, Abdul Basit urged students to highlight the issue on Social Media through various networks to raise awareness in the international community for justice.

Prof. N.B Jumani, Vice President (A&F) of International Islamic

University Islamabad lauded the role of Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue for conducting such seminars and conferences on core issues. Addressing the seminar participants,

Brig (R) Dr. Muhammad Khan, Director (Academics), Professor of Department of Politics & IR at International Islamic University Islamabad delivered a keynote speech during the seminar. He added that the primary focus of this solidarity is the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who have undergone massive human rights violations at the hands of Indian security forces.

Speakers of seminar reiterated that Pakistan values the sacrifices of thousands of Kashmiris in the pursuit of

freedom and right to self-determination and Pakistan will continue to raise voice for the Kashmir cause at all international forums till the attainment of their basic right to self-determination and freedom in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions.

Mr. Zaman Bajwa, Executive Director Youth Forum for Kashmir, Dr. Kamran Kazmi, In-Charge Department of Urdu, IIUI, Shaikh Abdul Mateen, Secretary General Huriyat Conference, IIUI also addressed the seminar.

A large number of university students participated and interacted with the speakers of the seminar during the question answer session. At the end of the seminar commemorating shields were presented to guests of the seminar.



40th anniversary identity at a live event broadcast to AKU campuses globally.

The work of universities is to promote knowledge and research, Dr. Jabarkha

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A seminar on "Writing and Submission of Research Project" was arranged at Quaid-e-Azam Campus in collaboration with Institute of Food, Sciences and Nutrition (IFSN) of Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan and Directorate of Research.

Registrar Gomal University Dr. Jabbar Khan was the special guest of the seminar, Resource person of the seminar, Director ORC and Director of Pharmacy, Dr. Barkat Ali Khan, Associate Professor, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Madam Bushra Uzair, Coordinator, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Gomal University, Dr. Allah Noor, Director, IFN, Dr. Sadaf Jawaria, and other heads of departments and teachers and students, There was a large number of the seminar was officially started by Hamad, a student of IFSN, with the recitation of the speech, while Madam Iqra Rabab performed the duties of the stage secretary, the organizer of the seminar was Director IFSN Dr. Sadfa Jawaria.

Madam Iqra Rabab performed the duties of the stage secretary in the seminar. Addressing the seminar, Registrar Gomal University Dr. Jabbar said

That the function of universities is to promote knowledge and research because by organizing such seminars students as well as teachers get an opportunity to learn and they also get to know the latest technology coming in terms of research in the future.

He further said that I am very grateful to the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shakib Ullah, due to whom this successful seminar was possible and I pay tribute.

Director Institute of Food Sciences and Nutrition, Dr. Sadaf Jawaria and Director, Dr. Barkat Ullah Khan and their entire team for making this seminar a success.

Dr. Jabar added that the teachers of Gomal University should take advantage of the services of Director Dr. Barkatullah Khan by submitting their projects

So that the more research activities there are in Gomal University, the more our students will benefit from it. On the one hand, the name of ancient Jamia Gomal and our area Dera Ismail Khan will be bright and on the other hand, the university will be on the path of development.

Resource person of the seminar, Director Orc and Director of Pharmacy, Dr. Barkat Ali Khan, Associate Professor, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Madam Bushra Uzair informed the students about their research in detail.

At the end of the ceremony, the guest special registrar Gomal University Dr. Jabbar Khan distributed the shields and certificates to the resource person Dr. Barkat Ali Khan and Madam Bushra Uzeer and also distributed shields and certificates to other participants.

Duty increased to Rs16,500 on cigarettes packet worth over Rs9,000, fixed at Rs5,050 costing less

ISLAMABAD: (Dunya News)-The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) doubled taxes on cigarettes even before the mini-budget was approved.

A mini-budget of Rs170 billion was presented in parliament on International Monetary Fund's (IMF) terms but the FBR doubled the tax on cigarettes even before the approval of the mini-budget.

The Federal Board of Revenue has notified an increase in federal excise duty on locally manufactured cigarettes. According to the notification, the duty has been increased to Rs16,500 per packet of 1,000 cigarettes worth more than Rs9,000.

Apart from this, the duty has been fixed at Rs5,050 per packet of 1,000 cigarettes costing less than Rs9,000. Fixed duty on cigarettes will be implemented immediately, the Federal Board of Revenue's notification stated.

Punjab Cultural Day

LAHORE: Students and teachers are busy in eating food on a food stall during celebration Punjab Culture Day at Don Bosco High School, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Institutions have always played a key role in changing the society: Mian Ejaz

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Institutions have always played a key role in changing the society, and political interventions are having profound effects on the performance of institutions and if such schema remains continuing to do so in the future, out societal structure will be destroyed.

Problems cannot be solved without giving autonomy to the institutions and such interventions do not indicate the development of a nation, these views were expressed by Jamaat-e-Islami nominated candidate MPA, PP-115 Mian Ejaz Hussain in the area of sewerage system repairing and gas supply. While reviewing the improvement work done, Mian Altaf Hussain, Mian Atiqur Rehman, Rana Taha



Khan were also accompanying. He further said that appointing MPAs as chairmen in the institutions is intended to run the institutions according to their own whims and wishes which does not focus on the question of working on merit and the Pakistani nation wants everything to be done on justice and merit.

He said that there should be an end to such an initiative which has been affecting

the reputation of the country and the nation for a long time.

Focusing on the police to the local and national institutions, he said that, all the institutions seem to be under political influence, although the purpose of politics' intervention in the institutions is nothing but to destroy the institutions, so their freedom is very important so that the people can have a free environment.

Mian Ejaz Hussain pointed out that the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and MD WASA Faisalabad should come forward because there is a dire need for clean drinking water in the area and water connections should be installed immediately, and the institutions which are not engaged in serving the people, their

aim is nothing but burden on public assets.

He further said that the establishment of institutions is to provide facilities to the people while the institutions are stuck in the mire of bribery from head to toe. The whole nation is waiting for a messiah to end this scourge.

He further said that it is the responsibility of every individual in the society to play his role for the betterment of the society.

He also emphasized that the human conscience is the best institution within a human being and its cultivation is hidden in Islamic teachings to keep the conscience intact.

While sympathizing with the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, he said that it is our duty to help them in view of human rights.

NTDC issues appointment letters to Children of 12 deceased employees

News Desk



LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited has issued appointment letters to 12 sons and daughters of the company's deceased employees under Deceased Employee Children quota (In-service Death Category). Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan gave away the appointment letters to the 12 individuals (BPS- 5 to BPS-15), during a ceremony held at WAPDA House Lahore, today.

Speaking on the occasion, MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan said that welfare of the employees is the top priority of the company. He expressed hope that the newly appointed employees will make best use of their abilities for the improvement of NTDC, following the example of their late parents.

He directed the GM (HR) to make an effective strategy for the employment of individuals under Deceased Employee's Children Quota & payment of death compensation be ensured on urgent basis to the family of the deceased.

New appointees include: Muhammad Zohaib Awan (Assistant), Rana Muhammad Usman (ASSA), Shehryar (ALM), Numan Abbas (ALM), Quveen Ahmad (ASSA), Ansa Kousar (Junior Clerk), Iqra Abbas (ALM), Khuram Shahzad (SSO-II), Hafiz Shehryar (Junior Clerk), Rana Muhammad Abubakar (LS-II), Javaria Noreen (Naib Qasid) and Muhammad Musharraf (ALM).

GM (HR), Syed Mukkarram Hussain Jafri, GM (AM) North, Anwar Ahmed Khan, Chief Engineer (AM) North, Engr. Muhammad Rafeeq and other senior officers were also present during the ceremony. Later, Fatiha was also offered for all deceased employees of the company.

Create sustainability by means of brotherhood and love for humanity: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: SSP (Range Crime Division) Faisalabad Mian Akmal met with Pakistan Ulama Council and allied parties. The delegation was led by Allama Tahir ul Hassan, Central Deputy General Secretary of Pakistan Ulama Council and member of the Provincial Union of Muslims. Committee (Government of Punjab) and Maulana Obaidullah along with them Ghormani, Qari Hanif Bhatti, Mufti Nasrullah Aziz of the Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Maulana Habib Rehman Abid, Maulana Aminul Haque Ashrafi, Maulana Azhar ul Haque Khalid, Maulana Abu Bakr Siddique, Maulana Umar Waqqas, Maulana Tahir Qasmi, Maulana Sahibzada Mansha Salik of Ahl-e-Sunnah and Jamaat Bareilvi, Maulana Saqib Ali, Sahibzada Hamza Tahir ul Hasan and other scholars were present on this occasion.

Allama Tahir ul Hassan congratulated him on his appointment and said that the scholars of all sects are united and agreed for the sake of religious harmony and lasting peace.

At this time, we must work together for the security and stability of Pakistan, because Islam is a religion of peace and emphasizes the need for unity. He further said adding that, the changing atmosphere at this time in view of the ongoing situation, external forces want to spread terrorism and communal tension in Pakistan, but there is dire need to end it. The scholars and elders have gathered on one platform and we are working together with our administration, police officers and security agencies to combat terrorism & sectarianism. For the elimination of all external conspiracies, get together to fail them.

RPO Faisalabad Imran Mahmood while paying tribute to the positive



thinking and sincere character of the Ulemas said that the Ulemas are a prominent and important section of the society by whose guidance people will be reformed, hence brotherhood, patience and tolerance must

be absorbed. Continue the process of giving the unique teachings of tolerance and peace which is needed by all and our cooperation with Ulama will always be there. We must pay the right to be a true Muslim.

14 journalists were given training on first aid



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) arranged a training workshop on first aid for journalists of Dera Ismail Khan division

In which Rescue 1122 experts trained journalists on first aid, CPDI Project Manager Noor Alam Khan said while talking to the participants and media representatives.

That the knowledge and skills of journalists are limited regarding the basic principles of first aid and life saving

Much of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is riddled with conflict, where journalists and media workers face various threats.

Therefore, the need to provide first aid and basic life-saving skills to journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is more important than ever.

The main objective of today's workshop is to improve the first aid skills of media professionals in case of injury

so that they can help themselves and other injured colleagues.

Trainers from Rescue 1122 gave detailed briefing and training to the participants on topics such as stopping acute blood flow, measures of fracture and vital signs, artificial respiration and how to restore heart rate.

During this time, the participants learned each technique practically, and finally, the media representatives were given first aid kits and certificates.

Apart from this, awareness posters and brochures regarding the first aid for the journalists present in the press club were also given to the participants so that the rest of the journalists can also benefit from it.

The participants appreciated and looked forward to conducting the CPDI training workshop on medical assistance

That CPDI will organize more medical assistance and programs on safety and security for the journalists of the province.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:28 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:14 pm
Maghrib	5:53 pm
Isha	7:16 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9225596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489

Digitization can add \$60b to Pakistan Economy within next 7 to 8 years

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Digitization offers innovative employment prospects to the 23 percent of Pakistan's population that falls in 20 - 34 years age group and can add \$60 billion to Pakistan Economy within next 7 to 8 years. Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has prepared a Digital Report 2022 titled, "Recommendations for Digital Transformation in Pakistan".

OICCI Managing Committee presented the OICCI Digital Report 2022, titled, "Recommendations for Digital Transformation in Pakistan".

ations for Digital Transformation in Pakistan" to the President of Pakistan, with an objective to set the country on its digital journey. The report covers suggestions on e-commerce, fintech, IT exports and web 3.0 technologies etc.

The President showed his concern on the decline in business confidence influenced by the highly challenging political and economic situation during the past six months. He also appreciated OICCI took the lead to present recommendations to digitize the economy.

This report offers key recom-

mendations to the policymakers on the various facets of the digital transformation of economy including suggestions for digital infrastructure and connectivity, government, private sector, and mass digital usage, emerging web 3.0 technologies and digital regulations to accelerate innovation in Pakistan. According to a research Report, a 10 percent increase in broadband penetration results in increasing the GDP by 1.4 percent.

Ghias Khan, President OICCI, emphasized that "Digitization can also help inclusion of the under-served population of society such

as the far-flung areas of the country. Around 23 million children in Pakistan are out of school and we have less than 1 physician for 1000 people. To help Pakistan overcome these issues", Ghias added, "it is important to digitize the education and health sectors in a phased manner, preparing National electronic health records, and arranging capacity-building workshops for the professionals".

The report notes that in recent years, there has been tremendous development in Digital Financial Services. However, Pakistan is still a cash-based econo-

my with less than 5% merchants accepting digital payments. Besides promoting digital mode of payments, the government also needs to encourage international e-commerce companies to set up regional offices in Pakistan. Indonesia worked on similar lines and now the e-commerce market size is worth \$30 billion which is expected to reach \$54 billion by 2025 and supports 26 million jobs directly and indirectly.

M. Abdul Aleem, CE and Secretary General OICCI added "Digitization can bring a lot of efficiency to government services, boost productivity and help

improve ease of doing business (EODB). Philippines can be a good example where public service delivery was digitized under the E-Government Master Plan (EGMP) which helped the country, ranked 95th position in EODB 2020 rating, registering an improvement of 29 notches. Our government should" he continued, "take the advantage of modern technologies such as Machine Learning, Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence to improve competence in public departments, document the economy and increase the tax revenues."

Poverty

ISLAMABAD: An old woman is pulling handcart loaded with sacks on her way at a road in Federal Capital. Inflation in Pakistan could average 33% in the first half of 2023 before trending lower, and a bailout from the International Monetary Fund alone is unlikely to put the economy back on track.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Meezan Bank announces Financial Results for 2022

News Desk

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Meezan Bank, approved the financial statements of the Bank and its consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Riyadh S.A.A. Edrees—Chairman of the Board, Mr. Faisal A. A. A. Al-Nassar – Vice Chairman of the Board was also present.

The Bank's profit after tax for the year 2022 increased to Rs 45.0 billion compared to Rs 28.4 billion last year- a 59% growth. The Board has approved Rs 3 per share final cash dividend for the year 2022. This brings the total cash dividend payout for the year 2022 to Rs 8.50 (85% per share as Rs 5.50 per share i.e., 55% interim cash dividend was already paid for the nine-month period. This is in addition to 10% bonus shares issued during the year. The Bank remains adequately capitalised with Capital Adequacy Ratio of 18.42%—well above minimum requirement of 12.00%.

Deposits of the Bank grew by 14% to Rs 1.66 trillion. The Bank added 60 new branches to its network bringing the total to 962 branches in 317 cities along with more than 1,000 ATMs. The Bank's Mobile Banking App remains the highest-rated Mobile App in the banking industry on both Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Total assets of the Bank crossed Rs 2.5 trillion, registering a 35% growth. Its Gross financings grew by 31%, crossing Rs 1 trillion with Gross Advances to Deposits Ratio (ADR) of 61% vs 53% last year.

NSU organized Road Safety and Good Driving Skills Seminar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Awareness about road Safety and following driving rules, besides saving lives, make travel a pleasing experience. It requires training of everyone irrespective of whether you drive on the roads. This was stated by officials of the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) of Pakistan officials during an interactive session with the National Skills University Islamabad students, faculty, and employees.

The Lead trainers for this program were Ms. Nabila Yasmeen and Muhammad Younas. The seminar was immensely interactive, and everyone took a deep interest in learning new things and manifesting the knowledge they possessed. The seminar participants described this session as very useful as they learned several safe driving practices, they needed to be



aware of. Importantly, participants answering right for the challenging driving scenarios received gifts from the NHA officials.

The Vice Chancellor of National Skills University Islamabad thanked members of

the NHMP training team and described the training seminar as very useful. According to him, following road safety faithfully can reduce accidents. Proper awareness and training about safe driving save people from losing lives during

fatal accidents or receiving injuries. It was unanimously agreed such training would be regularly conducted for students and communities in the vicinities of the university. The NHMP officials received skills shields from Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar.

Animated movie ALLAHYAR to release on 2nd June 2023



News Desk

LAHORE: ALLAHYAR and the 100 Flowers of GOD, an animated feature film is all set to release on 02nd June 2023. It is an action thriller and is equally encompassed with science-fiction, adventurism and will be the first ever Pakistani stereoscopic 3D film. The movie is produced by 3rd World Studio, Islamabad.

The movie is a sequel of ALLAHYAR and the Legend of Markhor, a much-celebrated animated masterpiece released back in the year 2018.

The movie features a star voice-over cast, including Humayun Saeed, Ali Zafar, Iqra Aziz, Meera, Bushra Ansari, Nadia Jamil, Anum Zaidi, Azlan Uzair, and the talented Azfar Jafri, whereas Ali Zafar, Ali Noor, Sanam Marvi, Bushra Ansari and Grehen, the Band are the vocals of this film.

Uzair Zaheer Khan, the talented writer, director and producer of the film stated; "Alhamdulillah" we've taken this film to the next level, from entertainment value, visual appeal and storytelling to production quality, we hope that the audiences will love this animated work of art more than our last film."

Nadeem Mandviwalla, the executive producer and distributor for AY100FOG stated; "We at Mandviwalla entertainment have always tried to bring to the audience films which are unique and have a distinctive entertainment value for cinema-lovers. It is surely going to be a great pride for us to distribute and release the first 3D film of Pakistan".

Ombudsman Punjab moderates to provide over 34 million in financial relief to plaintiffs

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The intervention of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan has yielded a positive outcome, with several provincial government departments disbursing a total amount of Rs.3,43,29,081 to helpless applicants across various districts. These applicants had approached the ombudsman office seeking redressal for their long-pending employment-related grievances, such as the non-payment of pension, gratuity, and other employment benefits. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the ombudsman office, these individuals have finally received their dues.

The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab reported this in a statement issued on Thursday.

According to the spokesman, concerned government departments have also paid out over 18.3 million rupees to individuals who requested payment of arrears of salaries and financial assistance. The payment was made after the ombudsman's office intervened to address their concerns.

In a related development, Muhammad Arshad Munir, a resident of Multan, has received approximately one million rupees in compensation from the Punjab Industries, Commerce & Investment Department. The payment was made to Munir as a result of the mediation of the ombudsman office, in relation to the trees that were planted on the land that was acquired by the department, the spokesman said.

Gharpar beauticians teach Pakistani women how to do breast self-exams

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan has found an unusual ally in its fight against breast cancer – the waxing lady. GharPar, Pakistan's leading mobile app for at-home beauty services, recently trained their beauticians to offer customers breast self-exam tutorials.



The insight for the powerful campaign comes from the social convention that Pakistani women often hesitate to discuss breast cancer, or agree to get checked, even around their doctors or husbands. But there is one person whom they have a very intimate connection with and are especially open with when it comes to their bodies – their waxing ladies.

Shameelah Ismail, CEO GharPar Technologies Pvt Ltd, said, "Check-up GharPar is extremely close to my heart because we have a history of breast cancer in my own family. And despite having a history, many Female family members refuse to get themselves tested. What I love about this campaign is that our beauticians have been trained by Indus Hospital to guide our clients on how to perform a breast self-exam. The app will have an option for female clients to opt in for this service. I hope that every time our clients call us for services, they are reminded to check themselves for self-examination."

With hundreds of bookings per day, across 6 cities in Pakistan, GharPar is hoping to remove the ignorance and stigma around breast cancer and make breast self-exam an integral part of self-care for women in Pakistan.

NUST launches Climate Action Plan to mitigate impacts of climate change

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) organised first-ever Partnership for Climate Action (PCA-2023) conference in Pakistan from February 14 to 16, 2023. Themed around the topic "Science for Sustainability," the conference was held in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), German Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, International Federation of Red Cross, International Rescue Committee and Welt Hunger Hilfe.

The prime objective was to bring together and connect youth, academia and other stakeholders to build meaningful partnerships towards addressing climate change challenges. The conference also provided an opportunity for NUST to showcase its climate resilient technologies for potential deployment and commercialisation, and closely engage with stakeholders from the Government and Development Sector to accelerate progress towards a sustainable future.



Dr Rizwan Riaz, NUST Pro-Rector Research, Innovation & Commercialisation said that the university takes its social responsibility seriously and has aligned all its core functions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The first panel discussion, moderated by Ms Anam Zeb of German Red Cross, focused on creating partnership

for climate action, the importance of public awareness about the urgency of climate crisis and the actions needed to mitigate its effect. The panelists included Dr Imran Khalid, Director Policy & Governance WWF, Mr Ali Shah, Member NUST Climate Panel, and Ms Maheen Zahra, Oxford Policy Management Institute. The second

panel discussion, moderated by Ms Aameera Adil, NUST, focused on the role of academia in climate resilience and sustainable development, the importance of green land, establishing energy efficient measures, ensure net zero campus waste, and implementation of renewable energy generation plan.

The panelists were Prof Dr Salman Atif, Member Climate Panel, IGIS NUST, Mr Waqar ul Shams, Innovation and Information Coordinator AnthroInsights, Prof Ilhan Niaz, KLF Award Winner, Chairman Dept of History QAU and Dr Zainab Khalid, COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS).

The event concluded with the launch of NUST Integrated Climate Resilient Policy and Action Plan. Dr Hamood-ur-Rahman, Chairman Research, NUST and Ms Aameera Adil, AD Sustainability NUST, shed light on the plan that recognises climate change as a core issue for upcoming development, and devises remedial strategy to create a sustainable future for ourselves, communities and posterity alike.

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Engro Corporation FY 2022 Results

Waseem Khokhar

Pakistan's premier conglomerate, Engro Corporation Limited (PSX: ENGRO) announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Overview of Financial Performance during 2022

Engro Corporation's standalone revenue increased from PKR 21 billion in 2021 to PKR 24 billion in 2022, exhibiting healthy growth of 14%. Higher revenue was primarily due to higher dividends received from Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited (EPCL), Engro Fertilizers Limited (EFERT) and Engro Energy Limited (EEL) which, in turn, were driven by strong underlying business performance. Resultantly, the Company achieved an 11% higher PAT of PKR 21 billion in 2022 against PKR 19 billion in 2021, translating into an EPS of PKR 36.79 per share (2021: PKR 32.14 per share).

On a consolidated basis, Engro Corporation's revenue grew by 14% to PKR 356 billion in 2022 from PKR 312 billion in 2021. The Company posted a PAT of PKR 46 billion in 2022, which is 13% lower than PKR 53 billion in 2021 on account of Super Tax charge of 4% on retrospective and current year earnings and one-off adjustment of Engro Powergen Thar Limited (EPTL) tariff true up adjustment. The PAT attributable to the shareholders decreased to PKR 24 billion from PKR 28 billion in 2022, translating to an EPS of PKR 42.23 per share (2021: PKR 48.50 per share).

With reference to Super Tax imposition of 4% on retrospective year earnings and additional discriminatory Super Tax of 6% on selected sectors, the Group appealed before Sindh High Court (SHC) and the matter was decided in favor of the Group. Whilst having the support of our legal and tax advisors, the Group decided to maintain provision to the extent of 4% Super Tax.

Engro Corporation announced a final cash dividend of PKR 1/- per share for the year. This is in addition to the PKR 33/- per share dividend announced during the year, bringing the cumulative payout to PKR 34/- per share.

Portfolio Performance Review
 Fertilizers: Domestic market witnessed adverse implications of global economic downturn and recent severe flooding in the Country. Urea sales decreased to 1,936 KT compared with 2,295 KT in 2021, due to a 60-day LTR (Long Term Turnaround), which was the longest LTR in the last 50 years. This was achieved with a "ZERO" TRIR (Total Recordable Injury Rate) and no unplanned outages. Following the completion of this successful LTR, performance of the facility is expected to improve with a reduction in the energy index and capacity enhancement by ~170KT per annum.

International DAP prices decreased to USD 730/T on the back of slowdown in global demand and commodity cycle reversal. Due to unprecedented floods, the domestic phosphate market (DAP / NP / Zorawar) witnessed a drastic fall in demand, resulting in sales declining to 333 KT in 2022 from 366 KT in 2021.

The business enabled import substitution to the tune of USD 1.3 billion during the year. On an overall basis, the profitability of Engro Fertilizers Limited decreased by 24% to PKR 16 billion in 2022 against PKR 21 billion in 2021, impacted by levy of Super Tax.

Petrochemicals: International PVC supply remained disrupted due to resurgence of Covid-19 in China. Local supplies to domestic PVC downstream market continued uninterrupted due to steady production at Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited. Business continued its upward momentum in PVC segment with the highest ever domestic sale of 231 KT against 207 KT in 2021. After catering to local

PVC demand, the business also recorded export sales of 26 KT, including caustic exports of 15 KT, translating to an export value of USD 21 million. The business also enabled import substitution to the tune of USD 134 million.

EPCL recorded sales of PKR 82 billion in 2022 versus PKR 70 billion in 2021. PAT for the year declined to PKR 12 billion from PKR 15 billion in 2021, primarily due to the imposition of Super Tax and commodity cycle reversal.

Telecommunication Infrastructure: Engro Enfrashare (Pvt) Limited continued to expand its national footprint and achieved a scale of 3,329 tower sites with a 1.17x tenancy ratio during 2022 versus 2,246 tower sites with 1.1x tenancy ratio in 2021, catering to all four major Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) of Pakistan. The business captured a market share of 62% in Build-to-Suit (B2S) towers compared to other independent tower companies, leading to 2x revenue versus last year.

Growth potential in the business is further demonstrated by the co-location activities witnessed during the year, with total co-location tenants of 560 versus 235 in 2021, representing a 2.4x increase.

Foods & Rice: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited witnessed robust growth momentum on the back of strong volumetric sales in both Dairy and Ice Cream segments. Business demonstrated a top line growth of 40%, recording sales of PKR 73 billion as compared to PKR 52 billion in 2021. The business recorded a PAT growth of 39% from PKR 1.8 billion in 2021 to PKR 2.5 billion in 2022 due to volumetric growth driven by distribution network expansion and surge in demand post floods.

Engro Eximp Agriproducts (Pvt) Limited continued its focus towards exports as a key contributor in foreign reserves of the Country. The business generated a revenue of USD 31 million through international

sale of 36 KT of rice against 24 KT last year. Supply to the local market decreased by 8% to 12 KT during 2022 versus 13KT last year.

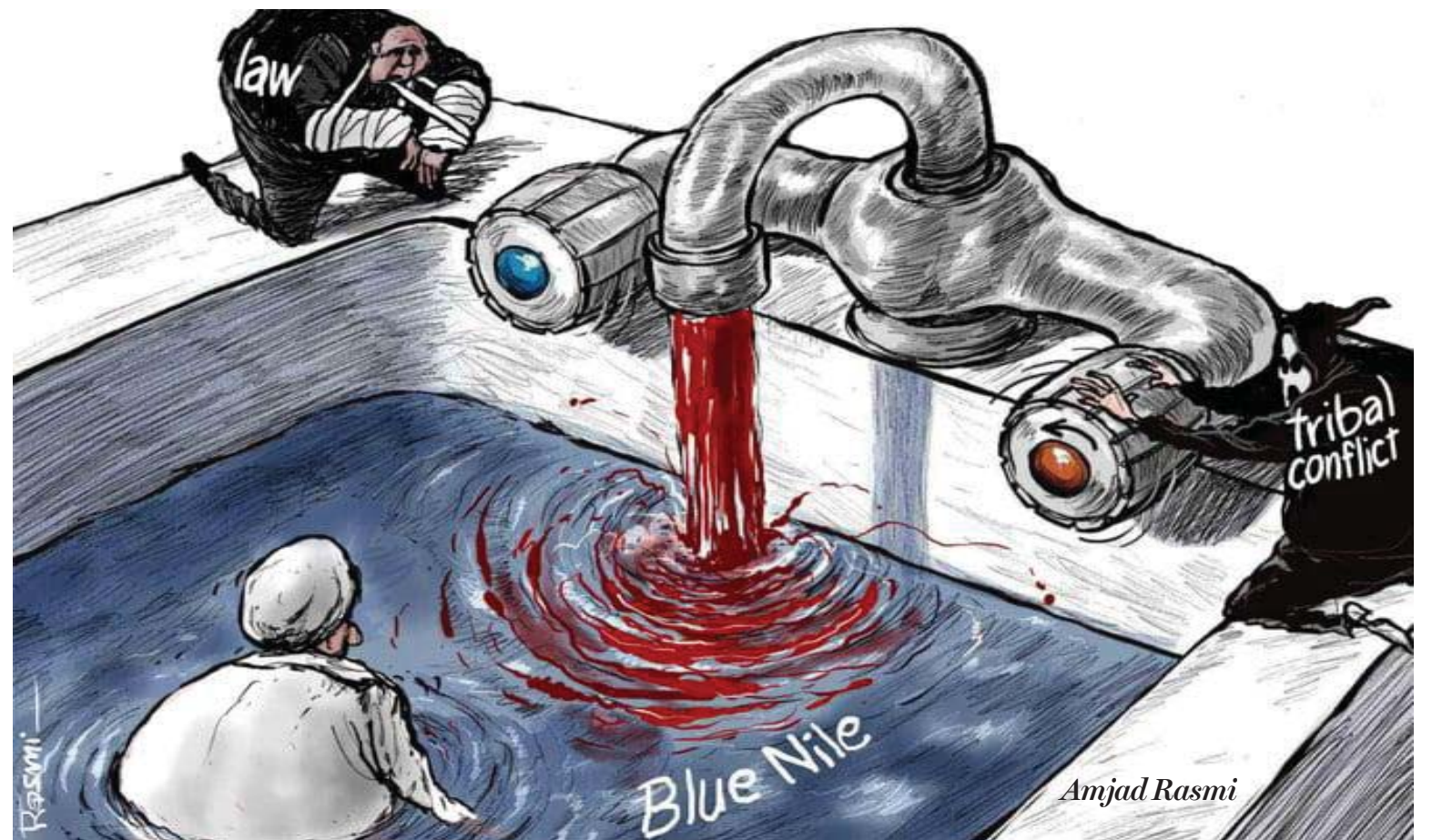
Energy & Power: Mining operations continued smoothly during the year with supplying coal to Engro Powergen Thar Limited, Thar Energy and Lucky Electric Power Company. The mine's Phase II expansion was achieved during the year, which doubled capacity to 7.6 million tons per year, effective October 1, 2022. Government of Sindh has also approved Phase III capacity enhancement to 11.4 million tons per year. The business enabled import substitution to the tune of USD 320 million during the year.

EPTL dispatched 3,679 GWH to the national grid compared to 4,225 GWH last year and achieved 73% availability as compared to 83% last year. Plant availability remained low in the first quarter but, after detailed inspection and necessary rehabilitation work, both units of the plant successfully came fully back online.

Engro Powergen Qadirpur Limited dispatched a Net Electrical Output of 768 GWH to the national grid with a load factor of 41%. Scheduled maintenance outage was undertaken for a major overhaul, conducted every sixth year. The business posted a PAT of PKR 1.5 billion in 2022 as compared to PKR 1.6 billion for 2021.

Terminals: Engro Elengy Terminal (Pvt) Limited handled 74 vessels during 2022 versus 72 vessels in 2021, delivering 219 bcf re-gasified LNG into the SSGC network with an availability factor of 97.6%. The Terminal contributed 15% towards Pakistan's total gas supply during the year.

Engro Vopak Terminal Limited recorded the highest ever volumetric increase in chemical handling to 1,331 KT in 2022 against 1,280 KT last year, attributable to higher imports of phosphoric acid and paraxylene which was offset by lower LPG marine imports of 32% over last year, primarily driven by gray channel imports.



Amjad Rasmi

Spring plantation: A viable solution to combat climate change

Enjoying 'Mongyu da Kyber Zalmi' Pashto song on his mobile phone during the unloading of his truck laden with ornamental and fruit plants, Ali Qadir (30) is asking helpers to hurry up and shift the huge stock through handcarts to his nursery located at Tarnab here before the sun sets.

Called 'Lala' by the labourers and fellow plant sellers, Qadir, who is wearing the traditional Chitrali cap, is taking extra care while separating the expansive plants, including araucaria, ganga palms, red roses, night blooming jasmine and gladiolus from other ordinary plants and urges the workers to keep them under the plastic sheds and in the veranda in the wake of climate vagaries.

"I brought these plants from Pattoki, Kasur district due to high-profit margin and varieties of native and exotic plants. Next week, I would again visit Pattoki to bring another truckload of plants after witnessing people's positive response in the spring tree plantations," said the graduated plant seller, who inherited the horticulture business from his father, Abdul Qadir, to media.

"The spring is a peak season for our business and we usually earn Rs 100,000 to 200,000 from each truck in Peshawar," he said, adding in case of unfavourable weather and plants' diseases, the expansive species may wither or die that causes huge financial losses to plant sellers in Tarnab, where about 50 nurseries having around 1,000 labourers earn their livelihood.

"Our first priority for the sale of plants is the government and national building organizations, including forest department besides NGOs due to high-profit margin," he said, adding plants sellers have started receiving substantial orders from the merged tribal districts, Malakand and Hazara divisions on the advent of spring plantations.

"Three years ago, I have purchased five feet araucaria of Karachi-origin for Rs 4,000, now available for Rs 6,000," he said, adding it was the responsibility of the forest and agriculture departments to provide plants to people at affordable rates during plantation seasons to offset the enormous challenges posed by climate change and deforestation.

Gulzar Rehman, conservator at KP forest department told APP that 78.93 million saplings were available for spring plantations to be planted with help of government departments, NGOs, farmers and the general public.

Out of these plants, he said that 27,460 million saplings would be sown in southern circle region-I including Kohat, Peshawar, Hangu, Bannu, DI Khan, Karak, Tank and Lakki Marwat, 30,190 million in northern forest region-II of Hazara division including Haripur, Abbottabad, Manshera, Batagram, Kohistan district and 21.28 million in Malakand forest region-III of Malakand division including Swat, Malakand, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Chitral, Shangla and Buner districts.

Besides the target of plantation of 77,569,444 forest plants, he said 783,693 ornamental and native species, including amaltas, chambali, bottle brush, roses, sanata, arjun, alestonia and 580,209 fruits plants including almond, guava, walnut, apple and peach would be distributed among people.

Gulzar said about 56.277 million plants would be sown through farm forestry and 42.402 million seedlings through farmers.

"The forest department has planned to provide 2.117 million plants to Gilgit Baltistan," he said, adding that GB through the Ministry of Climate Change Islamabad had requested the KP forest department to provide the same for spring plantation.

Besides raising 1.1308 million plants under urban-perri plantation and through masses, he said that 3.075 million plants would be sown through village developmental committees, 5.429 million through defense forces, 2.123 million through educational and religious institutions, government departments and other organizations besides carrying sowing and dibbling over an area of 1260 acres on suitable sites.

Ikhtari Wali Khan, PMLN KP spokesman and former member provincial assembly told APP that the ill planning and poor selection sites of the billion trees afforestation project have badly exposed the PTI rulers' lackluster policies in KP where scores of sites were washed away by the last year's floods, incurring millions of rupees losses to the government kitty.

"A large number of trees planted under the billion trees project were prematurely cut in the province, which was a violation of the plantation agreement signed between the forest department and farmers," he said, adding billion trees project was taken over by NAB that was a big question mark on PTI's good governance claims and anti-corruption slogans of Imran Khan.

Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, deputy project director, the 10 billion trees afforestation project told APP that spring plantation campaign was being officially launched next week for which the caretaker

Swan Rivers, in separate lands of the world

Javed Ullah Raja

Allah blesses the universe with numerous blessings. The same are impossible to count. When we try to think of the great blessings of Allah, the mountains, rivers, and stars first come to our mind. If we discuss the rivers, decorated with kilometers from mountains, deserts and valleys. Finally, they fall into the oceans. The areas through which the rivers pass, people get rich benefits from these rivers. Electricity is generated by building dams on these rivers. Rivers pass by making the lands, fields, and gardens lush and green. In addition to numerous vegetables and fruits of every kind are indebted to the waters of the rivers. Various types of fish, aquatic animals and pearls which Allah has made for mankind are obtained from the rivers.

Water is a great blessing for human life, and it is of great importance in daily life. Sand which is used in the construction and making of various things is obtained from these rivers. Tons of different fishes the desirable food found in rivers. From which the countries of the world earn foreign exchange in addition to their needs. Likewise, the employment of countless people around the world is also connected to rivers.

The Swan River in Pakistan passes near to the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad of our country, Pakistan. It starts from the hills of Malkay Kohsar Murree, the river then passes through the districts of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Attock and Mianwali. At Kala Bagh falls into Sind River. Its length is 250 km.

In his writing Mr. Sajjad Azhar says that during the British era, the water of the Swan River was so transparent that the government used to issue a license to extract gold from the sand here. And ancient fossils of deer, giraffe, rhinoceros and crocodile have also been found here from the banks of the swan river, which have been preserved in the Pakistan Museum of Natural History Islamabad.

The well-known Greek historian Herodotus, who lived from 425 to 484 BC, mentions the Swan River in his book and writes that there are trees on the banks of the Shushman River on which cotton flowers grow. Mr. Sajjad Azhar further writes about this, that all this information was brought to us by GE Levis, a well-known archaeologist at Yale University, for the first time in 1910, which discovered fossils here that are more than a million years old. Stone tools were also found here which can be up to two million years old. Raja Arif Minhas writes: on page 12 of his book "Archeology of Pakistan" about the name of the Swan River: that thousands of years ago there was a lake here. This came into existence here due to the river Shawlak. After a long time, the water dried up and the plateau emerged. The river passing through it was called Shovalon, which the Greeks changed to Shushamas and the Aryans to Shushman, meaning beautiful and charming, from which it has deteriorated as Swan.

Dear readers: But it is sad to say that in our country we have made the water of the river swan extremely dirty. As several kilometers of settlements that is settled on both banks of the river. All their sewerage lines and dirt are being dumped into it. Due to which this river after passing through several settlements, we have given this abundant and beautiful blessing of nature as a dirty drain. When the swan river passes under the Kak Pul (Bridge) is located on the Islamabad Highway. It flows from Sehala towards C.D.A Model Town Humak Industrial Area Islamabad, so it is being treated in a way that is not acceptable even with a dirty drain. The dirt of all the factories is being put into it. In addition to the factories in the Industrial Area, there is also a slaughterhouse on the bay of the river. In addition, the new societies have surrounded the river from both sides. This river flows ahead from Industrial area towards High Court Bridge on the Jhelum road Rawalpindi. This swan river enters in to the Nala Lai, which flows with the filth of the two big cities on its chest. And this historic Swan River becomes the Nala Lai. The local people here are witnesses that a few decades ago, the water of the Swan River was used not only for human needs; rather, people also hunted abundant fish from it, including rare species apart from Bam fish.

Pakistan-Japan signs minutes of 7th Joint Government Business Dialogue

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce and Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada signed the minutes of 7th Pak-Japan Joint Government Business Dialogue here on Thursday.

The minutes signing ceremony of the 7th Session of Japan Pakistan Joint Government Business Dialogue was held at Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar and Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada on behalf of Mr. Ryuji Satomi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, signed the minutes.



At the occasion, Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar emphasized that

Japan is an important trading partner of Pakistan and conveyed gratitude to the Government of Japan for their continuous support during the recent floods.

Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro said that Japan attached immense importance to its relationship with Pakistan and is fully committed to further improving ties in all areas of mutual interest.

Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to further develop the bilateral economic ties.

The Joint Business Dialogue is a regular government and business level interaction between Pakistan and Japan and the 7th session of the dialogue was held on 29th September 2022 in Islamabad.

Norway deputy foreign minister makes brief visit to BOI on economic ties



Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Erling Rimestad visited Board of Investment and Met Secretary BOI. He was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Per Albert Ilaas, Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan and Senior Advisors from Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was also attended by the representatives from major Norwegian business concerns in Pakistan.

The two sides discussed the entire gamut of economic relations between Pakistan and Norway. The state of bilateral economic relations was discussed and it was decided to continue joint efforts to further strengthen and diversify cooperation particularly in fields of Foreign Investments.

Appreciating the presence of prominent Norwegian companies and their role in development of Pakistan, the Secretary BOI stressed that more companies would benefit from the government's attractive investment policy. The two sides decided to keep close liaison to foster cooperation in areas of mutual interest especially investments.

Secretary BOI appreciated the role of Norwegian investments and reaffirmed BOIs abiding commitment of facilitation to Norwegian concerns regarding their investments in Pakistan.

Both sides agreed that the visit will provide an opportunity to Pakistan and Norway to explore avenues for further strengthening their ongoing economic cooperation.

Chairman of the International Naat Association hosted a dinner

Arif Chaudhry

MANCHESTER: Qari Javed Akhtar, Chairman of International Naat Association UK, gave dinner at a local restaurant in Manchester on the arrival of Pir Hasnain Mehboob Geelani, Patron General of International Naat Council Pakistan, Astana Aliya Qadria Warsiyaa Astana Lahore. In which prominent religious personalities Chaudhry Naseer Sahiwal, Qari Sabtain Ali-Ustad Saifdar and others participated.

On this occasion Qari Javed Akhtar, Chairman of International Naat Association UK said that we are grateful to Pir Hasnain Mehboob Gilani who visited the UK on our invitation. We will be participating in concerts across the UK to shower flowers of devotion on Lai and the Lord of the Universe. We are deeply grateful. Qari Sabtain Ali, the main leader of International Naat Association also welcomed him on his arrival in Britain and said that it is a matter of pride and honor for all of us that Pir Hasnain Mehboob Gilani came to Britain and gave him an opportunity to serve. Pir Hasnain Mehboob Gilani, Sajjada Nasheen of Astana Aliya Qadria



Warsiyaa Astana Lahore expressed his sincere gratitude to the International Naat Association UK and said that they have spread the remembrance of Allah and His Beloved Rasool in a very good way with Britain all over the world. I am also a part of it. My respected father planted the sapling that was planted in reference to Zikr and Milad.

Today it has become a tree. He further said that we should do the work of religion. Spread the message. He prayed specially for the security and development of Pakistan. On the occasion of the dinner, prominent business, social and religious figures, Chaudhry Naseer Sahiwal and Ustad Saifdar welcomed Pir Hasnain Mehboob Geelani to the UK.

Trade delegation to Ethiopia will increase Pakistan footprint in Africa

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdulla on Thursday said Pakistan needed to increase its footprint in Africa especially Ethiopia which is a gateway to the continent of 1.4 billion people.

"To assist Pakistan in this regard, we have organised a 5-day trade delegation to Ethiopia which will fly to Addis Ababa on March 5," the ambassador said during a briefing to members of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the political, economic and security situation of his country.

He said the trade delegation would include subsidized airfares and accommodation, business-to-business and government-to-business meetings as well as grand receptions and cultural nights hosted by the country's leadership.

"Don't mislocate yourself as this is right time to enter in Ethiopia which will connect you with the entire Africa," he remarked.

The ambassador also informed the business community of Faisalabad that a delegation of the major group of companies—Arif Habib Ltd had visited Ethiopia recently and expressed keen interest in investing its fertilizer sector.

He explained them about the bilateral trade potential between Ethiopia and Pakistan in diverse sectors of economy including manufacturing, agriculture, construction, textile, technology, fertilizer, steel and pharmaceutical sectors.

The ambassador said Ethiopia was the fastest growing economy in the world offering lucrative business, trade and investment opportunities with cheap cost of production including clean energy and skilled labour.

"We have almost completed the largest Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam with 6,500 MW capacity," he said, adding his country had already been exporting energy to South Sudan, Djibouti and others.

H. E. Jemal Beker said the government of Ethiopia was supportive of the foreign investors as it has opened up its economy and encouraging private sector to take lead for development of the country.

US values ties with Pakistan, says State Dept official; declines comments on Imran's U-turn

News Desk

WASHINGTON: A United States State Department spokesperson Wednesday refrained from commenting on former Prime Minister Imran Khan's statement absolving the Biden administration of involvement in any conspiracy to oust him from power, saying the U.S. values its long-standing relationship with Pakistan.

"I'm just not going to comment on the evolution of the blame game, as you say," Spokesman Ned Price said in a response to a question from a private Pakistani television channel's correspondent about Khan's latest U-turn from his previous position of blaming his overthrow on the U.S.

"We have spoken clearly about this ever since these erroneous allegations



surfaced. We've consistently said there is no truth to these allegations," Price added.

"We value our long-standing cooperation with Pakistan. We've always viewed a prosperous and democratic Pakistan as critical to our interests. That very much remains unchanged. Whether it has come to an end or not, we don't let propaganda, misinformation, disinformation get in the way of any bilateral relationship," the spokes-

person told reporters at his daily press briefing.

"That, of course, includes our valued bilateral relationship with Pakistan. When it comes to various political players inside of Pakistan, we don't have a position on one political candidate or party versus another. We support, as we do around the world, the peaceful upholding of democratic, constitutional, and legal principles," Price said.

Asked about the visit of a Pakistani defence delegation now visiting Washington and prospects of resumption of security assistance to Pakistan, the spokesperson said, "Nothing I'm in a position to share publicly beyond the fact that Pakistan is a valued partner of the United States. It's valued across many realms."

PM AJK visits NIRM, appreciates its services for humanity

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanvirialias Khan, while appreciating the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine's (NIRM) significant contribution to serve the suffering humanity has said that such institutions were no less than a blessing. The Prime Minister expressed these views during his visit to the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in Islamabad. The NIRM has significantly contributed in the rehabilitation of people who suffered permanent disabilities as a result of natural disasters," the PM said adding that the painful memories of 2005 deadly earthquake were still fresh in his heart and mind.



The PM said that NIRM type institutions would also be established in Azad Kashmir. Earlier, the PM was given a detailed briefing about the institution and the services it has been referring to serve humanity. The PM visited different sections of the rehabilitation center and inquired about the welfare of disabled

men and women belonging to Azad Kashmir being looked after in the center for past several years. The PM also inquired about the medical and other facilities being provided to them at the center. After seeing the woeful plight disabled men and women the prime minister burst into tears. He said that it was quite

unfortunate that the victims of such a great tragedy were forgotten.

"Years after years have passed, several governments have changed since the calamity struck the region, millions of billions of aid has also ended, but victims are still lying helpless in the hospitals for 18 years", the PM said. On

this occasion, a young man complained to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir about his dismissal from the government job, on which the Prime Minister took immediate action and issued instructions to restore the young man to his job. He said that a state-of-the-art institution on the pattern of the NIRM would be established in Azad Kashmir in which disabled people from all four provinces, including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, would be provided medical and Residential facilities. On the occasion the Prime Minister was accompanied by Government Ministers including Chaudhry Akmal Sargala, Chaudhry Maqbool Gujjar, Parliamentary Secretary Javed Butt and others.

President AJK inaugurates Women and Children Park in Mirpur



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry inaugurated the Women and Children Park being developed by the Municipal Corporation in collaboration with Social Organization Muslim Hands on Hall Road. Minister for Communications and Public Works Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq and representatives of Muslim Hands International were also present on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion the President said that it was the responsibility of the government to make the lake view city more beautiful and provide facilities according to international standards. There is a need to end the encroachment from the city and provide beautiful, clean and recreational facilities to the citizens", he said. He also appreciated the valuable services of the Muslim Hands International for the people of the region.

OIC WCC mulls over presentation of 3rd edition of achievements award in Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Women's Consultative Council (WCC) of the Ministerial Conference of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for Women has mullied over presentation of third edition of achievements award.

The OIC women's achievements award would be presented during the 9th edition session of the ministerial conference for women to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The WCC held its eighth virtual meeting chaired by Amb. Naela Jabr, Chair of the WCC, a press release from Jeddah on Wednesday said.

The meeting also discussed the women's situation in the three geographical groups of the OIC, especially in Palestine, Afghanistan, the Sahel countries, and the countries of Lake Chad, considering the challenges they faced in the member states.

It also appointed a vice-chairman of the WCC from the African Group. The participants of the meeting offered condolences, on behalf of the WCC, to the peoples of Syria and Turkiye on the death toll from the recent devastating earthquake.

Russia launches fresh missile strikes after NATO ramps up support for Ukraine

KYIV: Russia launched missile strikes across Ukraine on Thursday, Ukrainian officials said, after Western allies pledged to ramp up military aid to the Ukrainian armed forces to support a planned counter-offensive.

Ukrainian officials said air defences in the south downed eight Kalibr missiles fired from a ship in the Black Sea, but other missiles struck northern and western Ukraine as well as the central regions of Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovograd.

One missile struck an industrial site in the western city of Lviv, causing a fire which was brought under control, authorities said.

Bolstered by tens of thousands of reservists drafted in December, Russia has intensified ground attacks across southern and eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, and a major new offensive is widely expected as the first anniversary of its February 24 invasion nears.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,078.65	41,326.86
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,619.20	41,024.78
Index Value	Change
6,797,414,658	-248.21
Percentage	Time
-0.6%	16 Feb, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,010.93	+13.10
Percentage	Time
+0.17%	16 Feb, 4:29 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,898.05	-230.00
Percentage	Time
-0.67%	16 Feb, 11:29 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,696.44	+194.58
Percentage	Time
+0.71%	16 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180	182.4
Bahrain Dinar	700.58	708.58
Canadian Dollar	195	197.2
China Yuan	38.46	38.86
Danish Krone	37.77	38.17
Euro	282.2	285
Hong Kong Dollar	33.56	33.91
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.29
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	859.53	868.53
Malaysian Ringgit	62	62.6
New Zealand \$	165.34	167.34
Norwegians Krone	25.78	26.08
Omani Riyal	684.22	692.22
Qatari Riyal	72.37	73.07
Saudi Riyal	70.3	71
Singapore Dollar	197.12	199.12
Swedish Korona	25.26	25.56
Swiss Franc	285.15	287.65
Thai Bhat	7.66	7.81
U.A.E Dirham	70.3	71
UK Pound Sterling	318	321
US Dollar	266	268.9

Financial strength only possible when show primacy on personal interests: Naveed Qamar

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce on Thursday remarked that state financial strength is possible only when we prioritize state interest over our personal interest.

He said this while addressing a National Insurance Company (NICL) performance ceremony here on Thursday.

Federal Minister said that NICL pulled through trying times and became one of the top performing entities of the Government as reported a record Gross Unwritten Premium (GWP) of 25.65 Billion.

Syed Naveed Qamar lauded NICL's commitment to promoting economic growth and empowerment of the country's insurance sector.

He noted that the NICL agricultural policy provides farmers with a comprehensive coverage against losses due to floods, drought, hailstorms and other natural disasters.

He said that such policies would not only provide coverage to farmers against losses due to natural calamities, but also help them to manage their finances more effectively.

The Minister praised NICL's efforts to provide



financial security to the citizens of Pakistan through its products and services, and however said lot of work to be done.

He said that the achievement was testament to

the hard work and dedication of the NICL team.

This strong performance was driven by profitable business growth and a solid investment performance, he added.

He said that the success of NICL is an inspiration for other insurance companies to strive for excellence in their respective businesses.

It is pertinent to mention that, with a robust monetary footing, NICL is one of the highest tax payers contributing to the National Exchequer.

NICL reported a record Gross Unwritten Premium (GWP) of Rs 25.65 Billion for the end of FY 2022, demonstrating a growth of 30% from 2021 and an impressive 77.3% increase when compared to FY 2020.

This strong performance was driven by profitable business growth and a solid investment performance.

NICL investment profit for FY 2022 was around Rs 5.5 Billion, representing an increase of 28% from 2021 and 45% when compared to 2020.

The company's underwriting premium was reported to be Rs.14.47 billion in 2020, and by 2022 it had skyrocketed to an impressive Rs.25.65 billion—an increase of 77.3%! This is a huge accomplishment for the current regime, as the stigma associated with the company has been completely replaced with praise in just two years—largely due to the strong leadership of the CEO Mr. Khalid Hamid, appointed in 2021.

RODIUM Residencia

Islamabad: On the Launching Ceremony of RODIUM Residencia, Ch Naseer Ahmed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Sh Atif Akram, Karim Aziz Malik, Muhammad Ayaz Malik and Muhammad Junaid Ahmed Ch. Haroon Naseer and others posing for a group photo.



Raja Pervez Ashraf assures support for Industrial Zone in Chakwal

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry leading a delegation met with Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker National Assembly and discussed with him the plan of establishing an industrial zone in Chakwal. Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ICCI former presidents Khalid Iqbal Malik and Zafar Bakhtawari as well as Saif ur Rehman Khan and others were included in the delegation.

Addressing the delegation, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf appreciated the proposal of industrial estate in Chakwal and assured his cooperation and support for this important project. He said that the business community should arrange the land for the industrial zone and the government will cooperate in providing the necessary infrastructure.

He lauded the efforts of the business community to promote economic activities and assured his cooperation to resolve their key issues. He said that the business community is playing a key role in the economic development of the country and the government is determined to promote ease of doing business for them. He also discussed other matters of mutual interest with the dele-



gation.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the economy can be brought out of the current challenges only by boosting exports and promoting industrialization. He said that the government should speed up the work on the industrial zones under CPEC and cooperate with Islamabad and Chakwal Chambers of Commerce for setting up an industrial zone in Chakwal, which will help promote industrial activities and increase exports. He invited Raja Parvaiz Ashraf to

attend an important event of the Chamber as a special guest which will be organized during this month.

Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that due to its proximity to the twin cities and the airport, Chakwal is the most suitable place for the industrial zone, so the government should fully support the implementation of this project. He said that the industrial zone in Chakwal will start a new era of development in the area and create lot of jobs for the youth.

Former President ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik, said that

the best solution to Pakistan's economic problems lies in promoting businesses, exports and investment, so the government should cooperate with the business community in this regard.

He said that the business community is the key stakeholder in the economy and the government should formulate economic policies in consultation with them, which will yield positive results.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Saifur Rahman Khan and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions for better promotion of business activities.

Europe's increased need for liquefied natural gas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Europe's increased need for liquefied natural gas (LNG) looks set to intensify competition with Asia for limited new supply available over the next two years and may dominate LNG trade over the longer term, according to Shell's LNG Outlook 2023.

European countries, including the UK, imported 121 million tonnes of LNG in 2022, an increase of 60% compared to 2021, which enabled them to withstand a slump in Russian pipeline gas imports following its invasion of Ukraine. A 15 million tonne fall in Chinese imports combined with reduced imports by South Asian buyers helped European countries to secure enough gas and avoid shortages. Europe's rapidly rising appetite for LNG pushed prices to record highs and generated volatility in energy markets around the world.

With reduced Russian pipeline gas, LNG is becoming an increasingly important pillar of European energy security, supported by the

rapid development of new regasification terminals in north-west Europe. In contrast, China is evolving from being a rapidly growing import market to playing a more flexible role with an increased ability to balance the global LNG market.

"The war in Ukraine has had far-reaching impacts on energy security around the world and caused structural shifts in the market that are likely to impact the global LNG industry over the long term," Steve Hill, Shell's Executive Vice President for Energy Marketing, said.

"It has also underscored the need for a more strategic approach – through longer-term contracts – to secure reliable supply to avoid exposure to price spikes."

The drop in Russian pipeline gas flows prompted unprecedented policy and regulatory intervention as governments in Europe sought to bolster energy security and shield their economies from high costs, including prioritising LNG imports and quickly developing new import terminals.

Chairman SECP and stakeholders discuss the PSX's New Trading System launch

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Chairman, Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Akif Saeed met with representatives of the brokerage industry to deliberate successful re-launch of New Trading System (NTS) at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). The Chairman was accompanied by Commissioner SECP, Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich and the SECP team, including Ms. Musarat Jabeen, Executive Director, Chairman's Secretariat, and Mr. Asif Iqbal, Head of Department, PRDD-SMD.

The Chairman SECP and his team were apprised of the experiences, including the issues and challenges, faced

by brokerage houses during mock tests of Jade Trading Terminal (JTT) and other ancillary systems that have recently been conducted by PSX to ensure successful testing of the functionalities and speed prior to going-live with NTS.

The Chairman, SECP, stressed the importance of continuous collaboration and communication amongst all stakeholders for the successful re-launch of NTS at PSX. Further, he also ensured to provide necessary support to all relevant stakeholders, as a timely and smooth launch of the NTS is critical for the introduction of new products, the development of the derivative market, and the overall progress of the capital market in Pakistan.

Trade & industry absolutely not consulted in mini budget



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has criticized the government for the total lack of consultation in the mini budget with the business, industry and trade community – the real stakeholders of the economy & taxation system; and, the real engines of economic growth, employment creation and revenue generation. Had we been consulted, we could have helped the government with a more practical & inoffensive approach to meet the prior actions' requirements of the IMF, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh emphasized that only rapid industrialization coupled with aggressive import substitution; incentivizing exports and encouraging remittances have the potential to avert default in the coming years; otherwise, Pakistan will remain on the tenterhooks for ever-looming default for many years to come.

FPCCI Chief explained to the country's leadership that the business community is the real backbone of any economy as they are the progressive, patriotic, law-abiding and earning hands of the state. If you keep the economic, commercial, trade and investment activities afloat in the country, the business community will make it possible for the government to raise the revenue collection to the tune of PKR. 9 trillion in FY24, he assured.

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: First-ever high-rise in the diplomatic enclave, constructed by a consortium of reputed developers has been inaugurated.

The will be one of the most iconic buildings in the Federal Capital having hundreds of luxury residential apartments, showrooms, shops, play areas, restaurants, etc.

The environment-friendly project will also have swimming pools, a fitness center, a movie theatre, and other facilities.

Talking to reporters, Atif Ikram Sheikh, Chairman of Mujahid

Group and former VP FPCCI said real estate is a growing sector to meet the needs of residential and commercial consumers.

Therefore, the landscape of real estate development has been changing and a lot of innovations are taking place which is attracting investors.

He said that Rhodium Residencia is a project that embodies all these aspects and is being completed despite many economic challenges and infrastructural obstacles.

He said that he would like to thank consortium partners including Potohar Group, Sardar Group,



Nova Group, and Fazal Steel for playing a very critical role in the project and their foresight guaranteeing the satisfaction of stakeholders and making the initiative stand out in the market.

The utmost satisfaction of local and international customers is at the heart of our business model as all our partners are committed to delivering high-quality products to our valued customers at a competitive price, Atif underlined.

Real estate investment is a very effective antidote to rapid inflation and our project will offer one of the highest rental yields.

BankIslami signs MoU with Karachi Kings

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading Islamic financial institution, BankIslami, has signed an MoU to join forces with Karachi Kings, as they become platinum sponsors to the franchise, marking their presence in the most anticipated cricketing event of the year, Pakistan Super League season 8.

The MoU was signed by Bilal Fiaz, Group Head of Consumer Banking, and Mr. Wasim Akram, President, Karachi Kings. Syed Amir Ali, President and CEO BankIslami, Captain of the team, Mr. Imad Wasim, senior management from BankIslami, along with dignitaries from the sporting, corporate, and media spheres in Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Group Head of Consumer Banking, Bilal Fiaz, shared, "At BankIslami, we have always believed in supporting initiatives that bring communities together and promote healthy competition.



Today, we are proud to announce our partnership with Karachi Kings as their platinum sponsors for the 8th season of the PSL. We look forward to supporting the team in their endeavors and helping to bring the excitement of the

game to fans across the country. Here's to a bright future, filled with exciting and unforgettable matches as we begin our journey for this year's PSL because whoever is the winner of the tournament, in the end, Jeetay Ga Pakistan."

BankIslami has always been at the forefront when it comes to elevating the sports landscape in Pakistan, just as they have elevated their financial services to meet the needs of their customers.

Ehsanullah destroys Quetta Gladiators to seal victory for Multan Sultans

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Fast bowler Ehsanullah destroyed Quetta Gladiators batting lineup by taking 5 wickets guiding Multan Sultans to a convincing 9-wicket victory in the third match of PSL-8 at Multan on Wednesday night.

Earlier, Multan Sultans chose to bowl after winning the toss, a decision that proved fruitful.

Finishing with impressive figures of 5/12, six feet tall right arm fast bowler Ehsanullah was a sensation to watch as he broke the rivals' batting backbone sending main batsmen to pavillion.

The 150+ km/h bowler clean bowled Gladiators captain Sarfraz Ahmad, Naseem Shah, got Iftikhar Ahmad pinned before stumps on the very first ball, Umar Akmal caught behind and Jason Roy was out by throwing his wicket in the safe hands of Miller.

It was the fast bowling battery of Multan Sultans that did the ultimate damage as the rest of the two bowlers Sameen Gull and Abbas



Afridi shared two wickets each, reducing Gladiators to a manageable total of just 110 in 18.5 overs. Osama Meer claimed one wicket. Multan Sultans surpassed the total after losing just one wicket with Rilee Rossouw leading from the front with an unbeaten 78, another big performance finishing the game for Multan in the 14th over after fast bowlers set the stage for a seemingly easy victory.

Multan Sultans captain Muhammad Rizwan also remained unbeaten at 28 while Shan Masood (3) was the only wicket Sultans had lost in pursuit of triumph.

Scorers from Gladiators included Jason Roy (27), Husnain (22), Muhammad Hafeez (18), Muham-

mad Nawaz (14) and Umar Akmal (11). Ehsanullah was declared the player of the match.

Speaking to mediapersons, Rilee Rossouw said he was happy his contribution was part of Multan Sultans victory. He said that the pitch was bowling friendly in the first innings but became better for batters to bat on in the second innings.

"Conditions definitely got better towards the second inning. The ball was drifting more in the first innings, our bowlers recognize that and bowled well. It was a little bit better and easier to bat on in the second innings," Rossouw said. "It wasn't that we were batting on a completely different wicket but it was a little easier to bat on later."

Pakistan celebrates Muneeba's century in T20 World Cup

CAPE TOWN: Following the smashing play by Muneeba Ali against Ireland as the Pakistani batter scored the first century (102 runs) of the Women's T20 World Cup in Newlands, Cape Town on Wednesday, Pakistani cricket fans are heaping praises on the young cricketer.

The slightly-built Muneeba had not previously scored a half-century in 44 T20 internationals although she made a one-day international hundred against the same opponents in Lahore last November.

However, her recent performance — termed "clinical" by Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof — has given the country full of cricket fans all the more reason to be jubilant, taking the Pakistan Super League (PSL)-induced cricket fever to a new pitch altogether.



PCB to support inaugural Over 40s World Cup: Najam Sethi

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association (PVCA) Fawad Ijaz Khan called on the Chairman of the Management Committee of PCB Najam Aziz Sethi to inform him about the details of the Inaugural Over 40s World Cup.

The Inaugural Over 40s World Cup is scheduled to be held in Karachi from 23rd September to 8th October 2023 according to a communique here on Thursday.

Fourteen Countries will be participating in the Mega Event and a total of 56 matches will be played on eight different grounds.

A number of well-known former Test players from 14 countries are expected to feature in this World Cup.

Fawad Ijaz Khan explained the details of this World Cup as well as the other activities of PVCA both at the domestic and international levels in a meeting that lasted approximately one hour.

Pakistan Over 50s team will be traveling to Cape Town South Africa next month to participate in the Over 50s World Cup.

Najam Aziz Sethi appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association for efficiently conducting a broad array of Cricket activities including organizing the Inter School Cricket Tournaments.

He applauded the World Cup-winning Pakistan Over 60s team which lifted the trophy in Brisbane in September 2022.

Moreover, the Chairman Management Committee of PCB ensured complete support in the organization of the Inaugural Over 40s World Cup.

Major upsets in IITF Pakistan World Junior Tennis Championships

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Major upsets were caused in the semi-finals of the IITF Pakistan PPL - Syed Dilawar Abbas World Junior Tennis Championships as top seed players were seen off by their opponents at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad on Thursday.

The 4th seed Vlada Guryleva of Russia eliminated top seed Zeynep Erbakan of Turkey in a thrilling three-set Girls Singles first semi-final 1-6 6-2 7-5. In the second semi-final, unseeded Yejun Lee of Korea toppled 3rd seed Defne Erbakan of Turkey 6-1, 6-0 to make it to the final.

In the Boys Singles 1st semi-final, unseeded Yuan Lu of China qualified for the final as he edged passed 2nd seed Cem Atlamis of Turkey, who left the match due to a health issue. In the second semi-final, 6th Seed Kamonpanyakorn Thadpong of Thailand eliminated 3rd seed Bugra Ockoc of Turkey in straight sets 6-2, 6-0.

Results:
Boys Singles Semi-finals: Yuan Lu (CHN) bt Cem Atlamis (TUR) 3-0 (Retd.); Kamonpanyakorn Thadpong (THA) bt Bugra Ockoc (TUR) 6-2, 6-0.

Girls Singles Semi-finals: Yejun Lee (KOR) bt Defne Erbakan (TUR) 6-1, 6-0; Vlada Guryleva (RUS) bt Zeynep Erbakan

Benzema scores two penalties as Real Madrid breeze past Elche in LaLiga

A Sports -

MADRID: Karim Benzema netted two goals on penalties as Real Madrid stormed bottom-placed Elche at Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday to restore the eight-point gap to leaders Barcelona.

Marco Asensio and Luka Modric also scored goals in each half during Real's comfortable 4-0 win, which cut short arch-rival Barcelona's eleven-point lead over them.

Real, who won the Club



World Cup in Morocco on Sunday for a record fifth time, are second on the La Liga table with 48 points after 21 games.

Madrid fully dominated the visitors throughout the game with Asensio breaking the deadlock in just eight minutes when he went past Elche's defence and fired a

low shot into the bottom left corner.

Ballon D'Or winner Benzema double the lead after the half-hour mark from the spot, after his header was handled by Enzo Roco in the area.

The French forward made it 3-0 before half-time through another penalty, awarded to Real for a foul on forward Rodrygo.

Benzema's brace took him to 11 league goals in the season, three short of leader Robert Lewandowski of Barcelona.

Dominant Australia seal perfect win over Sri Lanka in Women's T20 WC

A Sports

GQEBERHA: Megan Schutt-led Australian bowling attack restricted Sri Lanka to 112/8 before their openers Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney led the side to a dominating 10-wicket victory in the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Put into bat first, the Sri Lankan batting lineup failed completely and could only raise 112/8 in their allotted 20 overs despite Harshitha Samarawickrama's 34.

Samarawickrama partnered strongly with skipper Chamari Athapaththu (16) to script a solid start for her side before the latter failed to stretch her knock

and perished in the sixth over.

Vishmi Gunaratne then joined Samarawickrama in the middle and added 39 runs for the second-wicket partnership but remained a touch too slow as they conceded 51 deliveries in the process.

Grace Harris, who returned with 2/7 in three overs finally removed Samarawickrama in the 14th over. She remained the top-scorer for her side with 34 off 40 deliveries, laced with three boundaries.

Following her dismissal, Sri Lanka ran into a frustrating collapse and kept losing wickets till the final over with Australia consequently halting them to 112/8.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. M Ansar Mehmood Kiani with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Sarwar citizen number 6110158174777 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

- 1.Naheeda Sarwar (Daughter)
- 2.Shakeela Bibi (Daughter)
- 3.Tahira Sarwar (Daughter)
- 4.Zahida Bibi (Daughter)
- 5.Shahida Parveen (Daughter)
- 6.M Ansar Mehmood Kiani (Son)
- 7.Rashid Mehmood (Son)
- 8.Yasir Mehmood (Son)
- 9.Amjad Mehmood (Son)
- 10.Raja Zubair Sarwar (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Nusrat Parveen Anwar with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mohammad Anwar Khan citizen number 6110113474345 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

- 1.Saima Anwar (Daughter)
- 2.Nusrat Parveen Anwar (Spouse)
- 3.Zeeshan Ali Khan Anwar (Son)
- 4.Shah Raza Khan Anwar (Son)
- 5.Usman Khan Anwar (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Matloob Hussain with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nazar Bibi citizen number 6110122760984 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

- 1.Naseem Akhtar (Daughter)
- 2.Mehmood Akhtar (Son)
- 3.Matloob Hussain (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mst. Noreen Akhtar D/o Adul Dhehan (W/o Suleman Khan, co.allottee of plot No.95-E, Block-C, Area Development Scheme, Attock have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mrs. Taj Bibi w/o Abdul Dhehan vide registered deed at No. 569/4 dated 22-02-2022 from Sub Registrar, Attk. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer share alongwith own share of the above mentioned plots to Mr.Abdul Salam s/o Abdul Dhehan.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi