

Pakistan Post launches a variety of new special mail, financial services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has launched a variety of new special mail and financial services which were running in competition with private courier services. According to Pakistan Post, the hallmarks of these premier postal services were cheaper rates, high efficiency and widest network etc. Pakistan Post having country wide network where others simply cannot reach provides efficient, cost effective, secures products and services to the people and organizations. —APP

The Business

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Welfare of special persons top priority of AJK government: Qayyum

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has said that his government was giving special attention for rehabilitation and welfare of special persons in Azad Jammu Kashmir. Talking to a delegation of visually impaired people at Jammu and Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday the Prime Minister assured them that the PTI government would take all necessary steps for their welfare. —APP

PML-N, PPP trade blame over alleged bribes to voters in NA-133

ISLAMABAD: The war for votes between PML-N and PPP in Lahore's NA-133, where a by-election is due on December 5, has gone beyond the constituency to social media, where a viral video appears to show voters being bribed by party members.

Both parties have blamed each other's workers for the alleged move.

PML-N's Muhammad Arif registered a complaint with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) stating that the PPP is "buying off votes in the constituency".

Arif alleged that the PPP is taking oath from the "bought" voters and distributing Rs2,000 per person. PML-N's Ali Pervaiz Malik also appeared on video to speak about the matter. He said he condemns the move and hopes that PPP will take notice of such ongoings and put a stop to them immediately.

"This fake video, in which all the characters are masked, this attempt to launch a campaign (against PML-N), has been rejected by the people of Lahore," he said.

He said in the 2018 election, Malik Pervaiz won with 90,000 votes and the "tactics" being employed by PPP come from a party who "did not even secure a tenth of the votes of PML-N". Meanwhile, PPP Punjab's secretary of information, Shahzad Cheema, noted that such videos are doing the rounds on social media, saying that "the clips are being made to go viral by both parties".

He claimed his party had not issued directives to anyone to give any money.

"If this has occurred at any level, the PPP strongly condemns the act," he said.

Cheema said that the videos are a "ploy" to ruin the election.

PPP central punjab's general secretary, Syed Hasan Murtaza, issued a video statement accusing PML-N of according respect to the "note" (currency) instead of the "vote".

"PML-N cannot help but engage in Chhanga Manga politics," he was quoted as saying by PPP Punjab.

According to the statement, Murtaza said that PPP is competing against PML-N "on the basis of ideology rather than money", and that the party "does not believe in the buying and selling of votes". "It is only the PPP that respects the voter and the vote," Murtaza was further quoted as saying. —APP

NA Speaker calls to strengthen democratic values

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has called for collective global efforts to strengthen democratic values.

He expressed these views while addressing General Assembly of the 143rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference being held in Madrid Spain, said a message received here.

Addressing the assembly, the Speaker said that the Conference is very important for us as it resonates with the many of the contemporary challenges, including those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that global surge in populism threatens to submerge the core tenets of democracy.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that quick scan of the global landscape reveals three clear signs of democratic progress, adding that today's globalized world has increasingly embraced democratic values and principles.

All States, irrespective of their size and power, enjoy the right of sovereign equality in the global governance system. Dialogue, consensus-building and cooperation are essential ingredients of our multilateral work and responses to an array of global challenges.

He said that promoting welfare and protecting rights of human beings remain the raison d'être of political dispensations. Today, governments 'of the people' exist 'for the people' and 'by the people'.

He said that in today's digital era, citizens have become immensely empowered. New and emerging technologies have unlocked access to a wealth of information, promoted transparency, and opened new avenues of civic participation.

He said that these encouraging trends have highlighted new challenges. Highlighting the three specific challenges, the Speaker said that the global surge in populism threatens to submerge the core tenets of democracy. Hate-based ideologies have fragmented societies,



PASNI: Senior officers of Pakistan Navy brief Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on the preparedness of Pakistan Navy at PNS Zarrar in the deep sea near Pasni Balochistan.

E-commerce trade to create business scope for Pakistani women

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio on Sunday said that in the current era of e-commerce, there are business opportunities for Pakistani women in markets around the world, including Indonesia.

"The volume of e-commerce market in Indonesia would reach at US\$50 billion by the year 2025, which could be fully utilized by Pakistani businesswomen, the Indonesian ambassador told APP, while he was along his spouse Mrs Irina Tugio in the annual charity bazaar held by the Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association.

The ambassador said that Pakistani women specialize in handicrafts and other skills and their art and skills are in demand all over the world including Indonesia.

He said that Pakistan and Indonesia are the largest countries in the world with a young population with young women who can increase their business activities in e-commerce and accelerate economic activ-

ities in both the regions.

The ambassador said that "we would extend full cooperation for the furtherance of business relations between the business women of both the countries, which would also help in the economic empowerment of women.

Meanwhile the spouse of Indonesian Ambassador, Mrs Irina Tugio said that in order to bring Pakistani and Indonesian businesswomen closer, "we need more work in the area of common interest."

She said Indonesian and Pakistani women are very skilled in handicrafts and they can strengthen the working relationship by bringing this art to each other's countries.

She said that the traditional Indonesian 'Batik' is very popular in Pakistan and there is a lot of work to be done on its promotion.

Mrs Irina Tugio said that by promoting 'Batik' and other common garments and food, new avenues of cooperation

could be paved between the two countries.

She said the historical, religious and cultural ties between the two countries could help bring business women of the two countries closer together.

The common dress and eating habits of the two countries can serve as a bridge to enhance economic, trade and cultural ties, she added.

She said the cultural heritage of both the countries is enriched, which Pakistan and Indonesia can take full advantage of.

AMrs Irina Tugio said that full cooperation of women on both sides in small business including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) would not only lead to women empowerment but also increase trade between the two countries.

She said that in today's modern age, online commerce has created conveniences for all kinds of industries as a result, women's handicrafts can be sold at high prices in the world's major markets. —APP

Investment policies growing KP as land of opportunities

PESHAWAR: The investment friendly policies of the incumbent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and efforts of the KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), the province is attracting foreign and local investments and growing the province as the land of opportunities.

The province has now revived 124 units, which had generated over 3000 employment and investment of Rs.2400 million, beside 271 new under-construction units across all economic zones while 86 units have already been operationalized.

The business community and officials are attributing the remarkable achievements to Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Abdul Karim Khan, Secretary Industries, Hamayun Khan and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak. On the directives and guidelines of the Chief Minister, the management of the company is following a highly business friendly policy and has converted all estate offices to Industrial Facilitation Offices, registered SPV company for flagship Rashakai Special Economic Zone and has also signed a development agreement with China Road and Bridge Company (CRBC). The company has already successfully launched five economic zones including Jalozai EZ, Nowshera EZ (Extension), D.I. Khan EZ, Rashakai EZ and Chitral EZ while fast-track development and provision of utilities to 11

more such schemes are in full-swing.

Talking to APP, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak said that 59% work on road infrastructure, 85% overhead tank, 5MW independent feeder work is in progress while a 200 KVA power transformer have already been installed at Jalozai EZ while 55% work on road infrastructure and 75% water supply completed, another one 5MW independent feeder in progress and 200 KVA transformer has been installed.

The Rashakai SEZ has been energized with 10MW electricity, 80% work 160MW and 30MMCFD gas provision completed and access road has been completed. Similarly, work on other SEZs and EZs is also passing through different stages while the PC-1 of the Mohmand Special Zone has been submitted to Planning and Development Department while a request for imposition of Section-4 for acquisition of 140 acres more land, Centre of Excellence in marble mining & processing technology, feasibility study have also been submitted. Similarly, Colonization of the zone has also been started and three units have started production.

In D.I.Khan Economic Zone, work on rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and colonization has been started and 6 units are operational. A scheme worth PKR 835m for the establishment of Buner Marble City has been approved while Section-4 has been imposed for setting up Salt & Gypsum City at

Karak.

The company has also mobilized investment to the tune of Rs.165 billion through new and existing economic zones and since March 2020 has allotted 357.61 acres of land to investors. It has also succeeded in savings in infrastructural costs made in Jalozai and Hattar special economic zones. In Jalozai, through reduction of right of way and unnecessary utilization of lanes infrastructure, it has reduced infrastructure cost from Rs.3.5 billion to Rs.527 million while in Hattar, storm sewer and water supply cost has reduced from Rs.2.9 billion to Rs.639 million.

The company is committed to providing world class industrial infrastructure and facilitate investors through its industrial facilitation offices. CEO said that KP-EZDMC is the only company in Pakistan, which work on the sector specific industries and for this purpose is working three such economic zones including in mineral and one in salt & gypsum. The mineral sector projects are included Mohmand Economic Zone and Buner Marble City while Salt & Gypsum City-Karak. The aim of these projects is the value-addition of mineral products.

For this purpose, he said the company is making all out efforts to attract foreign investors and increase the exports of of the mineral's products, beside skill development of the local manpower and promotion of the use of modern technology to present them as efficient sectors of the province. —

Concern over flaws in proposed SME Policy

Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: The Friends of Economic & Business Reforms (FEBR) President Kashif Anwar, raising serious concern over the flaws in the proposed SME Policy, has stated that the new policy has not addressed all sectors of the economy.

"It is also very important to look at those SMEs, which are not manufacturers and whose turnover is more than Rs250 million, besides addressing their issues of Income Tax, Sales Tax, Statements, Withholding, Returns, Filings, Audits, fines, penalties and surcharges," he observed in a letter. The letter has

been sent separately to Federal Board of Revenue Chairman, Federal Industries Minister and SMEDA CEO.

In the letter, Kashif Anwar also appreciated the government initiative to facilitate SME sector, announcing rules for the computation of profit and gains for small and medium enterprises in fourteenth schedule under section 100E in recent budget. But, he pointed out that the draft of the SME policy does not even mention or discuss the EOAB, Social Security, PRA, Education Cess, Labor Department and several other provincial as well as federal regulatory authorities, their rules and registrations issues.

"In order to simplify tax structure and attract entrepreneurs, FBR

has divided SME sector into two categories i.e. turnover up to Rs100 million and Rs250 million and devised two schemes for them," he said.

He added that a business whose turnover is up to Rs100m has to pay 7.5% of taxable income and business whose turnover is above Rs100m up to Rs250m has to pay 15% of taxable income.

On the other hand, they can also opt for final tax regime with rate 0.25% of gross turnover up to Rs100m and rate 0.5% of gross turnover up to Rs250m.

"We have to educate, encourage and appreciate those enterprises which are afraid of the tax system. It will ultimately enhance the tax base and the revenue targets," he added.

PR revenue registers increase in 2020-2021

ISLAMABAD: The revenue of Pakistan Railway has increased from Rs 47,587.9 million in 2019-20 to Rs 48,651.7 million in 2020-21, registering an increase of around Rs 1,063.8 million.

"Pakistan Railways has earned Rs 48,651.7 million during 2020-21 as compared to Rs 47,587.9 million during 2019-20," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

The official said the working expenses of Pakistan Railways has also decreased to Rs 95,883.8 million in 2020-21 as compared to Rs 97,740.4 million in 2019-20.

He said that accounts of Pakistan Railways for the financial year 2018-19 and 2019-20 had been audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP). Similarly, accounts of the financial year 2020-21 would also be audited by the same authority, he added.

He said the AGP was responsible to express an opinion on these financial statements based on audit in accordance with the requirements of Article 169 & 170 (2) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The official said the reports were regularly submitted to the Public Accounts Committee.

Regarding the up-gradation of Main Line-I, he said it was a flagship railway infrastructure project under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which ECNEC approved on August 2020 at a rationalized cost of \$6.806.

He said the project had been planned to be executed in three packages while preliminary design of the project had been completed and a formal request for the loan for package-I had been conveyed to the Chinese side through Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

The execution of the project was tied with the on-going financial negotiations between the high level financing committees of China and Pakistan, the official added. —APP

'India has turned IIOJK into military garrison'

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Movement (JKEM) has said that India has practically turned the territory into a military garrison.

The JKEM spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the pretender of so-called big democracy and secularism was involved in massive human rights violations in the occupied territory, Kashmir Media Service reported.

He said that in Hyderpora and Ram Bagh, areas of Srinagar, the Indian terrorists in uniform, while playing a vicious game of brutality, martyred innocent civilians. He added that the Indian troops were killing innocent civilians and destroying property on daily basis in IIOJK.

The spokesman said, the Kashmiri people reject the illegal occupation of India and the unilateral measures of August 5, 2019 by Modi-led fascist Indian government. He lamented that the authorities had put the Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership under house arrest or in jails while thousands of Kashmiris, especially the youth, have been behind the bars for years under black laws including the Public Safety Act (PSA). —APP

FBR hunts 1st non-tax stamped sugar consignment

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Sunday has seized 172 Sugar bags, which were found without affixation of tax stamps in one warehouse.

Inland Revenue Enforcement Network (IREN) Squad of Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation (I&I)-IR, Hyderabad, in a major counter-tax evasion operation, has seized 172 Sugar bags, which were found without affixation of tax stamps in one warehouse, said a press release issued by FBR here.

In compliance of STGO 05 of 2021 dated 11th November, 2021 issued by Project Director, (Track and Trace System) and specific directions of Member-IR (Operations), FBR Islamabad, and Dr Amir Talpur, Director General I&I (IR) Islamabad, the team of Directorate of I&I (IR) Hyderabad (IREN) visited area of Tower Market Hyderabad on 27th November, 2021 to check



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Education & National Heritage Shafiqat Mahmood addresses during a ceremony organised by Chairman Millat Group of Companies at Gymkhana, Golf Club.