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At ECO Summit 2023:

PM calls for holding Israel accountable on its persistent fatal bombardment in Gaza

Says killers of Gaza children following Pharaoh's path; Urges all ECO member states to immediately rally behind Palestinians; Issue must be addressed via UNSC and OIC resolutions

TASHKENT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday strongly denounced the Israeli bombardment in Gaza and drew a historical comparison, highlighting similarities between Israel's actions and those of Pharaoh in their tragic impact on children.

The prime minister, in his address at the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), urged the member countries to rally the efforts to hold Israel to account for its incessant and lethal bombing on the Palestinian people.

In his wide-ranging address, he raised the issue of Gaza humanitarian crisis twice and reiterated condemnation of killing of children and women, and targeting the hospitals by Israeli forces.

"With the elimination of children, I recall in the history when Pharaoh, on the advent of the Moses' birth killed children. And now, unfortunately, the people who claim to be the followers of Moses, are following the path of Pharaoh," he remarked.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Commerce Minister Goher Ejaz, and Caretaker Communications Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar accompanied the prime minister in the summit held at the Tashkent Convention Center.

He told the ECO leaders that the incessant and lethal Israeli bombardment on Gaza was a deplorable

act calling for international condemnation.

The prime minister said the situation needed to be addressed as per the resolutions of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

He urged the member countries to push for a ceasefire and support the call for the provision of humanitarian aid, besides rallying efforts to hold Israel to account.

He urged the participating countries and the international community to rally behind to have a humanitarian corridor so that the unfortunate and defenceless people of Palestine could be helped out.

Prime Minister Kakar also apprised the regional leaders of the unabated In-

dian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and emphasised the ECO countries to support Kashmiris in achieving their right of self-determination.

He also touched upon the issues of intolerance, violence and xenophobia, and called upon the ECO members and international community to work for building legal deterrence against Islamophobia while maintaining mutual respect, and harmony and co-existence. The prime minister is on a two-day visit of Uzbekistan mainly to attend the summit, besides engaging with the leaders of different countries to discuss mutual cooperation.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

Haq Kakar on Thursday, reiterating Pakistan's commitment to the ECO Vision 2025, called for collective efforts and accelerated reforms to achieve the Organisation's objectives and region's trade potential for bringing "colossal" economic and peace dividends. "Let us make ECO an organisation, not just of words, but actions, not just commitments but implementation. It is crucial for us to work collectively and diligently to realise the goals and objectives of the Organisation... Our region, if well connected, can bring colossal economic and peace dividends for our people," the prime minister said addressing the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).



TASHKENT: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the 16th ECO Summit.

Govt. to send back registered refugees after deporting illegal migrants: Jan Achakzai

Warns Afghan govt against giving harsh statements; It is a fact that Afghanistan is being used against us; We expect Afghanistan to do same; send back illegal Pakistanis

Independent Report

KARACHI: As a crackdown on illegal foreigners continues in Pakistan, the government plans to send back registered migrants as well after deporting the undocumented settlers, Balochistan's caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai said on Thursday.

"So far, 80,000 immigrants from Balochistan have left Pakistan. After this, [we] will send back the registered refugees as well," Achakzai said while addressing a press conference in Karachi.

The minister said that the foreigners living in Pakistan should have the authentic documents.

Hundreds of thousands of foreigners have got fake identification cards, he added.

"We have not taken the responsibility of the illegal residents. The crackdown on the illegal migrants will continue," Achakzai said, while warning the government in Afghanistan against

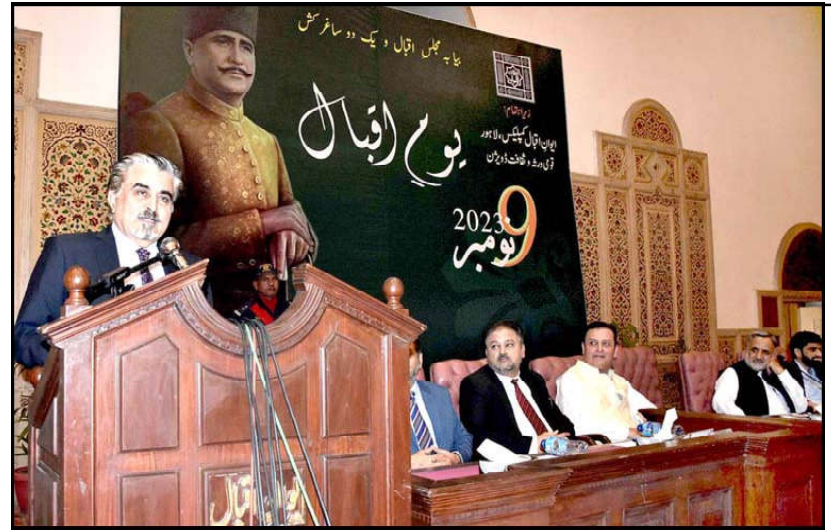


giving harsh statements. "Pakistan knows how to crush all kinds of terrorism."

The minister said that Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan have nosedived recently, but at the same time he noted that the deterioration in the relationship came as the nation was picking up the dead bodies.

Referring to an intelligence-based operation in the Samba area of Balochistan's Zhob district on October 31, in which six terrorists were killed, he said all of them were Af-

ghan. Quoting caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Achakzai said that the stats from the last two years — since the interim Taliban government took over Afghanistan — suggest a 500% rise in suicide bombings in Pakistan and a 60% rise in all over terrorist incidents. He also mentioned the trading of illegal American arms in Afghanistan's black market as a "national security threat", saying that the same illegal arms were also used in the attack on the PAF base in Mianwali.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah addressing during program Youm-e-Iqbal to mark the 146th birth anniversary of National Poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal at Aiwan-e-Iqbal.

Need to create sense of ownership among youngsters: Jamal Shah

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Culture and Heritage Jamal Shah said on Thursday that Dr Allama Iqbal had a great understanding of Islam and he benefited a lot from the last sermon of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Addressing a ceremony held in connection with the birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal at Aiwan-e-Iqbal here, he said that Iqbal was a true visionary and a brilliant scholar. He said, "Allama Iqbal interprets Islam in a way that enlightens all of us." He was a distinguished poet and his poetry had a great depth and flow.

Jamal Shah said that personality of Iqbal had very rich shades and added that people who had close connection with life they do remarkable work for others and Iqbal did same. He further said that there should be respect of

diversity adding that indigenous culture narrative had such mechanisms of conflict resolutions which could help us in sorting out many problems.

Jamal Shah said that Iqbal was well aware of this land and its people. He said that unfortunately country's youth was not empowered in a proper way adding that there was a need to create sense of ownership among youngsters and Iqbal had always seen youngsters as future leaders.

Change was possible if we make our youngsters well informed decision makers, he added.

He said that development revolution could come in country if transparency, genuine representation and opportunities to youth were provided.

He said that Saira Peter was an opera singer and minister recommended her to compose Iqbal's 'Shikwa and Jawab e Shikwa' in opera form.

Jogezai visits Afghan refugee camp in Degree College Pishin

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai visited the Afghan refugee camp set up at the Government Degree College Pishin on Thursday. He inspected the arrangements made for the medical camp set up by the Health department.

In addition to this, the Minister Health also inspected the data registration center established by NADRA there.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai

had detailed interaction with the refugees present in the camp. He said that the refugees were very happy about the 40 years' hospitality.

The refugees also thanked the government of Pakistan in this regard. The refugees present in the camp were also of the views that they would carry the positive and lovely message to their country.

In the end, they also thanked the federal and provincial governments for making nice arrangements for them at the camp.



PISHIN: Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai visiting Afghan refugee camp set up at Degree College

Kakar, Aliyev discuss bilateral, regional matters including Gaza, Kashmir

TASHKENT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, on Thursday, wherein they discussed bilateral cooperation and regional issues, including the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization being held here.

The two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations, especially in the domains of trade, defense, and energy.

Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the announcement of direct flight operations by Azerbaijan Airline

(AZAL) to Pakistan, terming it a positive development in people-to-people exchanges and advancing two-way business and tourism.

Prime Minister Kakar and President Aliyev discussed common challenges, including Islamophobia and climate change, and the critical role of ECO to promote regional cooperation and collective prosperity.

The global and regional developments, including the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and persistent Indian atrocities in IIOJK, were also discussed.

Prime Minister Kakar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, especially with respect to Karabagh.



TASHKENT: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of 16th Summit of ECO.

No chance of Pakistan seeking extension of IMF's standby agreement

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsad Akhtar on Thursday categorically refuted reports of Pakistan requesting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to either extend the timeframe of the standby agreement it had reached with it from March to June 2024 or increase its volume from \$3 billion to either \$3.5.

Talking to a private Tv channel, she said that staff-level talks between the two sides, which have been in progress since November 2,

will finish on November 15. On the other hand, experts have said that the government may have a sigh of relief if the interest rate comes down, especially in the USA, and petroleum prices also drop in the global market. Otherwise, they have said, foreign financing could become a big threat for Pakistan.

Caretaker finance minister and the IMF's Mission Chief Nathan Porter held talks this week, both along with their delegations as well as behind closed doors.

Zhob-Dhanasar section of N-50 reopens for traffic after landslides cleared

QUETTA (APP): National Highway Authority (NHA) on Thursday reopened the Zhob-Dhanasar section of Dera Ismail Khan-Quetta Highway (N-50) for all kinds of traffic which was affected due to landslides at Dhanasar.

General Manager NHA Balochistan North, Agha Inayat said that N-50 Zhob - Dhanasar is now open for all kinds of traffic.

The NHA officers and staff remained busy removing heavy landslides throughout the blockage, said a news release issued here.

The NHA crew removed the heavy landslides and reopened the blocked road. Now the national highway was open for all types of traffic. A heavy landslide occurred at the Zhob-Dhanasar section of N-50 which blocked the highway with large stones.

Allama M Iqbal's message still provides guidance for unity of Muslim Ummah: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is a reality that the message of Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal still works and provides guidance for the unity of Muslim Ummah.

This was stated by the Governor in an official statement issued here on Thursday.

The Governor said that no national movement can

meet success without the conscience guidance.

And the target can only be achieved only through conscience guidance and practical struggle, he maintained.

He said that the occasion reminds us those ideas and ideology which were advocated by Allama Muhammad Iqbal through his poetry.

Allama Iqbal had also dedicated his life for the supremacy of Islam, betterment and development of

the Muslims ummah through his thoughtful poetry, he maintained.

He also worked with high spirit for the unity, solidarity and restoration of the great past glory of the Muslims of the world, he added.

The Governor said that the poetry of Allama Iqbal not only awakened the Muslims of sub-continent from fast slumber, but also influenced Muslims living in other countries of the world.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari presides over the meeting of leadership of PPP Balochistan to discuss the public relations campaign in the context of the upcoming general elections, held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Another Congo fever patient breathes his last in Karachi

QUETTA (Independent Report/INP): Another patient suffering from Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, who was shifted to Karachi from Quetta, died at a private hospital on Thursday.

As many as 16 patients have been shifted to Karachi from Quetta during the last few days and two of them including Dr Shakkurullah had now died. The latest victim was 30-year-old Mirwaiz Khan, a resident of Pishin, who was also brought to Karachi from Quetta in an air ambulance. Two of the

remaining Congo fever patients have been discharged from the private hospital in Karachi while 12 remaining are still under treatment.

Meanwhile two more cases of Congo virus have been reported in the Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital Quetta on Thursday. According to the Fatima Jinnah Hospital sources, the fresh cases of Congo have been reported in the Hospital from Quetta. The patients with symptoms of Congo virus were brought from Jinnah Town and Kasi

road on Thursday morning and evening respectively.

The sources said that the cases of Congo virus have increased to 48 during this season. In addition to this, 16 persons including 10 doctors, five health workers had been sent to Karachi for treatment.

Two of them died during treatment in Karachi while even number of Congo patients were discharged. Currently, 12 Congo patients including doctors and health workers are under treatment at the Agha Khan Hospital Karachi.

Research based education vital for societal progress: Governor Punjab

Independent Report
MULAN: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman underscored the paramount importance of research-based education and training as the cornerstone for societal advancement and prosperity.

The Governor expressed these remarks in an insightful third convocation at the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University (MNSUA), here on Thursday.

Addressing the students, he highlighted the transformative power of individual capacity building, stressing its positive impact on families, the nation, and humanity.

The event witnessed the conferral of numerous

accolades, including gold medals and 2038 degrees bestowed upon graduates.

Balighur Rehman passionately advocated for a holistic approach to education, urging the fusion of training and academic pursuits to propel students forward.

He highlighted the significance of respecting others, polite discourse, need for investment in human resources, and the importance of research in today's world.

He wished the students to critically assess the accuracy of information on social media before accepting it. He urged students to discourage the spread of hatred.

Baligh stressed that students to check measures for the

promotion of education and health. Funds for higher education were raised from 2013 to 2018. Corruption is cancer and the students must examine the report of Amnesty International. The students must engage in well-reasoned debates by upholding respect and dignity.

He also championed the commercialization of research and the promotion of a knowledge-based economy.

Punjab Governor also inaugurated a sports complex costing Rs 250 million to promote healthy activities. Besides this, he also inaugurated the wheat sowing campaign in the varsity. His initiatives align with the mission to develop the institution into a world-class university.



KARACHI: Azad Aftab Iqbal, grandson of Allama Iqbal laying floral wreath at Mazar-e Quaid.

'Inter University Speech Competition' held to pay homage to Allama Iqbal

KARACHI (APP): An "Inter-University Speech Competition" was organized here at Mazar-e-Quaid to pay homage to the national poet of Pakistan late Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal on 'Iqbal Day'.

A large number of students from 11 universities, participated in 'Speech Competition' jointly organized by Mazar-e-Quaid Management Board (QMMB), National Heri-

tage and Pakistan Women Foundation for peace.

The grand son of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Azad Aftab Iqbal graced the occasion as chief guest while Justice @ Wajihuddin Ahmed presided over the ceremony held at Audio Visual Hall of QMMB.

Addressing the participants of the event, Azad Iqbal said Allama Iqbal was a spiritual saint, Iranians call him

Iqbal Lahori, people of the West regard him as philosopher of the East while Urdu speaking community call him as 'Poet of the East'.

Praising the speeches delivered by university students in connection with Iqbal Day, Azad Iqbal termed Allama's philosophy, a vast ocean and said, "The 'Message of Selfness' is summary of his philosophy."

KP govt introduces paperless file work titled "KP Digital Workspace"

PESHAWAR (Online): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has achieved another milestone towards e-governance by introducing paperless file work system titled KP Digital Workspace in administrative departments of the province.

Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan formally launched the newly introduced system at a ceremony held here at Chief Minister's House. With this launch, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has become the first province in the country to go towards digitalization in the government departments.

Besides Caretaker Cabinet Members,

Additional Chief Secretary P&D, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, representatives of Partner Organizations, Project Team Members and government officials attended the ceremony.

Briefing the participants about newly introduced e-governance system, it was informed that initially, "Digital Workspace" is being executed in four different administrative departments including Finance, Higher Education, Science & Information Technology and Sports whereas after two months period, it would be extended to rest of the departments in a phased manner.



MULAN: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing during the 3rd Convocation of the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture.

Nawaz Sharif and Imran should get justice before elections, Javed Latif

LAHORE (Online): PML-N Leader Javed Latif said that Mian Nawaz Sharif and Chairman PTI Imran Khan should get justice before elections.

Justice should always be same for everyone. If someone is guilty then he should be punished so as to identify who is the well-wisher of the country. Honor the vote does not mean give me turn without

the vote. All political parties should get level playing field.

While addressing press conference in Lahore Javed Latif said that nowadays two or three things are happening frequently. Do you think that the procedure is to establish a commission on WhatsApp. Anyone who wants to grow a plant of May 9th is wrong.

Four people shot dead in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): At least four people including two women were gunned down over domestic issues here at Ghalla purr under the jurisdiction of Midh Ranjha police station on Thursday.

Police said that Ahmed Shair (40) r/o Midh Ranjha had a domestic dispute with his close relatives including Faisal (30), Urfah (25), Maqsooda (60) and Sarfaraz (44) over some family issues. On the day of incident, he killed all the four after opening firing at them.

On getting information, Regional Police Officer Sargodha Region (RPO) Sharuk Kamal Siddiqui, District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Faisal Kamran along with Investigation team and police reached the spot and shifted the bodies to hospital for autopsy and necessary legal formalities.

Speakers recalls services of Dr Allama Iqbal

SUKKUR (APP): Fatima Foundation Sukkur organized a dialogue to discuss and recall the services of Dr Allama Iqbal which led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Sukkur Mayor Barrister Arslan Sheikh said that the meaning of Khudi has been distorted and now it became self-worship instead of self-esteem. The real meaning of Iqbal's concept of self-esteem was self-reliance and without it we could not be able to maintain self-esteem, he said adding that a loan-taker could

not stand before a loan-giver.

Arslan said that it was a fact that without self-reliance, maintaining self-esteem was quite impossible. We only enjoy self-esteem by acquiring self-reliance.

The Mayor said that the poetry of Iqbal was the poetic translation of Allah's word and imbued with knowledge of Holy Qur'an and love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Allama Iqbal had predicted in 1920 that the Chinese would awake from their long and deep sleep and this prediction became true in 1948 after 28 years, he added.

Dry weather likely to persist in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Thursday predicted mainly dry weather in most districts of Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

According to the Met Office, weather remained dry in the province during the previous 24 hours, while the lowest temperature was recorded in Moenjodaro, where mercury dipped to the 18-degree Celsius mark. The minimum temperature in Mithi, Dadu and Sukkur was recorded at 19 degree centigrade, Nawabshah 20 C, Thatta 21 C and minimum temperature in Karachi and Hyderabad was recorded at 22 C.

Message of 'Selfness' is summary of Iqbal's philosophy, says grandson

KARACHI (INP): An "Inter-University Speech Competition" was organized here on Thursday at Mazar-e-Quaid to pay homage to the national poet of Pakistan Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal on 'Iqbal Day'.

Students from 11 universities participated in the speech competition jointly organized by the Mazar-e-Quaid Management Board (QMMB), the National Heritage and the Pakistan Women Foundation for peace.

Azad Aftab Iqbal, the grandson of Dr Iqbal, was the chief guest while Justice @ Wajihuddin Ahmed presided over the ceremony held at Audio Visual Hall of QMMB.

Addressing the participants, Azad said the Allama was a saint; Iranians call him Iqbal Lahori, people of the West regard him as philosopher of the East while Urdu speaking community calls him as 'Poet of the East'.

Praising the speeches delivered by the students in

connection with Iqbal Day, Azad termed Allama's philosophy, a vast ocean and said, "The message of 'Selfness' (khudi) is summary of his philosophy."

Azad recited some poems of his grandfather and said, "These verses are a beacon for our youth."

"We are getting closer to Iqbal because what he felt through his poetic thought is still felt by us in our individual and national life," Azad said.

He said that Iqbal came into the world before his time and left at a time when he was needed the most.

He said that Iqbal was a great thinker and he faced the opposition on the political, religious and social fronts courageously.

Azad paid his respects to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah at his grave, visited the memorial hall of Mazar-e-Quaid and also recorded his thoughts in visitor's diary.

Later, he distributed prizes to the winners of the speech competition.

International News

Putin visits Kazakhstan, part of his efforts to cement ties with ex-Soviet neighbors

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Kazakhstan on Thursday, part of his efforts to cement ties with the ex-Soviet neighbor and major economic partner in the midst of tensions with the West over Ukraine.

Putin's talks in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana follow his trip last month to Kyrgyzstan for a summit of ex-Soviet nations and a visit to China.

Speaking at the start of his talks with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Putin hailed "multi-faceted" ties between the coun-

tries and said they would determine new areas of "strategic" cooperation.

Oil-rich Kazakhstan and other Central Asian nations have maintained a delicate balancing act, preserving strong economic ties with Moscow but refusing to recognize its annexation of Ukrainian regions.

The Russian leader has made few foreign trips since he sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. The International Criminal Court's move to indict Putin in March for alleged war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine has affected his travel as any country

that is party to the court is obliged to arrest him on its soil. Kazakhstan isn't part of the agreement that created the tribunal. Putin's trip to Kazakhstan comes days after French President Emmanuel Macron visited Astana and hailed Tokayev for withstanding geopolitical "pressures," in a hint at Moscow's efforts to keep the neighbor in its orbit.

Relations with Kazakhstan and other former Soviet republics in Central Asia have become increasingly important for Russia as it has sought new import routes to bypass Western sanctions over its actions in Ukraine.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, shakes hands with US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Aid agencies call for ceasefire as Gaza death toll reaches 10,812

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israeli forces fought Hamas militants among ruined buildings in the north of the Gaza Strip on Thursday, taking the Gaza death toll to 10,812.

Thousands more Palestinians were fleeing from the embattled north to the south along a perilous frontline path after Israel told them to evacuate, residents say.

But many are staying in the north, packed into the Al Shifa Hospital and al-Quds Hospital as ground battles rage around them and more Israeli air strikes rain down from above.

Israel says its Hamas foes have command centres embedded in the hospitals.

In Paris, officials from about 80 countries and organisations were meeting to coordinate humanitarian aid to Gaza and find ways to help wounded civilians escape the siege, now in its second month.

Aid agencies called for an immediate ceasefire.

"We cannot wait a minute more," said Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, calling Israel's actions "collective punishment."

"Without a ceasefire,

lifting of siege and indiscriminate bombing and warfare, the haemorrhage of human lives will continue."

His calls were echoed by the United Nations and the International Red Cross, although Israel and its main backer the United States reject a full ceasefire.

Israel unleashed its assault on Gaza in response to a cross-border Hamas raid on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which gunmen killed 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and took about 240 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

China 'ready' to improve ties with US

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Beijing is ready to hold talks with the United States at "all levels", Chinese Vice President Han Zheng said on Wednesday, ahead of expected summit in San Francisco between leaders Xi Jinping and Joe Biden as they seek to stabilise tense ties by meeting in-person for just the second time in nearly three years.

The summit on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum follows a six-month US push to engage its geopolitical rival, including through several unreciprocated cabinet-level visits, and recovery from a diplomatic crisis over the US downing of an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February.

Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng said the recent high-level meetings between Beijing and Washington were sending "positive signals" that relations were improving. "We're ready to strengthen communication and dialogue with the United States at all levels, advance mutually beneficial cooperation, properly manage differences and jointly address global challenges," Han said.

Relations between Washington and Beijing sunk to some of their deepest lows in recent years over a host of issues including export controls, human rights and national security.

Turkiye says EU is 'unjust and biased' on membership bid

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: The European Commission's annual report on Turkiye long-stalled EU membership bid is "unjust and biased", the Turkish foreign ministry said.

The report by the European Union's executive arm on Wednesday criticised Turkiye "serious backsliding" on democratic standards, the rule of law, human rights and judicial independence.

"We categorically reject unfounded claims and unjust criticisms, particularly on the political criteria and the Chapter on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Commission also said Turkiye did not comply with the principles of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms in its fight against terrorism.

Turkiye's top courts at odds over politician's imprisonment

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkiye's top appeals court took the unprecedented step of filing a criminal complaint against members of the constitutional court on Wednesday, over a disagreement on the case of imprisoned parliamentarian Can Atalay.

The constitutional court had ordered the release of Atalay last month, ruling that his imprisonment violated his rights to security, liberty and the right to be elected.

Belgian deputy PM seeks sanctions on Israel

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Belgium's deputy prime minister called on the Belgian government on Wednesday to adopt sanctions against Israel and investigate the bombings of hospitals and refugee camps in Gaza.

"It is time for sanctions against Israel. The rain of bombs is inhumane," Deputy Prime Minister Petra De Sutter told Nieuwsblad newspaper. It is clear that Israel does not care about the international demands for a ceasefire, she said. De Sutter said the European Union should immediately suspend its associa-

MSF staffer killed in Israeli strike in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: An employee of medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has been killed in Gaza along with several family members, the group said on Tuesday.

Mohammed Al Ahel, a laboratory technician, was killed in his home in the Shati refugee camp when the area was bombed and his building collapsed, MSF said in a statement.

"Today, Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is mourning the loss of one of our team members in Gaza."

Japan and UK ministers discuss deeper security ties on the sidelines of G7 meeting

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese and British foreign and defense ministers met Tuesday and agreed to further deepen military cooperation under a new security pact that allows their militaries to enter each other's territory for joint exercises. Japan and Britain have expanded their cooperation in recent years as concern has grown over China's increasing influence. Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has signed Reciprocal Access Agreements with Australia and the U.K., making them semi-allies.

The talks in Tokyo among Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Defense Secretary Grant Shapps are the first since the RAA took effect in mid-October.

They met on the sidelines of a gathering of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Tuesday and Wednesday that is expected to focus on the Israel-Hamas war, the Russia-Ukraine war and tension in the Indo-Pacific region.



Palestinians walk down a road as they flee Gaza City and other parts of northern Gaza towards the southern areas.

Pakistan considers nuclear safety, security as 'national responsibility': Amb. Munir

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan regards as a "national responsibility" the safety and security of its nuclear power programme, Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly Wednesday, while underscoring the need to remove barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation.

Speaking in the 193-member Assembly on the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Vienna-based UN agency, he said Pakistan is party to several leading international instruments related to nuclear safety and security,

with a rigorously enforced framework that complies with the highest global standards.

Earlier, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi presented his report on its work, including in Ukraine, Iran and North Korea, as well as an overview of the development and transfer of nuclear technologies for peaceful applications, the enhancement of nuclear safety and security, and the strengthening of nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts on a global scale.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy highlighted Pakistan's extensive experience in operating a secure

and fully safeguarded nuclear power programme, pointing to six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 megawatts, as well as the country's construction of another nuclear power plant, Chashma unit 5, with a capacity of 1200 megawatts. Underscoring the fundamental importance of removing barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation, Ambassador Akram affirmed that all States should fully comply with their safeguards obligations.

However, he said, "the Agency's safeguards should not be used to serve parti-

san political objectives". Its verification regime will remain credible only if it is applied on a non-discriminatory basis as stipulated in the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Pakistan places the highest priority on nuclear safety and security as a national responsibility," Ambassador Akram added.

In light of recent developments, he proposed convening a special session of the General Assembly to establish a new consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation that better addresses the current and emerging realities and offers equal security to all States.



TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with the heads of states of ECO member countries.



JEDDAH: Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar attended 3-day International Conference on "Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment" hosted by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

History will never forget world's 'criminal silence' over Israel's Gaza genocide: Nilofar Bakhtiar

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia) (APP): National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Chairperson Nilofar Bakhtiar has said that history will never forget the criminal silence of the world's leading human rights leaders on the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.

Addressing the International Conference on "Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment" jointly organized by the OIC and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on Wednesday, she said Israel's ongoing attacks in the Gaza Strip were a huge political and humanitarian disaster.

The NCSW chairperson said the Palestinian people were facing indescribable pain. More than 7,700 Palestinians had been killed and over 19,740 injured and that number was increasing. About 2,400 or 66 percent were the children

and the total dead, she added.

Nilofar said schools and hospitals were being bombed the blockade (of the Gaza Strip) has been tightened.

She said the Israeli occupation meant enslaving the Palestinian people, with brutalities, illegal detentions, imprisonment and extrajudicial executions.

She said Israel's continuous occupation of Palestinian territories and the mistreatment of Palestinians was a question mark on the "sleeping conscience" of the powerful people of the world.

She criticized the international community for not taking adequate measures to stop the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.

She regretted that some member countries of the United Nations tried to justify the Israeli aggres-

sion. How could the indiscriminate bombing of the entire population (of Gaza) be called a defensive operation with the vague aim of destroying Hamas, she questioned.

The Israeli bombardment in the northern part of Gaza had resulted in widespread destruction, she added.

Nilofar said the Israeli government had shown its fascist face to the whole world, but the international community had failed to provide the support needed to end the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

"The world has missed the opportunity to support the oppressed people of Palestine on the basis of humanitarian sympathy," she regretted.

Western countries for their continued support for Israel despite its human rights abuses.

Seven bus companies sealed on non-installation & functional of trekkers

QUETTA: In all seven bus companies were sealed on the charges of non-functional and non-installation of the trekkers in the passenger buses in Quetta.

According to the official sources, the team comprising the staff of Provincial Transport Authority and Regional Transport Authority raided the buses offices under supervision of PTA Secretary, Ali Ahmed Kakar.

Needless to mention here that the High Court had ordered to take action in this

regard. Moreover, the Secretary Transport, Yasir Khan kakar and Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shaqqaat also issued directives in this regard.

According to the high ups, trekkers would be installed in the buses of all long routes. They also warned that action would be taken against those companies and transporters on non-functional of the trekkers in their buses. They said that trekkers would also be installed in the buses running on the inter-provincial routes including Quetta-Karachi route.

PUC spearheads anti-terrorism campaign through unified 'Friday Sermons'

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the appeal of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and its allied parties, Ulema and Mashaykh are set to deliver impactful Friday Sermons under the banner of Paigham-e-Pakistan.

PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, along with prominent figures Allama Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Pir Naqib-ur-Rahman, Maulana Muhammad Khan Laghari, Allama Arif Wahidi, and others, had called upon religious scholars and leaders from all schools of thought to vehemently condemn extremism and terrorism in

their Friday Sermons.

Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, urged Ulema and Mashaykh to articulate a unified message against extremism and terrorism, issuing a collective statement and presenting consensus religious decrees (Fatwas) during their Friday Sermons.

He also encouraged educating the general public about the importance and benefits of this united stance.

Expressing his com-

Multiple theft, fraud charges against Fawad case comes to light

LAHORE (INP): In a recent development, a case of theft of fertilizer sacks, cots, and a sofa against former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has come to light. According to media reports, an FIR has been registered in Police Station Pind Dadankhan of Jhelum District, alleging that Fawad Chaudhry, along with his associates, forcibly entered the camp of Shahid Asif, the brother of Chaudhry Nauman Asif, on November 30, 2020. They allegedly stole six sacks of urea, six sacks of DAP, beds, and a sofa set before handing over the possession of the house to Juma Khan Baloch.

Separately, Islamabad Session Court has sent former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry to jail on judicial remand in connection with a fraud case against him. During the hearing, Fawad Chaudhry's wife, Haba Chaudhry, was present in the courtroom.

Dr. Jozgezi visits AKH, inquires about health of Congo patients

"Health Department fully active to control outbreak of Congo virus in Balochistan"

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozgezi and Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan visited the Agha Khan Hospital Karachi on Thursday.

During the visit, they inquired about the health of the Congo virus patients from the province being treated at AKH Karachi.

Also accompanied with them was the chief Planning officer, Ghulam Rasool Zehri.

They inquired about the health of the under treatment Congo patients at AKH including doctors, pharmacists, staff nurse and paramedics.

Dr Ameer Jozgezi said that the directives were issued to shift the Congo affected parties to Karachi from Quetta on the government expenses.

The Minister Health and Secretary also met the doctors and paramedics treating Congo patients in the hospital.

They directed to the

concerned authorities not to leave any stone unturned in provision of health facilities to the patients.

However, the Minister expressed satisfaction over care of the Congo affected patients by AKH in Agha Khan hospital.

Dr Jozgezi also mentioned that the treatment of all affected patients is being done on the government expenses.

Moreover, both the minister and secretary Health prayed for early recovery of the patients.

Tandoor association announces strike in Quetta from today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Quetta Tandoor Association has announced to observe strike of tandoors in Quetta from today (Friday).

This was announced by the Chairman Tandoor Association, Muhammad Naem Khilji while addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club on Thursday.

Naem Khilji said that the Tandoor Association is forced to observe strike mainly because the Afghan citizenship card holder refugees working on the

Tandoors are being bothered under the garb of campaign against the illegal immigrants.

He said that due to the situation, some 300 tandoors have been shut due to the situation.

While on the other hand, the district administration has also reduced price of the tandoori roti in the official price list, which is unacceptable.

He said that the Tandoor owners are forced to shut their tandoors due to the financial hardships as well.

Poliovirus found in environmental samples of six districts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health here Thursday confirmed the presence of polio-virus in environmental samples of six districts.

According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, four samples were from Karachi and two were from Chaman.

He said, "Polio-virus has also been found in one sample each from Peshawar, Kohat and Nowshera."

He said, "The virus belongs to the YB3A virus cluster in Afghanistan."

Indian troops martyr one Kashmiri youth in Shopian

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred one Kashmiri youth in Shopian district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the troops martyred the youth identified as Maysar Ahmad Dar during a cordon and search operation in Kathohalan area of the district. The operation continued till last reports came in.

Tareen paid rich tribute to Iqbal on his birthday

QUETTA (APP): Director University of Balochistan Sub-Campus Mastung Muhammad Iqbal Tareen on Thursday said that today the entire nation paid rich tribute to the great philosopher and poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birthday. In his a message issued here on Thursday on the occasion of Allama Iqbal's birthday, he said that Allama Iqbal would always be remembered for presenting the concept of a separate homeland for the Muslims of subcontinent. He said that Iqbal was a unique figure of our national and national life and was the owner of a multifaceted personality saying that the poet Mashriq always advised the Muslims to unite.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE and Population Welfare Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar being briefed during his visit to Saiban Trust Hospital.

Masood Khans says: 'Iqbal is our ideological compass and lodestar'

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, led tributes to Allama Iqbal at a special meeting marking his birth anniversary, saying the national poet-philosopher was 'our ideological compass and lode star'.

"Iqbal dreamed of Pakistan, and we are a manifestation of his dream," the envoy told the meeting held at the Pakistan embassy here.

In addition, a photo exhibition was also arranged by the embassy in collaboration with the International Academy of Letters, USA, the Sadequain Foundation, USA, and the Sadequain Gallery of Chicago to pay tribute to the iconic calligrapher, painter, and poet, Syed Sadequain Ahmed Naqvi, known as Sadequain Naqqash.

Highlighting Iqbal's life and mission, Ambassa-

dor Masood Khan said, "He is our ideological compass and our lodestar. When we are looking for direction, we refer to Iqbal because he gave us the ideological basis for the state of Pakistan." A poet par excellence, the ambassador said, "His thought has influenced the whole of South Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran."

His philosophy was not confined to the subcontinent; he looked at the universe and how it was evolving in its spiritual and physical dimensions, Masood Khan said.

"Iqbal talked about alliances of civilizations before this thought was developed in the late 20th century or early 21st century."

Masood Khan said that Allama Iqbal was one of the most authentic interpreters of the Quran and Islam. "If we want to understand the Quran in the contemporary context,

PM Kakar warns of trans-regional spillover of Gaza war

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (INP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday called for enhanced engagement with the Western capitals to make Israel realise that the Gaza war could trigger a spillover effect beyond the region.

In an interview with Arab News, the prime minister said Western capitals, particularly Washington and London needed to make realise the Israeli side that they were contributing to destabilise the region.

He called for an immediate cessation of violence and labeled Israel's assault on Gaza genocide, clearly. The prime minister said he would attend an extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Sunday in Riyadh to discuss Israel's attacks on Palestine.

PM Kakar said Israel could not just kill children and say that it had got the right to defend itself. The prime minister said it was the licence to barbaric re-

taliation. He said the entire Muslim nation should think over about its contribution in science and technology and defence. The prime minister also criticised governance structures in Muslim nations, saying their challenges were deeper than the mere quagmire of the Palestinian situation. Meanwhile, the 16th Summit of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was in progress in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was representing Pakistan in the summit. In his address, the Prime Minister will reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to ECO Vision 2025 and to promotion of regional cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity, energy, tourism and economic growth and productivity.

Kakar will present Pakistan's vision for the future work of the organization and promotion of regional connectivity and mutual prosperity.

We will truly bring about 'Naya Pakistan', vows Jahangir Tareen

TAXILA (INP): Jahangir Khan Tareen, the patron-in-chief of the Istekham-i-Pakistan Party (IPP), on Thursday vowed that the party would truly bring about 'Naya Pakistan'.

Tareen made the remarks at the tail-end of his speech while addressing a workers' convention in Taxila, where former PTI leader and federal minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan formally joined the party.

"What do we want to do? We want to take Pakistan beyond its potential," he said as he lamented the lack of progress made in the country in the past 75 years.

"Whether we succeed or not, only God knows. But we will work with good intentions and will think of the people first. If we do that, then we will be successful."

Commenting on Sarwar's decision to join the party, Tareen said that the

relationship between the two was like that between "brothers".

"When such friends are with us, then the work we need to do to make the country progress, we can do that," he said. Concluding his speech, Tareen said, "Together, we will truly make a 'Naya Pakistan', God willing!" During his speech today, Tareen said, "Forget the past and look forward [...] this country has everything. If there is anything lacking, it is that we [political parties] are always fighting with one another."

"Such parties can't do politics. They have gotten into the habit of fighting with each other [...]. Be competitive all you want but don't fight. Don't ruin the country," he added.

Tareen said that the IPP would try to set new traditions, fulfil its objectives and work for the benefit of the people.



QUETTA: Members of different student organizations are holding protest demonstration against forced deportation of Afghan Refugees, at Quetta press club.

So called narrative of Imran Khan integrity stands exposed

ISLAMABAD (Online): The horrific revelations of story of mega corruption during 3 years rule of PTI has come to fore amid the reports that assets of Farah Gogi, front person of Imran Khan have increased manifold.

According to government sources 102 bank accounts of Farah Gogi, Ahsan Jamil Gujjar and their partners have been detected across the country.

Over 14 billion rupees are lying in these bank accounts. Declared and non declared assets of Farah Shahzadi alias Farah Gogi have increased by 4520 million rupees from 2017 to 2020. Farah Gogi herself admits she owned assets worth Rs 950 million in 2020. Her declared assets are valued Rs 3825 million rupees. 420 percent in-

crease in her declared assets was witnessed during three years while her non declared assets rose 15300 percent. According to sources these assets are personal property of Farah Goggi. The assets of Jamil Gujjar, remaining relatives and partners are in addition to the assets of Farah Goggi. As per SECP record Farah Goggi, front person of chairman PTI is share holder of several companies.

These companies are Ghousia builders (SMC Private limited), Alburqa housing private limited, Alburqa foods private limited, Almuza Dairy and foods private limited, Dian properties private limited, Doctors clinical care private limited, sanatoria hospital management company private limited.



KARACHI: Released Indian fishermen arrive at a railway station to leave for their homeland, as Pakistani officials said they will release the first batch of 80 Indian prisoners detained for fishing illegally in the country's territorial waters in the Arabian sea.