

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 314 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Thursday November 09, 2023, Rabi-us-Sani 24, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of 16th ECO Summit.

President writes to PM stressing right of all parties to contest polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter addressed to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, emphasized holding of free and fair elections, saying that all political parties and leaders have the right to contest polls.

“There is a resonance in Pakistan that for free, fair and credible elections, all political parties and leaders have the right to contest and it is up to the people to decide,” he wrote in the letter, according to a press release issued by the President’s House.

The president, in this regard, also forwarded a let-

ter he received from Omar Ayub Khan, General Secretary of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

President Alvi highlighted that democracy was the only viable way forward for the State and the people of Pakistan, the “essence of which lied in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through a free media”.

The president stated that it was of utmost importance that the caretaker government under the prime minister’s leadership made efforts as a neutral entity to provide a level-playing field for all political parties.

“In this context, it was reassuring to hear your recent statements whereby you stated that it was the caretaker government’s policy that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections,” he wrote.

President Alvi said that as the office of the President of Pakistan represented the unity of the Republic as Head of State under Article 41 of the Constitution of Pakistan and, therefore, it was duty-bound along with the prime minister and all institutions to protect the rights of the citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Threatening statements of Afghan leaders regrettable Pakistan witnessed a sharp increase in terrorism after Kabul takeover: PM

Asks Afghan interim setup to handover illegal Pakistanis linked with terrorism, act against TTP hideouts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday demanded the interim government of Afghanistan to hand over the Pakistani nationals who were illegally residing in Afghanistan and were involved in terrorist activities against their own country.

Addressing a press conference here at the PM House, the prime minister said the government was ready to receive and accept any such illegal Pakistanis.

PM Kakar also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its training centres in Afghanistan and ensure that “they must not be used against Pakistan”. Since the interim government took to power

in Afghanistan in August 2021, he said Pakistan witnessed an increase in terrorist incidents by 60 percent besides a 500 percent surge in suicide blasts.

“Pakistan in last two years has lost lives of 2,867 innocent civilians, for which TTP is responsible which is operating from Afghanistan,” he said.

He mentioned that 15 Afghan nationals were found involved in suicide bombings in Pakistan, while 64 Afghans got killed during their fight against the Pakistani law enforcement agencies. He said Afghan authorities were cognizant of these facts as Pakistan had been sharing these details with them since February this year through the fortnightly memorandums of protest.



The monitoring team of the United Nations in its report released this July clearly highlighted that TTP centres based in Afghanistan were conducting terrorist operations against Pakistan.

Asked if Pakistan itself would take action against the TTP hideouts in Afghanistan, Kakar said, “We are hopeful that they [Afghan government] will take an action themselves, which is in their own interest and also in

our interest.” On the military equipment left behind since the American withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, he said Pakistan had been repeatedly raising concerns with the United States and the Western countries about its implications and its sale in the black market. Also, he pointed out that there was no clue about the ammunition that was in the possession of the Afghan military comprising 150,000 personnel, and which just “disappeared” after the U.S. withdrawal.

He said Pakistan had taken the right decision against illegal foreigners after the Afghan interim government showed no cooperation in containing the terrorists attacking Pakistan.

Kakar said sending 250,000 illegal people back to their country in a short span was “not an ordinary step and showed the sign that the policy would be implemented successfully”. On maintaining a balance in relations with Afghanistan in the wake of actions against illegal residents, he hoped that the ties would be improved after the two sides settled their approach and expectations on various matters.

He said the immigrant policy was not meant to target the Pakistani Pashtuns and warned that those involved in the misuse of the decision would be severely punished. Any discrimination on the basis of ethnicity would not be tolerated, he added.

Pak, Uzbekistan resolve for early finalisation of Strategic Partnership Agreement

TASHKENT (APP): Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Wednesday reiterated the resolve to finalize the Strategic Partnership Agreement at the earliest to promote regional economic integration.

The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) being held here.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to play an active role for the regional connectivity.

The leaders exchanged views on deepening bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including political, trade, economic, security, defence,

and connectivity. Expressing satisfaction at the growing level of bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar stressed the importance of sustaining the momentum.

He underlined that the recent operationalization of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA) would boost bilateral trade and transit trade in addition to streamlining Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA).

They reaffirmed commitment to the early completion of Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway project.

Prime Minister Kakar and President Mirziyoyev discussed on the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza and other regional and global developments.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to expand cooperation in media, drama fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday agreed to further expand cooperation between the two brotherly countries in media, drama, and other related fields.

The decision was made during a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki here.

Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi was also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, it was agreed to speed up the implementation of agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of media and communications.

In the meeting, discussions were also held regarding cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of communication. The minister and the ambassador also discussed the upcoming meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on November 12. Welcoming the convening of the OIC summit by Saudi Arabia, Murtaza Solangi said as a founding

member, Pakistan will continue to play its role in the objectives of the establishment of the OIC and further strengthening of the organisation.

Murtaza Solangi appreciated the strengthening of the OIC’s role in protecting the interests of the Muslim Ummah and the role of Saudi Arabia in this regard.

Besides, bilateral issues of mutual interest were also discussed in the meeting.

He expressed good wishes for Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.



ISLAMABAD: US delegates meet Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Shah at the Federal Judicial Academy.

Judge sitting in chamber is not supreme court: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed the judge sitting in chamber is not Supreme Court (SC).

He further observed judges sitting in court are SC. The SC proceedings cannot be run while sitting in chamber. Only chamber appeals are heard in chamber. No constitution, laws and rules and regulations allow this to former CJP.

He gave these remarks while presiding of SC bench during the hearing of human rights case against Faiz Hameed on the charges of occupation of land. The case came up for hearing before SC bench presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Wednesday.

The CJP while moving to the petitioner remarked there are gross allegations in your petition. The coun-

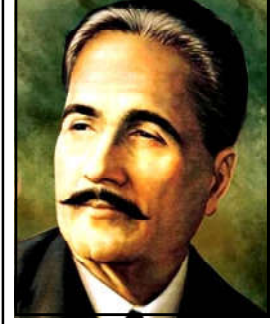
sel for petitioner said the hearing of the case be adjourned for short period. The CJP remarked we will not give adjournment. Make preparations from just now.

The petitioner said raid was conducted on my home and office under the order of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed on May 12, 2017. Our precious goods and record of our private housing society was stolen in the raid. The illegal action against me was aimed at taking control of Top one city. I and my five associates were arrested after raid and were kept in habeas corpus. The CJP inquired from the counsel the court should do what.

The counsel for the petitioner said the court should order defence ministry as it is competent authority to take action.

Iqbal Day to be observed today

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The nation will observe Iqbal Day on Thursday (today) to honor the 146th birth anniversary of the renowned poet, Dr.



Allama Mohammad Iqbal. The government has declared a public holiday nationwide to celebrate the day. Born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877, Dr. Iqbal is fondly remembered as the “Poet of the East.”



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in meeting with Journalists of national newspapers, news channels and media houses, held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Bilawal says PPP ‘parted ways’ with PML-N after compromise on ‘vote ko Izzat do’

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday said that his party parted ways with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) after the former ruling party compromised on the “sanctity of the vote”.

“As long as PML-N’s narrative [remained] vote ko izzat do (give respect to

vote), we kept along but when this narrative changed, staying together became difficult,” the former foreign minister said while speaking to the media in Karachi’s Ibrahim Hyderi area. Bilawal once again reiterated his stance on the absence of equal opportunities as a political party, saying that the PPP never got a level-playing field in any election.

President appoints Nasir Mahmood as AIOU VC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday appointed Nasir Mahmood as the Vice



Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University. The president made the said appointment under section 11 of the Allama Iqbal Open University Act 1974, a President House press release said.

Pakistan neither supplied arms to Ukraine nor does it intend to do so: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Wednesday said that rejecting the notions of any discussion on arms supply between defence ministers of Pakistan and Ukraine in their telephonic conversation, said the country neither supplied arms to Ukraine, nor it intended to do so.

Foreign Office spokes-

person Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement clarified that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict.

“This topic, therefore, was not discussed during the telephone conversation between the Ministers of Defense of Pakistan and Ukraine on 7th November 2023,” she remarked. 3

ICCPO visits Security division; orders to enhanced security measures

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan conducted a visit to the Diplomatic Enclave to assess security arrangements and issue directives for enhancing security measures, a public relation officer said.

He said that, the ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan interacted with officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police entrusted with the security of the diplomatic enclave. He issued directives to senior officers for the enhancement of security measures at the embassies.



Emphasizing the need for effective monitoring on both internal and external routes of the diplomatic enclave, the ICCPO stressed the importance of ensuring effective surveillance through the Safe City centralized camera systems.

Madad Ali Sindhi says Pakistan working diligently to ensure every child has access to quality education

Education Minister presents Pakistan’s perspective at 42nd session of UNESCO General Conference and high level Ministerial Dialogue on education for peace

ISLAMABAD (PR): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi presented Pakistan’s perspective at 42nd Session of UNESCO General Conference and High Level Ministerial Dialogue on Education for Peace, today.

Speaking at the Session the Minister said that Pakistan is working diligently to ensure that every child, regardless of socio economic background, has access to quality education.



such as Sohan Halwa to inscribe as intangible cultural heritage in addition to three items already inscribed.

The Minister said that promotion of cultural diversity is essential to achieve SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

While addressing the Session, he also stressed upon the urgent need to address climate change which has become a global challenge and is now affecting developing countries including Pakistan.

The Minister said that more than ever before Pakistan remains fully committed to SDG-13 (Climate Action) and is working on safe guarding its green spaces. The inscription of two additional Biosphere

Reserves (i) Chitral Bashkar Garamchashma and (ii) Gallies demonstrate Pakistan’s seriousness to preserve environment.

The Minister for Education said that in the pursuit of development goals, it is imperative to work together and forge partnerships at the regional and international levels for provision of finance, technological expertise and capacity building. It is with this intent of global cooperation that Pakistan strongly supports the SIDS Operational Strategy and Global Priority Africa under the auspices of UNESCO.

CM Azam unveils e-office software system in KMU

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Wednesday unveiled E-office software system in Khyber Medical University (KMU). Khyber Medical University has achieved an important technological milestone by officially launching the e-office software developed internally for its own management support that was formally unveiled by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in a meeting held at Chief Minister House. He said that the unveiling of the e-office is an important moment in the history of KMU. Apart from VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, advisor Health Prof Dr. Riaz Anwar, chief secretary KP Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary, Secretary HED

Muhammad Arshad Khan, and Special Secretary Health Habib Ullah were also present on this occasion. In the meeting, the Chief Minister publicly appreciated the tireless efforts and achievements of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq and his team. On this occasion, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa advised that if efforts are made, this e-office system can be adopted in other universities and other organizations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq also gave a detailed briefing to the participants about e-office and explained the features and benefits, and how to run official affairs efficiently. He said that the introduction of e-office

promises to revolutionize administrative and educational processes, and increase transparency, accessibility, and efficiency. The software can also be used as a comprehensive solution to manage various tasks and processes and this e-office system is expected to significantly enhance the university's capabilities. VC KMU appreciated the efforts of Mohammad Sohail Additional Director IT, Shahzad Khan Deputy Director IT and the entire IT team of KMU who played a vital role in the development of this innovative software. The e-office software developed internally at KMU is a testament to the university's dedication, and commitment to harnessing the potential of its own IT resources.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi giving direction regarding standing water in basement of Services Hospital during his visit.

Tackle 'environmental challenges' Public awareness, technological innovations for farmers are key strategies: Minister

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Minister for Environment, Planning and Forests Bilal Afzal on Wednesday stressed that public awareness, comprehensive approach, technological innovations for farmers, better fuel quality and laws are needed to tackle environmental problems in the country. Talking to a PTV news channel about the current issue of smog in Punjab, he explained that

the current government is showing seriousness and taking substantial steps to tackle pollution across the province. He said that a campaign is also being run on social media to create more awareness about the environmental damage caused by burning solid waste and the effects of crop burning. He said that smog is being generated in India due to the burning of waste in rice factories and increase in air pollution, adding that

Pakistan is using its diplomatic channels and urged the Indian government to ensure that the crops Stop burning which is causing smog in the winter season. He said that both India and Pakistan should recognize the imperative nature of tackling the challenge of crop residue burning, adding that Pakistani farmers are very aware of the problem but crop burning is still alive in India.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister Dr. Aamer Abdullah inspecting record on the occasion of visiting the Tribal Research Cell.

Grave yard land occupation case: LHC summons record from anti corruption on bail after arrest plea of Khawar Manika

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought record from anti corruption on November 13 in connection with bail after arrest petition of Khawar Manika in grave yard land occupation case. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up for hearing the bail after arrest plea from Khawar Manika, former husband of Bushra Bibi Wednesday. Counsel for Khawar

Manika took the plea with occupying Auqaf department land. The land is held by Manika family since 1938 and it has never remained with Auqaf department. The court should order to grant bail to Khawar Manika. The court inquired from state counsel has Auqaf department notification of the said land.

Foolproof security devised for 8th desert jeep rally

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Foolproof security is devised for 8th Jeep rally set to open tomorrow (Nov 9) at Thal desert here with great pomp and show on Wednesday. DPO Syed Husnain Haider said the arrangements were being finalized in collaboration with district administration and the tourism department. Around 600 police officer deployed to protect the event. About 24 pickets work setup at different roads including internal and external courses of the rally. Separate duty of traffic police was designated to control and maintain of the traffic flow. The DPO assured of all-out arrangements for making the event successful. The Desert Jeep Rally is globally recognised as trademark of far-flung district of Southern Punjab.

KP govt for inclusion of Potassium Chlorate in import policy order, 2022

PESHAWAR (APP): The Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has requested the Ministry of Commerce to include Potassium Chlorate in the import policy order, 2022 and make it import subject to NOC from the Department of Explosives and Home Departments. In a letter to the Federal Ministry, the

provincial government informed that Potassium chlorate is not locally manufactured in Pakistan and is being imported from China, India and the USA without any Customs duty. It said that the chemical is being used in firecrackers, matchsticks and fireworks, adding that there was no regulatory mechanism to check the quality of Potassium chlorate.

LHC allows PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has allowed PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara on November 19. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up PTI candidate from Shahdara Akmal Khans' petition for hearing Wednesday. The petitioner took the plea we want to hold corner meeting in Shahdara area of Lahore in connection with election.

Aamer directs authorities to preserve historical record of tribal areas

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah Wednesday said that Tribal Research Cell is an important heritage for the availability of authentic records related to the historical background of the merged districts and former tribal areas of the province while directed the relevant authorities to preserve the available historical record and other written materials in the cell. He said that the authorities should submit a reasonable development

scheme for approval so that to not only ensure the long-term preservation of records available in the research cell, rather make the availability of these historical materials and literature possible for researchers through online facilitation. He expressed these views during a visit to the historical Tribal Research Cell, established under the Home and Tribal Affairs Department in Namak Mandi here. During the visit, the minister inspected various parts of the research cell and checked the historical records and official files of the pre-independence and post-independence periods related to the affairs of tribal areas.



HANGU: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan laying the foundation stone of the shopping center built for women police at Gandapur Police Training College Hangu.

Peshawar's NAB alerts public to impersonation scams, urges vigilance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Peshawar has issued a warning to the public to be wary of individuals impersonating NAB officers and making fraudulent calls. A statement from a NAB spokesperson has stressed that NAB officers do not make direct contact to suspects due to a rigorous Standard Operating Procedure for communication. NAB has also escalated the issue to the

Cyber Crime Wing of FIA and other intelligence agencies to investigate the culprits. He mentioned that multiple cases have been reported to the NAB Peshawar Office, where individuals have received calls from various numbers, purporting to be senior NAB officers. These calls, which request money, are fraudulent and appear to be part of a coordinated effort to tarnish the reputation of the institution and its leadership.

International News

Putin lauds Russia's 'high-tech' military cooperation with China

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday lauded what he described as important "high-tech" Russian military cooperation with China at a meeting in Moscow with a top Chinese general who is a close ally of President Xi Jinping. China and Russia declared a "no limits" partnership in February 2022 when Putin visited Beijing just days before he sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine, triggering the deadliest land war in Europe since World War Two. Receiving General Zhang Youxia, vice chairman

of China's Central Military Commission, and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. Putin sent his best wishes to Xi, saying the two leaders had developed a good friendship and working relations. "Russia and China are not building any military alliances along the lines of the Cold War," Putin told Zhang at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, adding that the Russian-Chinese relationship was a stabilising force for the world. The United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state threat while US President Joe

Biden argues that this century will be defined by an existential contest between democracies and autocracies. Putin, who heads the world's biggest nuclear power, said military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing was increasing and focused on high-tech areas that would ensure strategic security. "Of course, our cooperation, our contacts in the military and military-technical sphere are also becoming increasingly important, as for military-technical cooperation, here, of course, our work in high-tech spheres comes first," Putin said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission General Zhang Youxia at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia.

Blinken visits South Korea as North Korea, Russia deepen ties

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Seoul on Wednesday for talks with his South Korean counterpart, as the allies step up cooperation in the face of growing concerns over North Korea's closer military ties with Russia. The two-day visit, the first by a U.S. secretary of state in two and a half years, is part of Blinken's broader Asia trip that has included meetings with G7 counterparts and talks with Japanese officials in Tokyo, as well as a later stop in India amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. The Seoul visit comes as the United States and

South Korea, along with Japan, have condemned what they say is the supply of arms and military equipment by North Korea to Russia. Washington and Seoul see the closer military ties between the North and Russia, which is thought to be suffering depleting stocks of munitions in its war with Ukraine, as an effort by Pyongyang to secure strategic military capabilities in return. North Korea is preparing to launch a spy satellite after having failed twice this year to put one in orbit. South Korea's spy agency said last week

North Korea was in the final stages of preparations for the launch after apparently receiving technical assistance from Russia. Pyongyang and Moscow have denied claims of arms deals while their leaders pledged closer military cooperation when they met in September in Russia's far east. South Korea's military said on Monday it was on alert over possible North Korea provocations after Pyongyang designated Nov. 18 as "missile industry day" to commemorate the country's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) last year.

More Palestinians fleeing combat zone in northern Gaza, UN says

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The pace of Palestinian civilians fleeing the combat zone in northern Gaza has picked up as Israel's air and ground campaign there intensifies. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Wednesday that about 15,000 people fled on Tuesday, compared to 5,000 on Monday and 2,000 on Sunday. The densely populated northern area of Gaza, specifically Gaza City and adjacent crowded urban refugee

camp, are the focus of Israel's campaign to crush Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years. The war, now in its second month, was triggered by the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel. The number of Palestinians killed in the war passed 10,300, including more than 4,200 children, the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza said Tuesday. In the occupied West Bank, more than 160 Palestinians have been killed in the violence and Israeli raids.



Palestinians flee their homes during Israel's ground offensive, on the edges of Beach refugee camp, in Gaza City.

Children's plight proves world's 'moral failure', says Red Cross

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: A month after the unrest erupted, the Red Cross demanded on Tuesday an end to the horrific suffering of civilians, and especially children, decrying a "moral failing". "One month on, civilians in Gaza and Israel are being forced to endure tremendous suffering and loss. This needs to stop," the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement. "Massive bombardments are gutting civilian infrastructure across Gaza, sowing seeds of

hardship for generations to come," the ICRC statement said. The organisation's president Mirjana Spoljaric said she had been particularly shocked to see the suffering that children have had to endure. "Children have been ripped from their families and held hostage. In Gaza, ICRC surgeons treat toddlers whose skin is charred from widespread burns," she said in the statement. "The images of suffering, dead and wounded children will haunt us all. This is a moral failing," she added.

Worst floods in decades kill 29 in Somalia, hit towns across East Africa

Monitoring Desk MOGADISHU: The worst flooding to hit Somalia in decades has killed 29 people and forced more than 300,000 to flee their homes, the National Disaster Management Agency said on Wednesday, following heavy rains that have inundated towns across East Africa. Authorities have scrambled to rescue thousands of stranded people from the floodwater, which comes on the heels

of the region's worst drought in 40 years. "What is going on today is the worst for decades. It is worse than even the 1997 floods," said Hassan Isse, managing director of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SOMDA). The death toll and numbers of people displaced were likely to rise further, Isse said, because many people were trapped by floodwaters.

Nigerian court grants ex-central bank head Emeifele bail after five months

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: A Nigerian court on Wednesday granted bail to former central bank governor Godwin Emeifele, who is charged with procurement fraud and has been in detention since June. Emeifele appeared in court for the first time since August after Judge Olukeyode Adeniyi on Monday ordered he should be released unconditionally or be brought to court.

Indonesian chief justice dismissed over ethics breach

Monitoring Desk JAKARTA: A judicial panel dismissed Indonesia's top judge on Tuesday after finding him guilty of an ethics violation over his role in a ruling that allowed President Joko Widodo's son to run for vice president. Chief Justice Anwar Usman, who is Widodo's brother-in-law, was found guilty of a "gross violation" of the court's ethics code for deciding with the 5-4 majority that changed the rules around candidacy for the presidency and vice

presidency. The ruling, issued just months before general elections in February, paved the way for Widodo's eldest son Gibran Rakabuming Raka to run for vice president alongside Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto. The judicial panel found that in failing to "re-examine himself from the examination and decision-making process," Usman had violated the "judge's ethical code's principle of neutrality".

Russia's Lavrov assails West over switch to green energy

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the West on Wednesday of provoking crises on the global oil and gas market by rushing to switch to green energy and imposing pressure on other countries to do the same. "In fact, the reasons for the negative phenomena in the energy sector were the irresponsible actions of the collective West, when it decided to force... the green transition for itself and impose the same green transition.



Honorary panel members of the Constitutional Court Jimly Asshiddiqie (C), Wahiduddin Adams (L), and Bintan Saragih (R) preside over a proceeding at the Constitutional Court in Jakarta.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 12th Convocation ceremony of International Islamic University Islamabad.

President Dr. Arif Alvi says Women involvement in decision making, economy inevitable for prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasizing the women's active participation in all sectors, said one of the reasons behind Pakistan lacking prosperity was the non-involvement of women in decision making as well as the economic corridors of power. The president, addressing the 12th Convocation of International Islamic University Islamabad, said the nation's investment on the women education went to waste when they sat at home without going into the practical life.

Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Qatari Ambassador Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, first secretary of Thailand, IUI Pro-Chancellor Dr Ahmed Salem Muhammad Al-Ameri, Rector Dr Samina Malik and President Dr Hathaal Homoud Alotaibi also attended the convocation besides other diplomats and educationists. "Education is investment of this poor nation on you. If you will sit at home, this will be the loss of the nation. I want you not to give up its practical application. (However), this is the duty of the government and the nation to provide you a harassment-free working environment," the president remarked. He also called for job structures for the women which should also facilitate them keeping in view the family-related engagements of the women. Citing the example of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s wife Hazrat Khadija, also a working business woman, the president said Islam encouraged the women to work as it was not possible to leave half of the country's population unutilised. He, who earlier awarded PhD degrees to 138 and gold medals to 71 students, congratulated the students, their parents as well as the university and teachers for their hard work. He was appreciative that girl students consisted of over half of the total 34,000 strength of the university. He advised the new graduates to welcome the knowledge without any religious biases or selection, and always remain humble and act as a knowledge-seeker.

PM warns of transregional spillover of Gaza war; urges engagement with West

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for enhanced engagement with the Western capitals to make Israel realise that the Gaza war could have a spillover effect beyond the region. "We need to engage with different Western capitals, particularly Washington and London, and they need to make realize the Israeli side that they are contributing to destabilize not just the region, but probably it would have a spillover effect beyond the region," the prime minister said in an interview with Arab News published on Wednesday. When asked if the Pakistani government had received any requests from

the United States to soften its stance against Israel as it continued attacks on Gaza, Kakar said, "I'm not aware of any such request and I don't think so any government would listen to any such request which is in my opinion surreal, it's absurd to even think of requesting someone to be silent on such an account." He called for an immediate "cessation of violence" and labeled Israel's assault on Gaza "genocide, clearly." He told the interviewer that he would be traveling to Riyadh this weekend for an extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss Israel's attacks on Palestine.

Gaza, not an issue of Palestinians, Arabs but humanity: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Wednesday said Gaza was not an issue of Palestine or Arab nations but it was pertaining to the entire humanity. Addressing a conference on Palestine organized by Human Rights Council of Pakistan here at Allama Iqbal Open University, he asked the world what was done by the innocent children of Gaza as more than 3,500 children had been murdered in Israeli aggression since October 7. Ashrafi who is also

the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council said Israeli brutalities had taken the lives of more than 11,000 people in Palestine and Gaza. He unveiled the Israeli sinister design of expansion being executed to forcefully evacuate Palestinian people from the Gaza Strip and translate their dream into reality. He urged the people to raise their voices against this brutal act of Israel with all possible resources being within the constitutional domain. He said, "We must expose the real face of those who used to highlight the rights of pet animals, now they were giving logic on the massacre of innocent children."



TASHKENT: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the Secretary General of ECO Mr. Khusrav Noziri on the sidelines of 16th ECO Summit.

Martyrs' families plead for speedy justice through military courts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The families of Shuhda-e-Pakistan (Martyrs of Pakistan) on Wednesday urged the quarters concerned to restore the military courts to ensure speedy justice to the victims of terrorism as their abolition had further added to their pain. Addressing a presser-cum-protest at the National Press Club, the martyrs' families appealed to the Supreme Court to review its decision against the military courts. Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Haji Sanaullah Khan, Rahimullah, Wazir Farman Elahi, Anwar Zeib, Fawzia, Muhammad

Jamshed and others were among the heirs of martyrs, who addressed the presser. They said that the military courts were all the more important to provide justice to the victims of terrorism and rioting as, otherwise, it might lead to higher terror incidents. It might also embolden enemy secret agency to go for any misadventure like Kulbhushan Yadav. The families said: "The martyrs are the nation's pride and the apex court is requested to have a thorough review of underlying factors in order to effectively curb anti-state activities and terror acts while delivering verdicts through military courts." They indicated that they would formally file a petition in that regard in the apex court on Monday (November 13). The martyrs heirs said that they had gathered at this point to demonstrate their unity to carry forward a movement for the restoration of military courts. They said that they were just trying to uphold the sanctity of the martyrs' blood and added that the military courts would surely take the elements involved in terrorist activities to task and give solace to their heirs.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah in meeting with His Excellency Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China, at China Embassy.

Minister for Heritage, Chinese Ambassador for further enhancing Pak-China cultural ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong met with the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah and discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural relations between Pakistan and China. In a meeting with Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China, Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah discussed exchange and cooperation in Heritage, Art, Culture, Education, capacity building of our Museums and the promotion of the game of football in Pakistan particularly focus in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the meeting,

they also discussed the second China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Cultural Caravan 2024, digitizing and 3D scanning of Archeological sites and artifacts, and innovation in the IT sector remained the main focus of the meeting. The Federal Minister said that Pakistan and China should collaborate in all fields of art and cultural heritage as there lies huge scope, adding that it will further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two friendly nations. The minister also discussed his China recent Tour and meetings with the officials of cultural departments and Museums of China.

PM, ECO SG discuss Kashmir, ME situation

TASHKENT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday held a meeting with Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization Ambassador Khusrav Noziri. In the meeting on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit, they discussed the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Middle East. They reviewed the recent developments in the ECO, especially in the domains of trade, connectivity and economic cooperation. The ECO Secretary General thanked Prime Minister Kakar for Pakistan's firm support to the ECO and assured him of the commitment of the Secretariat to strengthen trade and connectivity in the region. He reviewed the recent developments in the ECO, especially in the domains of trade, connectivity and economic cooperation. The ECO Secretary General thanked Prime Minister Kakar for Pakistan's firm support to the ECO and assured him of the commitment of the Secretariat to strengthen trade and connectivity in the region.

WAPDA Chairman visits Mohmand Dam Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Sajjad Ghani Wednesday visited Mohmand Dam Project being constructed across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. He reviewed construction activities on different sites of the project - the spillway and the river diversion tunnels in particular. At present, construction works relating to excavation, stabilisation

and concreting are being carried out simultaneously on these sites. The Chairman also presided over a progress review meeting during the visit, according to WAPDA spokesman here. The meeting was attended by the GM/PD Mohmand Dam Project, senior members of his team and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors. The Chairman was briefed about the progress achieved so far on river diversion tunnels, spillway excavation and concreting.



Chairman WAPDA Lt. General (Retd) Sajjad Ghani being briefed about construction projects during his visit to Mahmand Dam Project.

Health ministry takes preventive measures against Congo virus

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Wednesday said that the Ministry of Health is taking effective measures to prevent citizens from the Congo virus. In a statement, the minister said that after the outbreak of Congo virus in Balochistan, the Ministry of Health is monitoring the current health situation. Dr Nadeem Jan said that when there was an outbreak in Balochistan, the National Institute of Health (NIH) immediately sent a mission to find out the causes of the outbreak. He said, "The ministry is in full contact with the provincial governments and continuously monitoring the situation."

He made it clear that there is no vaccine to prevent Congo fever. Dr Nadeem Jan asked the citizens to follow the guidelines of the National Institute of Health. "Therefore, this disease can be avoided by following preventive measures," he added. "The virus is mostly found in the hair follicles of sheep, goats, cows, buffaloes and other livestock." "When this tick bites a cattle or human, the virus becomes active in it," he added.

IWMI, USAID focused on converting 'Hill Torrent Risks into Opportunities'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan, supported by USAID funding, organized a significant consultation workshop centered on the critical theme of "Hill Torrents: Turning Risk into Opportunities." The workshop underscored the pivotal role of community engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and expert guidance in harnessing the potential for transformative change in these challenging environments. The event reaffirmed

IWMI Pakistan's commitment to sustainable water management practices that empower communities and enhance productivity in hill torrent-affected areas. "This workshop was marked by engaging discussions, collaborative presentations, and expert insights, as community members and stakeholders gathered to address water-related issues and explore solutions in the challenging context of hill torrents," said Dr. Sarfraz Munir, Researcher, IWMI Pakistan. "Through this consultation, our aim is to foster collaboration and engagement with relevant government departments, policymakers, the private sector, academia, and most importantly the local communities. We are committed to listening to and learning from your firsthand experiences, as we collectively work towards addressing and mitigating the challenges posed by changing rainfall patterns and the increasing threat of floods," said Muhammad Nawaz, Development Specialist, USAID/Pakistan.

Smoke emitting vehicles banned in Islamabad to combat smog

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to curb the detrimental effects of smog and environmental pollution, Islamabad has imposed a ban on the entry of vehicles emitting smoke within the city limits. His prohibition extends to all types of vehicles, including private, government, and commercial ones. The directive, issued by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, mandates the restriction to remain in place until January. Violators of the ban will face legal consequences under the enforcement of Islamabad authorities.

Six new Covid cases across country reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Wednesday said that six new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country. As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.16 percent while no patient was in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus while 3,674 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, said that the government had strengthened the role.

AIOU extends admissions deadline for ODL programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has approved the extension in admission date till November 20 with late fee charges for open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of the autumn semester 2023 due to the hundreds of applications received from interested students.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins posing for a photo graph wearing traditional "Chitrali Cap" in KPK Pavilion during annual 10 days Lok Mela 2023 at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.

Delegation of QAU students visits Safe City Command and Control Center

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the Delegation of Quaid-e-Azam University students, a public relations officer said. He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project. Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center. Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained. The delegation also met with CPO Safe City/Traffic. The delegation acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Capital Police and its benefits. The delegation expressed special gratitude to ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan and his team for this successful visit.



E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline. The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center. Face recognition cameras

Azerbaijan Embassy celebrates "Victory Day"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Azerbaijan Embassy in Pakistan held a special event to commemorate "Victory Day," marking the successful liberation of Azerbaijani territories from unlawful Armenian occupation. The event, held on November 8th, symbolized the triumphant return of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity after a long struggle against illegal occupation. Addressing the participants, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. While sharing the background, the Ambassador said, Armenia kept 20% of Azerbaijani territories under occupation for almost 30 years. Almost Armenia committed war crimes in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.



He said, Armenia committed the Khojaly Genocide in 1992, killing 613 innocent civilians, including 106 women and 63 children. They carried out ethnic cleansing against the Azerbaijani population in the occupied territories. All Azerbaijani were forcibly expelled from occupied territories. In 1993, he said, the United Nations Security Council adopted 4 resolutions demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan. "Other international organizations, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Non-Aligned Movement, OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the European Parliament adopted similar decisions and resolutions. Armenia did not implement the resolutions of the UNSC and other international organizations," he added. The ambassador said, Azerbaijan tried to resolve the Karabakh conflict through negotiations but Armenia always ignored it and tried to keep the status quo and Armenia even regularly committed military provocations during the occupation times. In 2020, he said, Azerbaijan launched a counter-offensive in response to Armenia's yet another large-scale military attack on Azerbaijani Army positions and civilian settlements. The envoy said, "At the end of the 44-day, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan liberated its territories from Armenian occupation. Azerbaijan implemented UN Security Council resolutions itself by liberating its occupied territories." "During the Armenian occupation, Azerbaijani cities and villages were razed to the ground and all cultural and religious monuments were destroyed, mosques were desecrated and looted. Armenians turned mosques into pigsties during the occupation, hundreds of thousands of mines and booby traps have been planted across Azerbaijan's territory" he said. He said, in response to aggression, Azerbaijan has never targeted any civilian people and civilian infrastructures during the Patriotic War and local antiterrorism measures. The ambassador further said, even after the war, Armenia did not stop its heinous military provocations that caused the loss of civilians and military personnel in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan.