

Independent

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

Vol. XIII No. 315 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday November 10, 2023, Rabi-us-Sani 25, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

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.

dren 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

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

In his wide-ranging address, he raised the issue of Gaza humanitarian crisis twice and reiterated condemnation of killing of chil-

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

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

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

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



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).

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

Pakistan's position on Palestine 'consistent & crystal clear': Solangi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said that Pakistan's position on Palestine was "consistent and crystal clear".

Punjab Govt partially lift lockdown

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has partially lifted the lockdown imposed in Lahore and eight other districts due to severe smog. Markets in these areas will be allowed to remain open on Thursday/Friday, while educational institutions and offices will remain closed until Sunday.

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 lodestar".



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsah 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 billion.

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.

Equity and Venture Capital (PE & VC) Fund, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. Dr. Shamsah Akhtar said the initiative is geared towards energizing the investment landscape and extending needed resources for start-ups and SMEs to grow their businesses, harnessing the potential of capital markets to diversify sources of financing, while also bolstering the country's economic prospects. She emphasized that the role of DFIs was distinct from commercial banks and this needed to be reflected in their business philosophy, adding their investment policies and the manner in which these policies are regulated can have a powerful influence on the pattern of financial assets in the capital market.

PM arrives in Islamabad after concluding two-day visit to Uzbekistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday arrived here after completing his two-day official visit to Uzbekistan.



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.

Another Congo fever patient breathes his last in Karachi

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

Over two lac illegal immigrants return to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The repatriation of illegal foreigners mostly Afghans continued to their home countries as 207,758 immigrants have returned till November 09, reported on Thursday.

Unknown person arrested at gate No 2 of PM Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): An unknown person has been arrested at Gate No 2 of Prime Minister (PM) Secretariat.

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.

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.

PM Kakar drew a historical comparison, highlighting similarity between Israel's barbaric bombardment of Gaza Strip and Pharaoh's brutalities with children becoming their main casualty.

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.

Highlighting Iqbal's life and mission, Ambassador 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."

He further said that there should be respect of

He further said that there should be respect of

He further said that there should be respect of

He further said that there should be respect of

He further said that there should be respect of



JEDDAH: Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar attending 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

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 among the total dead, she added.

Nilofar said schools and hospitals were being bombed the 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.



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.

Research based education vital for societal progress: Governor Punjab

Independent Report
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 Heritage 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

and Pakistan Women Foundation for peace.

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

and Pakistan Women Foundation for peace.

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."

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

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,

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



MULTAN: 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

Four people shot dead in Sargodha

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

Police said that Ahmed Shair (40) r/o Mith 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

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.

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



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.

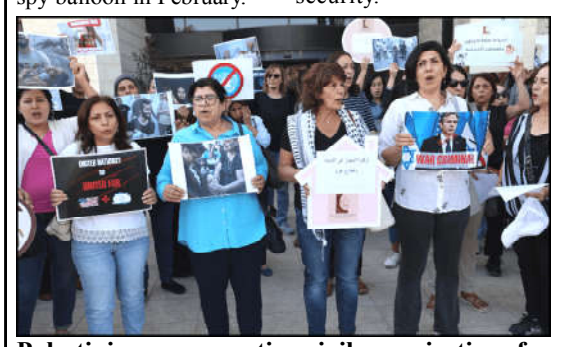
China 'ready' to improve ties with US

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.



Palestinians representing civil organisations for women protest outside the UN offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah in support of the people of 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.

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

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: The European Commission's annual report on Turkey 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 Turkey "serious backsliding" on democratic standards, the rule of law, human rights and judicial independence.

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

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey's top courts 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.



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

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."

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.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar arrives after completing his two day official visit of Uzbekistan.

US CDC delegation meets Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Atlanta led by Dr Richard Franka, representative of Global Immunization Division called on Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan.

During meeting they discussed mutual areas of interest for cooperation in health sector.

The delegation also included Acting Country Director of CDC in Pakistan, Dr Jude Tuma as well as Ms. Suzanne Powell from the US Embassy.

The minister was accompanied by Ifkhar Shalwani, federal Secretary Health and Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, Strategic Adviser IGH-CDC.

Dr Nadeem Jan thanked US CDC for longstanding collaboration and technical assistance provided to the country for immunization, Polio eradication, capacity building of public health workforce as well strengthening of public health labs in Pakistan.

The minister made mention of the contributions of CDC trained Field Epidemiologists in disease detection and response, Polio eradication as well as the recently encountered COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharing his vision and priorities of the government to protect the health of most vulnerable populations, the minister updated the delegation about initiatives being undertaken to improve essential immunization coverage across Pakistan and plan to interrupt the Polio transmission the soonest possible.

"The national leadership is committed to use all its strengths and resources to contain all vaccine preventable diseases and finally confine Polio virus to the history books."

During meeting they discussed mutual areas of interest for cooperation in health sector.

The delegation also included Acting Country Director of CDC in Pakistan, Dr Jude Tuma as well as Ms. Suzanne Powell from the US Embassy.

The minister was accompanied by Ifkhar Shalwani, federal Secretary Health and Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, Strategic Adviser IGH-CDC.

Dr Nadeem Jan thanked US CDC for longstanding collaboration and technical assistance provided to the country for immunization, Polio eradication, capacity building of public health workforce as well strengthening of public health labs in Pakistan.

The minister made mention of the contributions of CDC trained Field Epidemiologists in disease detection and response, Polio eradication as well as the recently encountered COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharing his vision and priorities of the government to protect the health of most vulnerable populations, the minister updated the delegation about initiatives being undertaken to improve essential immunization coverage across Pakistan and plan to interrupt the Polio transmission the soonest possible.

"The national leadership is committed to use all its strengths and resources to contain all vaccine preventable diseases and finally confine Polio virus to the history books."

Jawad meets Palestine envoy, denounces Israeli aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik on Thursday called upon Ambassador of the State of Palestine Ahmed Rabi'i to condemn the rising hostilities and aggression, perpetrated by Israeli occupation forces against innocent civilians in Gaza.

SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik, in the meeting, strongly denounced the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure, medical services, educational institutions and refugees camps by the Israeli occupation, according to a press release.

He further stated that given the sheer number of people i.e., around 2.2 million and the indefinite longevity, 75 years, "Gaza is the mother of all concentration camps".

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 need 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 retaliation. 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.

First Lady for improved rehabilitation action plan inclusive of differently-abled persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Samina Alvi on Thursday, stressing the importance of rehabilitation services, said their scope needed to be extended to differently-abled persons.

She was speaking at the closing ceremony of the Strategic Action Plans for the promotion of rehabilitation services in Pakistan.

The five-year comprehensive and inclusive action plan is being developed by the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, provincial health departments, World Health Organization, and ReLaB-HS at the levels of federal and provincial governments, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kash-

mir.

Begum Alvi said rehabilitation services played an important role in the health sector and helped the people suffering from illness, accident or disability, return to normal lives. She mentioned that the scope of rehabilitation services should be extended to all the people, including the persons with disabilities. "These services", she said, "include paying attention to speech and occupational therapy, and vocational rehabilitation, including the provision of assistive technology."

She said differently-abled people constituted 10 to 12 percent of the country's population and could play a positive role in the society if provided

with assistive technology, rehabilitation services and access to mobility.

She emphasized raising awareness in the society to mainstream the differently-abled persons and end their deprivation by providing them equal rights and services.

Samina Alvi termed disability a global public health issue, which, she said, required a positive approach by the society to accommodate such people through skilled education and job opportunities.

She called for a national campaign to make aware the differently-abled persons and their parents about the special job quota at the federal and provincial levels.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing the concluding session of a consultative meeting on the Formulation of Federal and Provincial Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Strategic Action Plan.

PAF pays tribute to national poet Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has paid a special tribute to the renowned national poet Allama Iqbal on his 146th birth anniversary.

PAF acknowledged the profound intellectual contributions found in Iqbal's poetry. Iqbal's writings are known for their depth of thought and vision.

The Pakistan Air Force spokesperson stated that Iqbal had a strong de-

sire to instill Shaheen's vision, passion for action, broad perspective, and courage in the young generation.

Added, Shaheen represents a majestic bird, known for its curiosity and soaring nature, embodying the spirit of exploration and freedom. The spokesperson further emphasized that the Shaheen, like the ruler of vast skies and heights, holds a unique place in the realm of the bird world.



ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat and others addressing a press conference at the National Press Club

PTI's Ali Nawaz Awan, Amir Dogar arrested in Mansehra

MANSEHRA (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and former MNAs Ali Nawaz Awan and Amir Dogar have been arrested in Batal area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mansehra.

As per details, the former PTI MNAs were reportedly in residence of local party leader Razaullah Khan who was also arrested along with his cousins.

The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab on Friday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser

from Islamabad.

According to details, the Anti-Corruption Establishment arrested the former National Assembly (NA) Speaker for his nomination in Swabi's Gaju Khan Medical College corruption case. Sources told ARY News that Asad Qaiser was being transferred to Bani Gala police station. The arrest comes as another setback for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which is already embroiled in legal battles as its top leadership remains behind bars.

IMF demands Pakistan impose tax on retail, real estate, agri sectors

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded Pakistan impose tax on retail, real estate and agricultural sectors.

This has been revealed during the ongoing technical-level talks between Pakistan's economic team and a visiting delegation of the IMF. During the negotiations, further demands put forward by the IMF have emerged.

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

TAXILA (INP): Jahangir Khan Tareen, the patron-in-chief of the Istehkam-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."

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 Aarif 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 commitment to societal reform and the eradication of terrorism, he asked the religious scholars and leaders to play a substantial role from the pulpit and arch of their respective

mosques. He vowed to collaborate closely with state institutions to achieve the common goal of putting an end to extremism and terrorism.

Rejecting any tolerance for terrorism within Islam, Ashrafi emphasized "Those who attack the state of Pakistan, its armed forces, security institutions, and the general public are acting against Islamic teachings and are considered enemies of the country."

He asserted that the state and the Pakistan Army had the right to take action against elements posing a threat to the stability and security of the country and targeting its people and institutions.

11 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons with ammunition recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 11 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Naeem involved in illegally selling petrol. The Margalla police team arrested an accused namely Rahimdad and recovered 155 gram hashish from his possession.

Likewise, the Karachi company police team arrested an accused namely Ahmed Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door"

lems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 168 house servants of 362 houses from Bara Kahu Police Station jurisdiction.



campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the prob-

The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity.

Contract signed Govt of Japan extended grant of US\$ 59,304 to PRADO for expanding Sachal edu. academy

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: The Government of Japan extended a grant of US\$ 59,304 to Participatory Research and Development Organization (PRADO) for "The Project for Expanding Sachal Educational Academy in Shora Village, Jamshoro District, Sindh" under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant contract was signed between the Consul-General of Japan, Mr. ODAGIRI Toshio and President of PRADO, Mr. Abdul Wahid.

The specific grant will be primarily utilized for expanding the school building in a remote

locality of Jamshoro to be able to cater to the ideal of fulfilling the basic human rights of education in

PRADO has been working in the field of education since 2010, mainly in the rural areas of



Sindh. In addition to the expansion of the school, the GGP grant awarded to the PRADO will furnish the necessary equipment for the school.

Sindh. In 2017, they implemented the construction of two primary schools in Matiari under the GGP programme.

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

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.