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PM Kakar, Palestinian President call for international collaboration to stop Israel from further bloodshed

RIYADH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas met here Friday underlining the need for international collaboration to stop Israel from further bloodshed.

The two leaders are attending the Extraordinary Summit of the OIC convened to discuss the dire situation in occupied Palestine resulting from the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces both in Gaza and the West Bank.

The prime minister conveying unflinching solidarity of Pakistan with the Palestinian people, strongly denounced the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupation forces and bombing of hospitals, refugee camps, schools and

residential buildings, resulting in the loss of more than ten thousand precious lives and forced displacement of Palestinian families.

President Abbas appreciated Pakistan's expression of solidarity in this difficult time and its principled stance on the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people.

The two leaders emphasized the urgency of an unconditional ceasefire, end to the siege of Gaza and smooth delivery of vital humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the affected population.

PM Kakar and President Abbas noted the timeliness of the Extraordinary Summit of the OIC and appealed to the global community, particularly the United Nations and its per-

manent organizations, to take resolute measures to uphold principles of justice and humanity and end the carnage of the Palestinian people.

He underscored Pakistan's unwavering commitment to a fair and enduring resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, founded on the two-state solution, leading to the establishment of a sovereign and viable Palestinian state with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital, along borders that existed prior to 1967 enshrined in several OIC resolutions.

Online adds: Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has warned about spillover effects of the disastrous situation in Gaza and said that this war could also have an impact outside the region.

He said that Israel's attacks on innocent Palestinians must stop immediately. Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations are excellent. The decision to evacuate Afghan refugees was made late and it should have been done a long time ago. Kashmir dispute must be resolved to improve relations with India.

While giving an interview to Turkish news Agency, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that an endless human tragedy is being witnessed in the region and there are strong possibilities of its impact not in the region but also outside the region.

While emphasizing the need for an immediate end to the Gaza crisis, he said that a humanitarian corridor should be established for

uninterrupted supply of food, medicine and other essential items to the war victims of the area. Islamabad is looking forward to attending the upcoming special session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the organization should consider the situation, and come up with a collective response.

While defending Islamabad's move to deport illegal Afghan refugees, he said that we took this decision with little delay, but now we are quite determined for orderly movement across the border. No country in the world encourages illegal immigration. So why is Pakistan being treated exclusively in such a way that it should not treat Afghan citizens like this.



RIYADH: Deputy Governor Riyadh, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival.

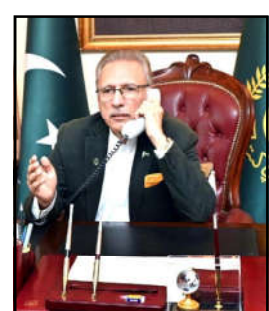
Alvi assures Mahmoud of Pakistan's continued support for Palestine cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday telephoned President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas and assured Pakistan's continued support for resolving the Palestinian dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The president expressed his heartfelt sympathies and grief on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan over the atrocities being committed by Israel against the people of Palestine.

He deplored the situation in Gaza, terming it "very painful" and said that the entire Pakistani nation was deeply saddened by the brutalities and reign of terror unleashed by the Israeli security forces.

He strongly condemned the lethal bombing by Israel which even did not



spare schools and hospitals. The barbaric actions, he said, resulted in killing of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, healthcare workers, journalists and UN aid workers.

The president said the current situation in Gaza was the reaction of decades of apartheid and unjust policies of Israel. He condemned Israel for ethnic cleansing against the Muslims and pushing them out of their territories.

President Alvi regret-

ted the lack of action on part of the international community to stop Israel from its murderous campaign against the people of Gaza.

He urged the international community to make efforts for urgent ceasefire, opening of an unhindered humanitarian corridor to Gaza, stopping further displacement of the Palestinians from their homeland and permanent solution to the Palestinian dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

Palestinian President Mehmoed Abbas said that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza. He called for stopping Israel from fighting across the Palestinian territory. He also demanded opening of a corridor to Gaza to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance as there was no food, medicine and electricity available for the people of Gaza.



KYRGYZSTAN: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali signing an agreement between the Centre for the Development of Halal Industry Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan Standards and Quality Control (PSQCA).

Solangi vows to protect journalists, media workers' rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said all-out efforts would be made to protect the rights of journalists and media workers to further strengthen democracy in the country.

Addressing a seminar on "International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists", he stressed on a collaboration between the government and media organizations for evolving an emergency mechanism to respond to any untoward incident against journalists and me-

dia workers efficiently. The caretaker government had been taking steps to prevent any crime against journalists, he said while citing different occasions when he himself took the lead to protect journalists and media workers' rights during the last couple of months. "The journalists are supposed to report news but it is very unfortunate that sometimes they themselves become a news," he regretted.

Solangi vowed to ensure arrest of those who were involved in the killing of senior journalist Jan Mohammad Mahar.

PM arrives in Saudi Arabia to attend OIC's emergency meeting on Gaza situation

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Friday to represent Pakistan at the emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the volatile situation in Gaza.

Deputy Governor Riyadh, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz received the prime minister on his arrival at the King Khalid International Airport. Pakistan's ambassador Ahmed Farooq and senior Saudi and Pakistani officials were present on the occasion.

During his three-day official visit, the prime minister will participate in the emergency meeting being held in Riyadh, which will discuss the Israeli aggression on Gaza.

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MQM-P-PML-N alliance will benefit PPP in general elections: Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Reacting to the recent "electoral alliance" between Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday claimed that the coalition will be more beneficial for his party in the upcoming general election.

During an interaction with journalists in Safari Park, the PPP chairman said: "We worked hard to make him [Shehbaz Sharif]

prime minister. It was the need of the hour." He clarified that the decision was aimed at improving the situation as the country was facing a political and democratic crisis. The PPP leader said that they benefited Sindh during the PDM-led government.

Responding to a question, Bilawal — without naming the Isteekam-i-Pakistan Party and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians — predicted that the "king's party" would meet the same fate as that of the 2008 elections.

Nation desires President to 'work as symbol of federation': Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said President Dr Arif Alvi should play his role as the "symbol of federation" and fulfill his responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution.

"The entire nation desires that the President fulfills his responsibilities as the symbol of the federation and does not give the impression that associates him with a certain political party," the minister said in a post on the social media platform X.

He said the statements being made by the President especially in the wake of upcoming elections seemed to be in conflict with his constitutional role.



RIYADH: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick calls on Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Chairman of Organization of Muslim Scholars and Secretary General of the Muslim World League at his office.

Mushaal, Chairman of Muslim Scholars' organization discuss women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick called on Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Issa, Chairman of the Organization of Muslim Scholars and Secretary General of the Muslim World League in Riyadh. During the meeting, they discussed several issues concerning women's empowerment within Islamic guidelines, said Mushaal Mullick in a post on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter).

According to the social media post, both of them shared common goals for working towards inter-faith harmony, peace building, fostering unity, inclusivity, and the rights of human beings regardless of caste, colour and creed.

Ms Mushaal apprised

Muhammad Issa of her ministry's 100-day plan to create more economic uplifting of women, trans-genders and minorities.

She appreciated Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for enhancing the role of women in the field of sustained development. She appreciated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for always standing with the plight of oppressed Kashmiris and hoped that a day would come when peace would prevail in the world. Both of them called upon the international community to fulfill its obligations in addressing the appalling calamities unfolding in Gaza.

They strongly condemned the remarks made by a minister of the Israeli occupation government, which included a threat to detonate a nuclear bomb in the Gaza Strip.

Sirajul Haq calls for Hamas' participation in OIC summit

ISTANBUL/LAHORE (PR): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has urged the inclusion of the Hamas leadership as representative of the people of Palestine in the upcoming OIC Summit, slated to take place in Riyadh on Sunday.

This call was made during a meeting of Islamic movement leaders in Istanbul. The JI chief who is visiting Turkiye followed a three-day tour of Iran,

ment in the genocide of Palestinians despite international calls for a ceasefire.

He stressed the urgency of humanitarian aid for Gaza, proposing the construction of a mega hospital at Rafah Crossing to treat injured Palestinians. "Palestinians are defenseless against the full-scale brutalities unleashed by Israeli forces on innocent civilians," he said, calling upon Islamic countries to ensure

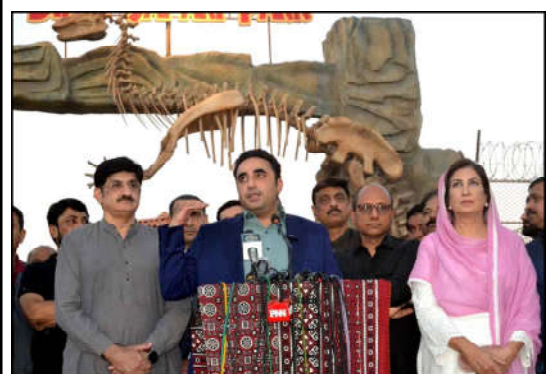
Court orders to return Nawaz's confiscated assets

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Friday directed the authorities to return the confiscated assets and property owned by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the Toshakhana case.

AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir, while hearing the case, ordered the respondents to return 1,650 kanals land in Lahore, bank accounts, property and luxury vehicles, confiscated by them, to the former prime minister. The court took the decision when it was told that Nawaz Sharif had traveled abroad for his medical treatment with the court's permission.

The judge observed that non-bailable arrest warrants against Nawaz Sharif were issued by the court instead of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman.

He said that the court had already withdrawn arrest warrants after the former prime minister surrendered before it.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons during his visit to Dino Safari Park in Karachi.

Pakistan shares plan to get 60% of energy from alternative sources by 2030 to IMF mission

ISLAMABAD (Online): The plan to obtain 60% of energy from alternative sources by 2030 has been shared with the IMF mission, according to which there is a plan to introduce 30% of electric vehicles by 2030, while the plan is to ban imported coal.

According to the sources, there have been talks between the officials of the Planning Commission on Clean Air National Policy with the IMF mission.

A proposal to spend 1 percent of GDP annually on climate change has been agreed by the IMF mission.

Briefing of IMF mission on Green Energy Mix, Billion Tree Tsunami Project under Clean Air Policy.

According to sources of climate change, there is a ban on burning crop residues to control environmental pollution. Euro 5, Euro 6 transport technology policy is being implemented under the National Clean Air Policy.

A briefing was given on the mission between the Federation and the provinces on extending credit and other financing options for clean air policy.



also engaged in discussions on the Palestine issue with Turkiye's Grand National Assembly Speaker Numan Kurtulmus. He participated in a Palestine Solidarity rally in Istanbul, addressing the gathering outside the historic Fatah Mosque. He emphasized the imperative of a diplomatic and economic boycott of Israel by Muslim nations, decriing the Israeli forces' involve-

the security and protection of the Palestinian people through the formulation of a comprehensive security plan.

Haq reminded Muslim rulers that their rule is a trust imposed by the people, emphasizing the responsibility of leaders to authentically represent the sentiments of the Ummah for the Palestinian cause.



LAHORE: Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani meeting with PML-N president and former Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Pakistan's firm stand on repatriation of illegal immigrants

While the forced repatriation of the illegal and undocumented immigrants is continued uninterrupted all over the country including Balochistan, Pakistan has announced its plan to deport registered Afghan immigrants as well after their (illegal) repatriation. Voluntary repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals to their homeland continued-nine days after the expiry of the deadline for voluntary repatriation on Oct 31. According to the official data, on Thursday, 3,035 undocumented immigrants, including 785 men, 747 women, 1,468 children and 35 deportees, left the country for Afghanistan via Torkham border crossing.

In addition, 3,056 individuals departed for Afghanistan via Angoor Adda border crossing in South Waziristan. As many as 197,652 immigrants-14,683 families comprising 55,394 men, 42,921 women, and 98,098 children-have so far left for Afghanistan via KP borders since September 17. An official document read that 1,207 people were also deported. Meanwhile, the caretaker Minister Information Balochistan, Jan Aghazai's assertion is clear when he mentioned that the country's policy regarding repatriation of illegal and other immigrants is in reaction to militants using Afghanistan as a launching pad to foment terrorism in the country.

This is at a time when JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman demanded the formation of a commission to deal with the issue of refugees, saying "unilateral decisions do not serve Pakistan or Afghanistan". Earlier, at a press conference at Karachi Press Club, the provincial caretaker Information Minister claimed the government would start the same campaign against those living with legal documents in the country in line with the "state's decision". Though the caretakers lack the authority to make policy decisions, the Minister claimed the deportation drive would not come to a halt after the elections due in February next year. And no one should be mistaken. This is the decision of a 'sovereign state' to repatriate all illegal immigrants. So any political government comes to power after the elections, this process would continue. The new government would be bound to follow this policy.

The minister claimed terrorists were using the Afghan soil to target "our security forces and that is why we have decided to send illegal immigrants to their home countries". His claim was that six terrorists killed in Zhob last week were Afghan nationals. "With the new [Taliban] government set-up taking charge in Afghanistan two years ago, the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan have increased." During the presser, it was also mentioned by Jan Aghazai that Balochistan government has so far blocked some 100,000 fake Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) in two districts of the province.



Muhammad Azfar Ahsan

Action will be judged — the Islamic concept of accountability is at the core of the entire philosophy that scaffolds the community's financial development in an Islamic state. Initially disavowed as a 'no banking system' and then labelled as too religiously confined, Islamic banking has come up astoundingly and with great flourish, suspending all arguments against it.

It is rapidly permeating the monopoly of conventional financial systems, gaining recognition for its resilience and robust risk management backed by collateral assets. Its inclusive nature has driven remarkable growth even in secular economies like those of the United Kingdom and Singapore.

From the Islamic perspective, all wealth belongs to God, and man is only a trustee who should manage it accordingly to achieve worldly prosperity. The Holy Quran says in Surah Nur, Verse 33 "... and give something out of the wealth that God has bestowed upon you. ..." Meanwhile in Surah Baqarah, Verse 275 it is stated: "Allah hath permitted trade and forbidden usury", because wealth is a product that needs to be invested to build financial infrastructure in the community and for the community — it is not to hoard or take interest on.

The historical development of Islamic banking will help us see how the Arab concept of 'amanah' emphasised entrusting reliable and trustworthy in-

Beyond riba

dividuals with financial and valuable assets. This trustworthiness formed the cornerstone of the community's financial ethics. 'Al Amanah' and 'Al Masu'uliyah' defined requisite financial behaviour, making the absence of riba a mechanical tool for a healthier business community. Riba was declared to be a satanic instrument bringing misery and cruelty while standing in the way of the well-being of a community. With robust customer due diligence, monitoring of transactions, timely reporting/sharing mechanisms, and obliteration of speculation (gharar), combined with thorough scrutiny by Islamic scholars to ensure that investments are made in ethically sound businesses, Islamic commerce gained ground, enabling the rise of the Islamic dominions. The introduction of mudaraba (profit and loss sharing) and musharaka (partnership) concepts as risk-sharing mechanisms proved effective, as they encouraged precise reporting and transparent disclosure of financial information. All stakeholders had a vested interest in the ventures' success, which encouraged robust collaborative frameworks.

Additionally, zakat (charitable giving) and sadaqah (voluntary giving) played a role in redistributing wealth and addressing social inequalities, contributing to a more equitable and transparent financial ecosystem. The beauty is that this evolving landscape of Islamic finance existed within the parameters of taqwa (mindfulness of accountability towards Allah) ensuring the strong responsibility of each stakeholder to uphold the highest moral principles. Gambling, whether qimar or mairis, was strictly barred. The idea of wishful ease without payment or labour was not admissible. Fraud or coercion, of course, fell more in the

ambit of dishonesty and, hence, were completely out of the picture too.

History shows several success stories of the system, and today, Islamic finance again proposes robust due diligence, stringent monitoring, and timely reporting mechanisms, mitigating money laundering and non-compliance. In this technological era, the market is coming up with the tools to work against fraudulent activities, ensuring comprehensive screening through 'Know-Your-Customer' (KYC). Combined with thorough scrutiny by Islamic scholars, the ingrained values ensure a perfect ethos.

Islamic fintech (mobile banking, online payment systems, and blockchain applications) is gaining traction and bringing the unbanked to the banking system, especially women and youth. Artificial intelligence has empowered Islamic fintech to not only detect but also predict possible behaviours with an analysis of 'weak points' of entry, but how it stands to reveal the power of 'Islamic' firewalls remains to be seen.

We are globally looking at green Sukuks to fund environmentally friendly projects and initiatives — the integral well-being of the system combined with specially designed green initiatives stands to create a strong bond with sustainability, creating a huge appeal for socially conscientious investors across the globe.

Islamic financial instruments are poised to play a significant role with stronger resistance towards phishing cyberattacks. The ethos of well-being in Islamic banking is vital to change the game, making Islamic banking a strong and resilient alternative banking system across the globe. — Courtesy Dawn

Deprived & hateful



Asim Sajjad Akhtar

Pakistan appears to rank among the most classed, militarised and hate-riven societies. The victimisation of working-class Pakhtuns, Hazaras, etc, under the pretext of deporting 'illegal Afghans' is the latest example of the divisions in Pakistani social formation.

The caretaker government's abrupt decision to kick out almost two million 'refugees' — the claim is that it is not exclusively Afghans being targeted — is, in essence, an attempt to scapegoat the victims of a disastrous five-decade-old policy seeking so-called strategic depth in Afghanistan.

Recently, officialdom — with spymasters — celebrated the restoration of Taliban rule after the US withdrew in 2021. Two years on, religious militias again wreak havoc in Pakistan's tribal districts with the state conspicuous by its absence. Against this backdrop, the deportation initiative is a cynical distractionary tactic.

What I want to focus on here is how such announcements magnify the politics of hate that has taken root amongst working people in Pakistani society. To begin with, state policies of this nature largely affect working people who can be easily targeted by a state apparatus that is trained in anti-people colonial tradition.

The majority of people who have been protesting for days at the Chaman border, for example, are daily wagers. Meanwhile, rich and powerful interest groups, regardless of their ethnic-national background, will

continue with business as usual, especially those with close ties to the militarised state apparatus.

The British Raj pitted the subcontinent's ethnic-national and religious communities against one another. Most historical accounts of the colonial 'divide and rule' policy tend to focus on elite segments. But the lowest ranks of the civil and military services, for example, were strategically staffed in ways that stoked ethnic-national and religious tensions in various parts of British India. This has continued in the postcolonial era.

Even more divisive has been the state's imposition of a unitary model of assimilation around the ideological pillars of 'official' Islam and Urdu as the exclusive national language. The result has been politicisation of ethnic-national identity, precipitating progressive forms of resistance politics, especially in the 1960s and 1970s when a broadly anti-imperialist and class political front — the National Awami Party — brought together most ethnic-national communities.

But recent decades have seen ethnic-national identity politicised in reactionary ways, especially as financialised and military capital have reared their collective heads.

Arif Hasan has showed how the country's biggest city, Karachi, has been riven by violent conflicts over land that have been deliberately ethnicised by a combination of state functionaries and economic mafias. Similar trajectories of politics have played out in Sindh's other urban centres, as well as Balochistan's economic and political capital Quetta.

All this has happened as concerns about demographic change become increasingly urgent in both Sindh and Balochistan. Indigenous communities globally have legitimate reasons to

resist reduction to a demographic minority — for instance, the native population of North America.

But here, directing such concerns towards working-class people from ethnic-national backgrounds considered to be 'non-indigenous' deflects from the far bigger role played by the state and big capitalists in depriving local communities of resources, jobs and dignity. In contrast, a progressive politics would bring together working people of all ethnic-national backgrounds against land and other natural resource grabs by the nexus of capital and state.

It is, after all, this same nexus that forces working people from northern Pakistan — and in Afghanistan — to migrate, away from their historical abodes, to escape wars or survive economic hardship. Of course, developing a shared understanding is impossible in a social-mediatised political environment dominated by maximalism and hot takes. And it is not what the militarised state apparatus and right-wing reactionaries want to promote.

I have spent most of my adult life striving to bring together working people from across Pakistan's many ethnic-national communities to build a viable left alternative. This is no mean task. But politics is the art of making what seems impossible into a real possibility. In the months and years to come, we can expect the combination of rapacious capitalist profiteering and colonial divide-and-rule statecraft to reinforce the conditions in which the politics of hate takes root and thrives. The only hope of averting a rapid descent into barbarism is if progressives of all ethnic-national communities generate the collective will to build something different. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP Dy. Governors says: Inflation to further decrease in country

FAISALABAD (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Deputy Governor Saleem Ullah said inflation had been reined in and would further decrease while other economic indicators were also expected to improve in the coming months.

Addressing the business community in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that although inflation was declining but it was still high and hence the policy rate has been kept unchanged.

He said that the PSX had recorded robust activity which would also

have a salutary impact on other sectors. He categorically denied that the SBP had claimed any quota restrictions on imports. "It is the issue of banks", he said.

He further said that the SBP was launching a web portal under the title of "Shunwai" to redress bank-related complaints instantly. He said that withholding the payments of importers without transferring it to departments concerned was a serious issue and the SBP would look into it. He was unhappy over delay in the import of IT-related equipment and appliances and said that the

government was trying to encourage IT and hence the import of computers should be given priority. Responding to a question about small traders, he said that under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, people up to the age of 45 years could get Rs500,000 interest-free loans. He said that the bank was also trying to facilitate the exporters so that they could earn maximum dollars for the country.

He further said that economic stability was directly linked with the SME sector and Rs60bn had been allocated for this sector at subsidized rates.

TDA-2022 to establish a comprehensive regime for trade dispute resolution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Trade Dispute Act of 2022 (TDA-2022), provided the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the exports and imports of goods and services including e-commerce trade.

Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Friday told APP that the new law for the

resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet to define a time frame to resolve the different disputes of international trade through "The Trade Dispute Act 2022."

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame for providing 'Ease of Doing Business' to the Import and export business, he said. President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khurram Tariq,

Rupee sheds 14 Paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed 14 paise depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.03 against the previous day's closing at Rs 286.89. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287 and Rs 289.5 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 26 paise to close at Rs 306.26 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.00, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



KYRGYZSTAN: Interim Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali held a meeting with Business Forum of Kyrgyzstan.

SECP standardizes IPO approval process

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified a maximum period of 14 working days for granting regulatory approvals to a listing application and prospectus.

In this regard circular under section 172 of the Securities Act, 2015 has been issued, said a press release issued here.

The circular has also set a 15-day window for the Pakistan Stock

Exchange Limited (PSX) to complete the entire post-approval procedures for listing.

The standardization of IPO approval process is aimed at promoting the Initial Public Offering (IPO) market and bringing in new listings at PSX.

The timelines were announced following extensive stakeholder consultations, leading to significant changes in procedures for filing and approval of IPO applications.

Crackdown on profiteering, hoarding results in heavy fines and sealing of shops

KARACHI (APP): The district administration of Karachi has intensified a crackdown on hawkers, profiteers, and hoarders, resulting in a significant financial blow to offenders.

On Friday, 178 shopkeepers found guilty of exploiting prices were collectively fined a staggering amount of more than 21 million rupees. Moreover, authorities took the stern step of sealing five shops, while several others received warning notices.

The crackdown targeted various districts within the city, with ven-

dors selling essential items such as food, poultry, vegetables, meat, fruits, flour, and sugar at prices surpassing the official rates. Punitive fines were levied on those found guilty of overpricing in different districts. In Korangi district, six shopkeepers faced fines amounting to Rs 90,000, while in the South district, 20 shopkeepers were collectively fined Rs 2,86,000.

The Central district saw penalties imposed on 21 shopkeepers, totalling Rs 4,40,000. Similarly, Malir District penalized 19 shopkeepers with fines.

Weekly inflation goes up by 0.73 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.73 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on November 08, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 281.12 points as compared to 279.08 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.86 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.05 percent and went up to 289.19 points from last week's 286.19 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 1.02 percent, 0.88 percent, 0.80 percent and 0.59 percent respectively.

KOIMA sign MoU with FPCCI to close relations, bilateral trade, technology

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Korean Importers Association (KOIMA) visited Pakistan to explore new avenues of bilateral trade and

past Vice President Qaisar Khan Daudzai & Convener Capital Office Syed Asad Mashadi.

The Primary objective of this MoU is to expand and diversify the



investments. The Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman and Mr. Kim Byung, Chairman of KOIMA signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations.

The signing MoU was witnessed by the Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Aminullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of Capital Office, Korean Ambassador H.E. Park Ki Jun, and FPCCI's

bilateral trade and economic cooperation between both countries and to stabilize global supply chains and strengthening partnership.

Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada expressed his gratitude on behalf of 40th anniversary of Pak-Korea diplomatic relations and underscored the strong potential for future collaboration to intensify cooperation in all fields including political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

UNHCR delegation calls on KP CM, discusses repatriation of illegal foreigners

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-member delegation led by the representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for Pakistan Ms. Philippa Candler called on the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan at Chief Minister's House here Friday and discussed with him matters related to the repatriation of illegal immigrants living in the province.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed were also present on the occasion. The chief minister, while talking to the delegates, said that the repatriation process of illegal immigrants was in progress smoothly so far adding that all possible facilities were being extended to the immigrants going back to their homeland voluntarily and the provincial government had allocated special funds for this purpose.

"The immigrants returning back to their countries are being treated humanely and the humanitarian aspect of the matter is fully taken care of whereas elderly people, women and children are being accorded special treatment as per the traditions of the land," he said adding that specific transit points had been set up for temporary stay of such immigrants having all the required facilities.

The chief minister maintained that an effective grievance redressal mechanism had also been put in place to address any kind of complaints or concerns of the immigrants on immediate basis adding that all out efforts were being made to ensure that every single immigrant going back home gets proper treatment and no one is mistreated.

Quaid-e-Azam XI Triumphs in Allama Iqbal Cup Basketball Girls Exhibition Match

KARACHI (APP): The Abdul Nasser Basketball Court in Aram Bagh recently hosted an exciting exhibition match for the Allama Iqbal Cup Basketball Girls, organized by the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA). In a closely contested game, Quaid-e-Azam XI secured a 25-20 victory over Shaheed Millat XI.

The chief guest for the event was Assistant Commissioner Nida Saman, who was later honored with the Allama Iqbal Performance Award by KBBA for her significant contributions.

Training session at CPO focuses on inspection registers in police stations

KARACHI (APP): A training session emphasizing the significance and efficacy of inspection registers in police stations regarding crime prevention was conducted at the Central Police Office (CPO) in Karachi. During the session, master trainers from Punjab directly provided guidance to SSPs in Investigations, District SSPs of Karachi, as well as training branch trainers, said a news release on Friday.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah chairing meeting at Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board (QMMB).

CM Punjab takes notice of markets' closure

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has taken notice of unwarranted closure of markets and shops in certain areas of the city. He clarified that as of today (Nov 10), no directive had been issued by the Punjab government to shut down markets and shops.

He said that in the wake of worsening smog situation, a decision had been made to close shops and markets on Saturday, Nov 11. "On a personal note and on behalf of the Punjab government, I express gratitude to the business community for their cooperation in this matter," he added.

Furthermore, the chief minister emphasised that addressing smog was a collective national responsibility. "We all must collaborate to enhance the livability of Lahore and other cities. Support for the government's initiatives is crucial, and by working together, we can effectively combat this environmental challenge," he concluded.

Arshad emphasizes role of education in students' growth, success

Independent Report ABBOTTABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Law, Human Rights, and Religious and Minority Affairs, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah Friday has called on parents and teachers to actively encourage students in their educational pursuits for enhanced growth and success.

He applauded this support, emphasizing that both the public and private sectors share the responsibility of providing a valuable education to the younger generation.

Minister Arshad Hussain Shah mentioned the establishment of various institutions by the provincial government to bring private educational institutions under a unified code of conduct. This initiative aligns with the agenda of a new uniform education system, focusing on the students' and parents' interests.

He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of teachers and students, stating that education goes beyond textbooks and exams.



KARACHI: Activists of Transgender hold rally in favor of their demands.

36th International Neurosurgery Conference inaugurated at LUMHS

HYDERABAD (APP): The 36th International Neurosurgery Conference was inaugurated at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro. The conference has been organized by the Department of Neurosurgery LUMHS, in collaboration with the Turkish Neurosurgical Society & Emirates Society of Neurological Surgeons.

He added that the philosophy and practice of minimally invasive surgery have fundamentally altered the practice of neurosurgery. The goal of minimally invasive surgery is to reduce tissue disruption and thus morbidity. The scholars attending this conference are going to review the development, applications, and benefits of minimally invasive neurosurgery, and its wider surgical implications.

Ujjan futher added that this 36th International Neurosurgery Conference would be able to achieve its objective in providing an effective forum for academicians, researchers and practitioners to advance knowledge, research, and the latest surgical technology for humanity.

The Vice-Chancellor offered his deepest gratitude to the Chairman Department of Neurosurgery Prof. Riaz Ahmad Raja and his team for organizing a vibrant scientific program and is working hard to present highly respected and internationally renowned speakers to lead it.

Renowned Neurosurgeon and chairman Organizing Committee, Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad Raja expressed that this time we have organized this high-profile academic event in collaboration with the Emirates Society of Neurological Surgeons and Turkish Neurosurgical Society, as it is believed that through collaboration and exchange the field of Neurosurgery can be advanced with improved patient care.



SKARDU: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a cabinet meeting.

International News

Palestinian officials say Israeli air strikes hit Gaza hospitals

GAZA: Israeli air strikes hit Gaza's biggest hospital, the Al Shifa, on Friday, killing one person and wounding others sheltering there, Palestinian officials said, one of several hospitals reported struck at dawn as Israel battles Hamas in the heart of the enclave.

Officials said other strikes had damaged parts of the Indonesian Hospital and hit vehicles outside the Rantissi cancer hospital in the northern part of Gaza, where Israel says Hamas militants who attacked it last month are concentrated.

Israel did not immediately comment but says it does not target civilians and goes to great lengths to avoid hitting them. It says Hamas militants have hidden command centres and tunnels beneath Al Shifa and other hospitals, allegations which



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at al-Shati Palace.

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.

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.

The four ministers agreed to expand their joint exercises, including the annual Japan-UK joint exercise, Vigilant Isles 23, starting later this month, according to a joint statement issued after their talks.

US strike on weapons facility in Syria a 'deterrent', White House says

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The U.S. military strikes in Syria are aimed at destroying weaponry and deterring Iranian-backed separatist groups from targeting American personnel in the region in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the White House said on Thursday.

The United States carried out strikes on Wednesday against a weapon storage facility in eastern Syria that the Pentagon said was used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated groups. President Joe Biden said the United States had to respond after U.S. troops were targeted and that the retaliatory strikes were working.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin hold a joint press conference at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea.

State Dept. approves \$2.5B sale of Abrams tanks to Romania

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The State Department cleared an estimated \$2.5 billion foreign military sale of M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks to Romania, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said Nov. 9. DSCA notified Congress, which must approve the sale, today.

Romania wants to buy 54 of the General Dynamics Land Systems-manufactured M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tanks, 54 M1A1 structures, four M88A2 Hercules Com-

Eight die in car crash as US police chase migrant smuggler

Monitoring Desk HOUSTON: Eight people, several of them from Honduras, were killed on Wednesday in a two-car collision in the southern US state of Texas involving an alleged migrant smuggler attempting to evade arrest, officials said.

Police said the driver of a white Honda was transporting five undocumented migrants and fleeing sheriffs on a road about 60 miles (100 kilometres) from the Mexican border when he passed a truck and collided with another car, killing the couple inside.

Seven victims died at the scene, while an eighth died later in hospital, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Public Safety said. Several of the migrants who were killed in the white Honda were from Honduras, according to police.

US authorities have intercepted some six million migrants at its southern border since President Joe Biden assumed office in January 2021.

North Korea shipping arms to Russia, alleges US

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday condemned North Korea for sending arms to help the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as he held meetings with top officials in key ally South Korea.

The United States, South Korea and Japan have in recent weeks repeatedly criticised Pyongyang for helping Russia pursue its military campaign in Ukraine, with Seoul saying North Korea has sent a million artillery rounds.

Caretaker gov't powers in New Zealand extended

Monitoring Desk WELLINGTON: Negotiations between three parties hoping to form the next New Zealand government are continuing, but because they are likely to stretch into next week, the powers of caretaker ministers would be extended, the current government said on Friday.

Taiwan, facing Chinese pressure, to stress importance of peace at APEC summit

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Taiwan will stress the importance of peace in the region at next week's APEC summit, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Friday, one of the few international bodies both Taiwan and China are members of and where their officials meet.

The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will meet in San Francisco for the 30th APEC summit, the first hosted by the United States since 2011. Chinese-claimed and democratically ruled Taiwan, which takes part in APEC as "Chinese Taipei" and does not send its president to summits, has faced increased military pressure from Beijing including two

ECC approves extension of GOP guarantee ceiling worth Rs 100 bn in favour of PSO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved a summary submitted by the Ministry of Energy for the extension of the GOP guarantee ceiling worth Rs100 billion in favour of PSO till December 2024, subject to the approval of terms and conditions of each financing facility by the Finance Division upon renewal.

Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr Shamsad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The meeting considered the summaries submitted by various ministries, including Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Ministry

of Energy (Petroleum Division), Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety and Ministry of Defence.

The ECC also discussed the summary submitted by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding the "Revision of Light-house Dues". The ECC, after a detailed discussion, decided to revise the Light-house dues from Rs. 7/NRT to Rs. 20/NRT, under Section 10(1) of the Lighthouse Act, 1927. A proposal for disbursement of Rs 20 billion credited to the Federal Government Account by the Finance Department Government of Punjab for further disbursement to Green Corporate Initiative (Pvt) for Green Pakistan Initiative was also discussed.

The ECC also approved the disbursement that would observe that

the provincial governments may directly engage with companies operating under the Green Pakistan Initiative for future disbursements.

The ECC also took up a summary submitted by the Ministry of Energy regarding "Uniform Quarterly Tariff Adjustments for K-Electric Consumers at par with XWDISCOs 2nd & 3rd Quarterly FY 2023".

After detailed discussion, it was decided by the ECC that the tariff rationalization by way of adjustments for K-Electric in line with the uniform QTA application guidelines already issued to NEPRA, shall be applicable on the consumption of July, August, and September 2023 to be recovered from consumers of K-Electric in December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024, respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar presides over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

Pak focused to benefit from TAPI despite India's lack of interest: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that despite India's lack of interest, Pakistan is focused to reap the benefits from the long-pending four-nation energy corridor, TAPI. About the multibillion-dollar project involving Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI), the prime minister said the corridor could prove as a source of cheap and sustainable supply of energy for the region.

"On TAPI, there is a lot of enthusiasm from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. But if India chooses to remain out of the benefit of this whole arrangement, they still can do it," Kakar said in an interview with Turkiye's Anadolu news agency.

Kakar said, "With or without India, the Turkmen gas can be exploited for the

economic benefit of this region, and we are very much focused on achieving that target."

The \$7 billion project aims to bring natural gas from the Gylkynish and adjacent gas fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, the Anadolu reported.

The Asian Development Bank is facilitating and coordinating the project, which is proposed to lay a 56-inch diameter 1,680-kilometer (1,044-mile) pipeline with a design capacity of 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per annum from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan up to Indo-Pak border.

On relations with Turkiye, the prime minister called for enhanced coordination and cooperation, calling the bilateral relations "fabulous."

Taliban questions motivations behind Afghan asylum requests

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Sirajuddin Haqqani, the Acting Interior Minister of Afghanistan, vehemently refuted claims of harm to returning Afghans, categorically asserting that citizens could live in tranquility anywhere within the nation's borders. Haqqani, addressing a spectrum of concerns, revealed that some Afghans returning from abroad had purportedly misrepresented their circumstances, fabricating tales of peril under the Taliban government.

Notably, he cited cases of Afghans who had previously resided in Pakistan and other nations, asserting their safety was compromised. Dismissing these narratives, Haqqani contended that there had been no repercussions for those who had allegedly worked

as translators with NATO forces or written critically about the Afghan Taliban. Contrary to reports circulating in Western media, Haqqani adamantly denied any incidents of arrests or torture of interpreters or journalists within Afghanistan.

He challenged the veracity of these claims, attributing them to misinformation aimed at seeking luxury life through political asylum in countries such as the United States, Europe, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The Acting Interior Minister expressed skepticism over the motivations behind Afghan citizens seeking asylum abroad, suggesting financial motivations as a primary driver. He argued that, despite a financial crisis, there was no disturbance to the peace and order in

Afghanistan, questioning the necessity for such requests. In a bold stance, Haqqani urged international organizations like the UNHCR and Western nations to prioritize refugees from other conflict zones, including Myanmar, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Sudan, over Afghan asylum seekers.

He underscored the need to address the global refugee crisis while emphasizing Afghanistan's stability and debunking what he deemed as baseless claims propagated by certain media outlets. As Afghanistan navigates a complex period of transition, Haqqani's words stand as a testament to the government's commitment to dispelling misinformation and fostering an environment of peace and stability within its borders.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah addressing to the media persons at Mazar-e-Quaid

Jamal for preservation of cultural heritage with coop. of provincial governments

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah on Friday said that our cultural heritage is very rich and we intend to work for its preservation with the cooperation of provincial governments.

He said this while talking to media, along with the Secretary Karachi Press Club (KPC), Shoaib Ahmed, prominent artist and anchor Huma Mir and others, during a visit to the Karachi Press Club here.

Syed Jamal Shah said that the projection of our rich heritage sites would attract the local as well as foreign tourists. It will also help to create awareness among our future generations about our rich culture and heritage, he added.

Speaking about his visit to KPC, he said that his relationship with the Karachi Press Club was old

and was feeling the KPC very close to his heart.

Syed Jamal Shah said that he considered culture a blessing connecting an individual to the homeland and no country could progress and develop without strong cultural identity.

To a questioner, he told that there was a need to develop more cinemas in the country with the affordable tickets and better facilities. Production of more films will create more job opportunities and film is a very strong medium for projection and promotion of our culture and to educate people, he added.

Earlier, the minister held a meeting with the Governing Body of the KPC. President KPC Saeed Sarbazi, Secretary KPC Shoaib Ahmed along with the members of the KPC Governing Body briefed the minister regarding the problems.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva taking interest in the painting during exhibition entitled "Once you thought you knew, where you are going" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

PM House still in hands of those who ruled before: Khurshed Shah

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Khurshed Shah on Friday, without naming Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N), said that the Prime Minister's House continues to be in the hands of the same party which ruled before.

"The government will not work if someone is forcefully imposed on us to rule. If (the prime minister) is selected, then the country will only suffer," said Shah while speaking to media persons in Lahore.

Shah, while referring to PML-N's electoral alliance with Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), said that the PPP was contesting alone in the elections. "The people of Punjab had shown their trust in PPP in the past," said Shah, adding if there are any punctures in the elections, then there will be a lot of damage. "There is no interference during the voting process around the world," he said while calling for the restoration of democracy through voting in Pakistan.

NIH issues advisory on Human Leptospirosis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued awareness and communication alert for Human Leptospirosis on Friday.

According to NIH's Centre for Disease Control, the objective of this advisory is to alert and facilitate the health authorities and other stakeholders for ensuring early detection,

timely management and laboratory detection of Leptospirosis cases.

The advisory said that Leptospirosis is a rare zoonotic bacterial disease caused by the bacterium belonging to Leptospira genus, transmits from animals mostly rodents, pets, cattle and other wild animals to humans through contact with infected animal excreta.

SIM disowning charge apply on having less than 6 months retention period

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cellular Mobile Operators in Pakistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan may levy a "SIM Disowning Charge" up to Rs. 200 on SIMs having a retention period of less than six months.

To check the status of registered SIMs, consumers can use the following methods: by visiting https://cmic.sims.pk/ or sending an SMS with CNIC number (without dashes) to 668 (charges apply).

Police thwarts a major smuggling attempt

MULTAN: A major operation led by Commandant Zahid Iqbal Gujjar of the Border Military Police in Rakhi Gaj tribal area of Mount Sulaiman thwarted a major smuggling attempt from Balochistan to Punjab and seized non-customs paid goods worth crores of rupees.

There are actions against smuggling. Commandant Zahid Iqbal Gujjar, acting in the tribal area of Dera Ghazi Khan's Koh Sulaiman Rakhi Gaj, has foiled a major smuggling attempt from Balochistan to Punjab. has taken. Non-customs paid goods were to be smuggled from Balochistan to Punjab Commandant Zahid Iqbal Gujjar while talking to the media along with SHO Liaqat Abbas Leghari said that the non-customs paid items include foreign cigarettes, milk, china, salt, blister cream, etc.

FGRF continues relief activities in war-hit Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF) of the Dawat-e-Islami has been continuing its relief and aid activities for the innocent Gazans who have been facing the worst Israeli bombardment for over a month.

Molana Abdul Habib Attari, spokesperson of the Dawat-e-Islami, told APP on Friday that the FGRF had initiated relief work soon after the humanitarian crisis emerged in Gaza, Palestine due to Israeli aggression atrocities since October 7. He said the FGRF team members from Malawi, Turkey and the United Kingdom made tremendous efforts to start relief.

Murtaza Solangi says: PIA is present on privatization list

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that PIA is present on the privatization list.

Responding to a calling attention notice in the Senate Friday, he said the previous government had devised a privatization plan and the caretaker government is implementing it. He mentioned that the halted flight operation of the PIA has been revived after arranging the funds.

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs emphasized that issues related to the PIA span over several successive governments. He suggested threadbare discussion on the national flag carrier in the presence of Ministers for Aviation and Privatization.

Taking the floor, Leader of House in the Senate Ishaq Dar expressed concerns over rise in terror incidents in the country, suggesting that the caretaker government should give an in-camera briefing to the House on the situation.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George addressing a seminar regarding human and women rights

Senate told All former ministers, state ministers, assistants, SAPMs returned official cars

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday informed the Senate that no former federal ministers, ministers of state, special assistants or advisors to the prime minister (SAPM) have taken official vehicles with themselves rather, all such vehicles had to hand over to the cabinet division in a week on expiry of the respective government's tenure.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that later the cabinet division utilized the said vehicles.

He also clarified that he and other incumbent caretaker ministers had 1800cc cars. As per rule 24 of the Rules for Use of Staff Cars 1980, Federal Ministers/Ministers of State/Advisors/Special Assistants to the Prime Min-

ister with the status of Minister/Minister of State were entitled to use 1800cc cars to be provided by the respective Ministry, he said.

However, the minister said in case of non-availability of the suitable entitled car with the Ministry concerned, the Cabinet Division provides the vehicles from its pool for the use of Federal Ministers/Ministers of State.

In response to a question raised by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi, the minister said presently, serving Officers in BS-20-22 of the Federal Government were not entitled to have any official/personal staff at their residences.

The government would carry out an exercise to take information from the concerned departments and in case of any violation, a report would be presented before the house, he said.



ISLAMABAD: People are buying woolen clothes from vendors at Weekly Friday Market due to increasing coldness after first rain of winters in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of the Indonesia to Pakistan Adam M Tugio addressing his farewell dinner at the residence of the Dr Abrar-ul-Hussain in Federal Capital.

Pak calls for int'l cooperation for preservation of polar, glacial regions: Madad Sindhi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Friday said that Pakistan called for international cooperation and proactive approach for the preservation of polar and the world's glacial regions.

While addressing the "One Planet - Polar Summit", he also drew attention of all the participants towards the "Third Pole" which comprises of Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindukush (HKH) region and holds largest cryospheric reserves on

Earth outside polar region, said a press release received here yesterday.

He said Pakistan alone has over 7,000 glaciers in HKH ranges which covers an approximate area of 15,000 sq. km.

The minister highlighted that HKH region was particularly vulnerable to climate change while Third Pole was the world's most substantial reservoir and was critical for freshwater supply to around 2 billion people.

The minister added that ecosystems, biodiversity, food security

were all under threat; and our avalanche and glacial lake outbursts (GLOF) risk had increased manifold. As an example of GLOF, the minister cited the incident of Shipper Glacier in 2022 which resulted in destructive flooding.

He said that urgent global action was needed now to mitigate climate change and protect glaciers.

He ensured that Pakistan was committed to play its role in addressing critical issues affecting polar regions and climate change's implications on these vital glaciers.

Saudi Arabian NDU delegation visits NUST

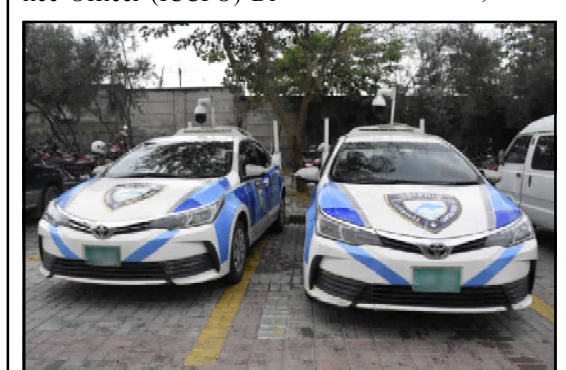
ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-powered delegation from the Saudi Arabian National Defence University (SANDU), accompanied by members of the Saudi Ministry of Defence, paid a visit to the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

Headed by President SANDU M.G. Mohammed Alruwaili, the delegation was extended a very warm welcome, followed by a comprehensive briefing on the NUST ecosystem.

The delegates extolled the university for its remarkable global achievements and unwavering commitment to advancing applied research and fostering innovation across various domains, according to a news release.

ICP enhances surveillance with Safe City smart patrol cars

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr



Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police took a significant step by activating smart patrol cars equipped with high tech cameras to bolster security across the city effectively, a public relations officer said. He said that, the CPO

Safe City/Traffic has conducted a thorough examination of smart patrol cars. Prior to deploying these vehicles in the field, drivers

and operators received specific instructions to ensure optimal utilization. The Safe City Command and Control Center provides real-time coverage and oversees the surveillance of key commercial centers, markets, recreational areas.

One accused killed, policeman injured in encounter

Independent Report

BAHAWALNAGAR: Police encounter in Madrasa police station, one accused was killed while a policeman was injured, District Police Officer Bahawalnagar Naseebullah Khan said in a media talk that the Madrasah police station received information about criminals who

were armed with the intention of committing the crime. On the arrival of the police party, the accused opened fire, as a result of which Constable Gulab Ali was injured, during the encounter, the accused Azhar Dad Putra was killed, while his other accomplice, the accused Shafiq, escaped from the spot to search for him.