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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Economic Cooperation Organization Summit in Tashkent in which he strongly denounced the Israeli bombardment of Gaza. 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.

Shamshad Akhtar says No chance of Pakistan seeking extension of IMF's standby agreement

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Thursday categorically refuted reports of Pakistan requesting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to either extend the timeframe of the standby agreement it had reached with it from

March to June 2024 or increase its volume from \$3 billion to either \$3.5.

Talking to a private TV channel, she said that staff-level talks between the two sides, which have been in progress since November 2, will finish on November 15.

Sindh CM pays homage to Allama Iqbal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, Thursday, said that the people of Sindh pay homage to the great philosopher and Poet of the East, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The CM, in his message on Iqbal Day, said that people of Indo-Pak subcontinent acknowledge Allama Iqbal's academic, intellectual and political services.

Poet of the East presented the concept of a moderate and enlightened Islamic society, he said adding that the teachings of Allama Iqbal presented a composite set of solutions to the contemporary issues as well.

The Sindh CM said that Allama Iqbal was a great supporter of Pan-Islamic unity and he had reverence and affection for Palestine.

For the glorious permanence of Pakistan, we have to move forward with unity, Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqir urged.

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, he says.

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

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

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

demnation of killing of children and women, and targeting the hospitals by Israeli forces.

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

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

He told the ECO lead-

ers that the incessant and lethal Israeli bombardment on Gaza was a deplorable act calling for international condemnation.

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

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

He urged the participating countries and the international community to rally behind to have a humanitarian corridor so that the unfortunate and

defenceless people of Palestine could be helped out.

Prime Minister Kakar also apprised the regional leaders of the unabated Indian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and emphasised the ECO countries to support Kashmiris in achieving their right of self-determination.

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

tend the summit, besides engaging with the leaders of different countries to discuss mutual cooperation.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, reiterating Pakistan's commitment to the ECO Vision 2025, called for collective efforts and accelerated reforms to achieve the Organisation's objectives and region's trade potential for bringing "colossal" economic and peace dividends.

"Let us make ECO an organisation, not just of words, but actions, not just commitments but implementation. It is crucial for us to work collectively and diligently to realise the goals and objectives of the Organisation."

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

TASHKENT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, on Thursday, wherein they discussed bilateral cooperation and regional issues, including the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation being held here.

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

Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the announcement of direct flight operations by Azerbaijan Airline (AZAL) to Pakistan, terming it a positive development in people-to-people exchanges and advancing two-way business and tourism.

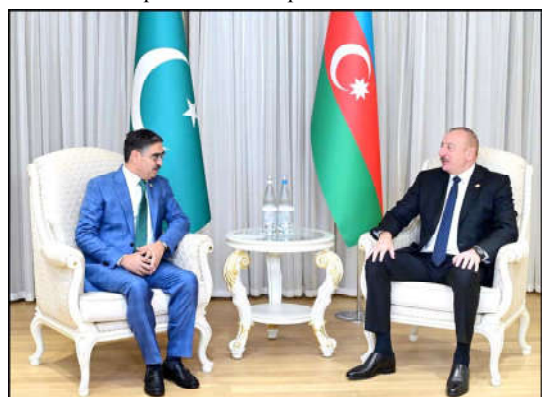
Prime Minister Kakar and President Aliyev discussed common challenges, including Islamophobia and climate change, and the critical role of ECO to promote regional cooperation and collective prosperity.

PTI complains of unfair playing field ahead of elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) complained that there is no level playing field in the upcoming elections. PTI central leader Hamid Khan said that the fact that the President has to request the Caretaker Prime Minister to ensure a level playing field is a sign of helplessness. He said that the President should have given a clear order, as he is the only political, constitutional official with the authority to do so.

President Dr. Arif Alvi has written a letter to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar expressing his concern about the allegations of PTI. He said that he is satisfied with the caretaker government's recent statements about providing equal rights and opportunities to all registered political parties. He also reiterated his belief that democracy is the right path for Pakistan.

The President said that he is sending the letter containing the allegations of PTI to the Caretaker Prime Minister for his consideration. He also expressed concern about the increasing incidents of forced disappearances of people with political affiliations.



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.

Israel agrees to four-hour pauses to let people flee Gaza: White House

Monitoring Desk GAZA/JERUSALEM: Israel has agreed to pause operations in northern Gaza for four hours a day from Thursday, the White House said, in the first sign of a respite in more than a month of fighting that has left thousands dead and stoked fears of a regional conflict.

The pauses would allow people to flee along two humanitarian corridors and were significant first steps, White House national security spokesperson John

Kirby said.

"We've been told by the Israelis that there will be no military operations in these areas over the duration of the pause, and that this process is starting today," Kirby said.

The pauses, which would be announced three hours in advance, emerged out of discussions between US and Israeli officials in recent days, including talks US President Joe Biden had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Kirby added.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhattu 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.

Zardari pays tribute to Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Asif Ali Zardari paid glowing tribute to the national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birth anniversary.

In his message on 'Iqbal Day', he said that the national poet gave consciousness to the Muslims of the subcontinent through his poetry.

"Iqbal was a democratic figure whose poetry is a philosophical journey that needs to be understood who, through his poetry, exposed those who tried to spread mischief under the guise of religion."

"The interpretation of Allama Iqbal's dreams is to accept the rule of the people," Asif Zardari said.

Commissioner for gearing up campaign against illegal profiteering

KARACHI (APP): The Commissioner Karachi Mohammad Salim Rajput, Thursday expressed dissatisfaction over the results of an ongoing campaign against illegal profiteering and called for gearing up the campaign to ensure the provision of essential items to citizens on prescribed rates.

The commissioner, while presiding over a meeting to review in detail the performance of the campaign, observed that strict action was needed to implement the officially fixed rates of essential items of daily use.

The commissioner directed the officers concerned to visit every market in the area under jurisdiction every day to monitor prices with the coordination and cooperation of the representative traders and whole sellers and retailers' associations con-

cerned and take strict action against the shopkeepers who are found guilty of violation of the rate list.

All the Assistant Commissioners, Mukhtiararks and other officers concerned presented detailed briefing on price control efforts in their respective sub-divisions.

They were directed to submit performance report daily to the Additional Commissioner I Sehar Iftikhar.

To ensure that items of daily use were available to the citizens at fixed prices, the meeting decided to take various measures to make the campaign more effective.

Moreover, the Commissioner himself would monitor the campaign, review and analyze the daily performance and also carry out field visits to assess the situation.

We have not taken responsibility of illegal residents Government to send back registered refugees after deporting illegal migrants: Jan Achakzai

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

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

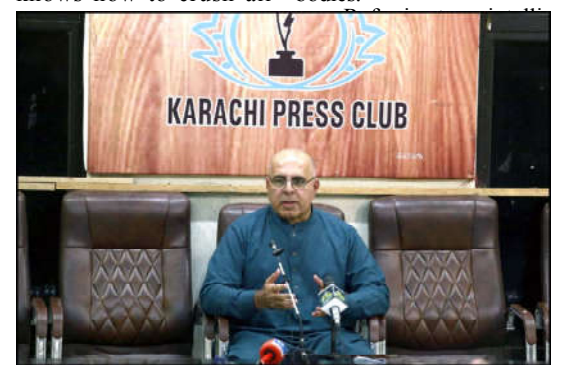
"So far, 80,000 immigrants from Balochistan have left Pakistan. After this, [we] will send back the registered refugees as well," Achakzai said while addressing a press conference in Karachi.

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

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

"We have not taken the responsibility of the illegal residents. The crackdown on the illegal migrants will continue," Achakzai said, while warning the government in Afghanistan against giving harsh statements. "Pakistan knows how to crush all

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



KARACHI: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Karachi press club.



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

Need to create sense of ownership among youngsters: Jamal Shah

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Culture and Heritage Jamal Shah said on Thursday that Dr Allama Iqbal had a great understanding of Islam and he benefited a lot from the last sermon of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). Addressing a ceremony held in connection with the birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal at Aiwan-e-Iqbal here, he said that Iqbal was a true visionary and a brilliant scholar.

He said, "Allama Iqbal interprets Islam in a way that enlightens all of us." He was a distinguished poet and his poetry had a great depth and flow.

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

He further said that there should be respect of diversity adding that indigenous culture narrative had such mechanisms of conflict resolutions which could help us in sorting out many problems.

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. As many as 16 patients have been shifted to Karachi from Quetta during the last few days and two of them including Dr Shakkurullah had now died.

The latest victim was 30-year-old Mirwaiz Khan, a resident of Pishin, who was also brought to Karachi from Quetta in an air ambulance. Two of the remaining Congo fever patients have been discharged from the private hospital in Karachi while 12 remaining are still under treatment. On November 5, Dr Shakkurullah from Quetta, infected with Congo virus passed away while he was being shifted to Karachi for treatment.

Balochistan health department's data on Congo fever showed the last two years have seen a significantly high number of Congo fever infections and mortalities in the province, with 21 deaths recorded last year and 20 mortalities this year so far.

'PML-N ready to talk to PTI except May 9 suspects'

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former interior minister Rana Sanaullah said that PML-N is ready to talk to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) except the May 9 violence suspects.

As per details, the former Interior Minister said that there is no hurdle in PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif's participation in the upcoming elections.

He said that Nawaz Sharif will soon meet senior politician and PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain whereas the former prime minister to meet other political parties' chiefs as well.

Pakistani delegation visits SCO platform in China

BEIJING (APP): A Pakistani delegation led by Ali Hussain, vice president of the Pakistan House Economic and Business Advisory Committee, visited the Trade and Economic Multifunctional Platform for SCO Countries in Chongqing, China.

Hu Kaiqiang, the Secretary-General of the Platform, received the delegation and held a meeting.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Political revival

The hitherto moribund political atmosphere has picked up a pulse. With the PML-N and MQM announcing they will be joining hands, the political wheeling and dealing that precedes every election has begun in earnest.

Over the coming weeks, the reconfiguration of the political landscape will be a topic for intense speculation and debate. It will be interesting to see what new alliances emerge from the current context.

It is amusing to observe the MQM joining hands with a new 'partner' to seek, for the umpteenth time, a charter to address the problems of urban Sindh. The party has by now built a formidable reputation for its ability to manoeuvre to the right side of every new government, but this marriage of convenience is still likely to be a hard sell for its constituencies.

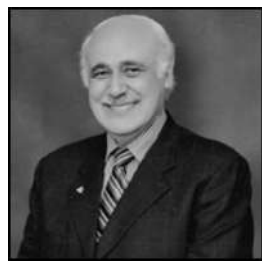
It is perhaps due to this realisation that the MQM has denied reports of an 'alliance' with the PML-N and played it down as a mere 'seat adjustment'. It also seems that the long-foretold parting of ways between the PPP and PML-N is nigh. The parties have had an uneasy relationship since August, and a PML-N-led coalition seeking inroads into the PPP's turf may prove the last straw for Messrs Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

While the former has welcomed the challenge, the PPP is growing increasingly antsy about what it sees as collusion between PML-N and the security establishment. To counter the PML-N, PPP has said it is open to a deal with the PTI in Punjab. It is doubtful if such an arrangement can materialise given how strongly the two parties have been opposed to each other. But politics, as they say, is the art of the possible, and one cannot rule out surprises as long as Mr Zardari is in the game.

It also remains to be seen which way Jahangir Tareen's Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party is going to lean in the days ahead. The IPP has the clout and resources to make a strong showing in south Punjab, and both the PML-N and PPP would want it on their side because of their own weakened positions. Given the direction the MQM has chosen, IPP may soon follow suit. However, till that happens, the province remains wide open — especially if the PTI remains subject to the ongoing state crackdown and is forced to either sit out or fight the upcoming elections with its hands tied.

In KP, the JUI-F has remained close to PML-N, but recent developments seem to suggest a cooling relationship.

A meeting between the party's chief and several PTI leaders recently sparked considerable speculation. Was it a flash in the pan or the start of something unexpected? We may not have to wait too long before we find out.



F.S. Aijazuddin

In the forthcoming 2024 US presidential election, no US voter with any sense would vote for Joe Biden. He is a heartbeat away from extinction. Those who have taken leave of their senses will vote for Donald Trump. He is a judge's breath away from a jail sentence.

At the moment, Trump faces 91 criminal charges. Imran Khan claims he has 150 cases arraigned against him. Both describe their persecution as 'witch hunts'.

Trump could be convicted and sentenced, and — much to the chagrin of his opponents — he could still be re-elected as president. According to one US legal expert: "The constitution has very few requirements to serve as president, such as being at least 35 years of age. It does not bar anyone indicted, or convicted, or even serving jail time, from running as president and winning the presidency." Or granting himself a presidential pardon once he is in the Oval Office. (Nixon after Watergate might have done, given the chance.)

Trump's tenacity reminds one of the opening lines of a short story by Ambrose Bierce, the 19th-century American satirist. He began: "The fact that Jim Jones was buried was to him not incontrovertible proof that he was dead. Jim Jones was always a hard man to convince."

The fact that Trump could be in jail during his election campaign is not an insurmountable obstacle to the presidency: Trump has always been a

hard man to convince.

There is a parallel between the forthcoming elections in the US and those in Pakistan. While the date of the US elections is graven in stone (even if their results are not, as Trump demonstrated in November 2020), the date of Pakistan's next elections has been treated as a bauble, a plaything in the hands of those who should not have trivialised their duty to the electorate.

Some might see that the president, the chief election commissioner and the chief justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court — all three being paid out of the same national exchequer — have been passing the cushion of responsibility regarding elections since August 2023, when the assemblies were dissolved. The CEC used the intervening time to develop a thesaurus of excuses why elections could not or should not be held within the constitutional time limit.

Finally, after months of unconscionable prevarication, the CEC proposed Feb 11 to the CJ of the Supreme Court. His Lordship advised the CEC to consult the president, whom the CEC in August had refused to meet just for that purpose. After a stylised performance of belated amity in the Aiwan-i-Sadr, these two decided on yet another date — Feb 8.

The CJ has often advised those appearing before him to avoid citing US judicial precedents. He might consider allowing this exception — a reference to the US presidential election of 1864. The divided states of America were in the throes of a civil war. In November 1864, Abraham Lincoln (then president), had to choose between conducting an election or postponing it. He decided to hold them, arguing: "We cannot have free government without

elections; and if the rebellion could force us to forgo, or postpone a national election it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us." Lincoln took the risk. He could have lost. Instead, he won, both the election and in time also the war.

Here in Pakistan, we have been conquered by our own civic feebleness. We have been ruined by our political inertia. We have allowed ourselves to believe that our 50-year old Constitution is subordinate to the whims of official functionaries.

We can vote only when we are allowed to. One more step backwards and we will be told who to vote for and in what numbers, and which parties should be merged into a parliamentary majority.

The year 2024 has yet to etch its own history. The year 2019 is already a date in the almanac. On July 22 that year, two men met in the White House — president Donald Trump and prime minister Imran Khan. Their formal parleys gushed with unfelt bonhomie which overflowed into an over-long tour by the president of his White House. (One Pakistani attendee later complained that the guests tired before their host did.)

Today finds Imran Khan in a Pakistani jail. Donald Trump, if convicted, may soon find himself inside an American one.

Ironically, it is their popularity that has unnerved their opponents who wish that someone, anyone, would rid them of these meddlesome populists!

On or after Feb 9, 2024, Imran Khan will know whether he will be a free man or not. His captors should be careful. Like others in history, the longer he is coiled captive, the stronger and more dangerous he becomes. — Courtesy Dawn

Eretz Israel



Asad Rahim Khan

It started, as does so much colonial mass murder, with a bureaucrat from the British Empire.

"In Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country," wrote British foreign secretary Arthur Balfour in 1919, "... And Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is ... of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land."

Freedom came cheap to Balfour; he'd become prime minister in the aftermath of his generals driving thousands of Boers into concentration camps in South Africa — the barbarism of which would disgust his own voters, and be replicated with greater efficiency by Nazi Germany. Today, his dour face graces Israeli postage stamps, while the Balfour Declaration is hailed as the start of a 'Jewish homeland'.

Even back then, Zionism fed on antisemitism as fire feeds on oxygen. "The antisemites will become our most dependable friends," founding father Theodore Herzl wrote, "the antisemitic countries our allies." Because, as both Zionists and antisemites believed, the Jews were an alien race among European nations — the latter's Nazi atrocities cushioning Zionist émigrés in Palestine with a layer of white guilt. (Herzl's Jewish critics, surprise-surprise, favoured just staying put and integrating.)

But it was also a passing of the torch, if from one

coloniser to another: amid the empire's dying sighs, a ferocious new ethno-state was murdering its way into existence in 1948. Calling this what it is, however — a textbook bout of settler-colonialism — is still met with fury.

"The decolonisation narrative has dehumanised Israelis," writes Simon Sebag Montefiore in the Atlantic, "to the extent that otherwise rational people excuse, deny, or support barbarity."

As a rational person excusing, denying, or supporting barbarity, Simon downplays how the idea of Israel could only happen via the screams of the displaced: how children were shot on sight in Lydda (now the bustling Israeli city of Lod), or how entire villages were depopulated, like Salha (now a kibbutz named Yiron). "Many families fled their homes," writes a Gaza journalist, "in part due to their concerns over their women being raped by Zionist forces."

Yet for all of Zion's current apologists — Sunak, von der Leyen, and that vilest of neoliberal hypocrites, Barack Obama — the beauty and integrity of the Jewish spirit is to be found elsewhere. As Israeli filmmaker Hadar Morag said of her grandmother, late of Auschwitz, whose entire family had been exterminated by the Holocaust, and who was allotted a nice beach-house in Jaffa: "She saw that on the table there were still the plates of the Palestinians who had lived there, and who had been driven away. She returned to the agency and said, 'Take me back to my tent, I'll never do to someone else that which has been done to me'." Others felt differently. Over the next half-century, as the Israeli war machine gobbled up more and more land, and the Gulf sheikhdoms shook their fists at the sky, Tel Aviv was defeated by its own extraordinary success: when Ariel Sharon enabled

genocide in Sabra and Shatila in 1982 — declared the g-word by a resolution of the UN General Assembly, no less — it was Hezbollah that was born in Beirut's ashes.

Hamas, too, was long thought a crew of useful cutthroats (before Oct 7's spree-shooting paragliders shattered that complacency for good); Netanyahu enjoyed affording them room as a spoiler for the peace process. "Those who want to thwart the establishment of a Palestinian state should support the strengthening of Hamas," he told his party in 2019. "... This is part of our strategy, to differentiate between the Palestinians in Gaza and the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria."

But by spilling rivers of blood as routinised policy, the logic of Eretz Israel, a greater Israel, fails: a gross fantasy that, by definition, must be pursued by ever worse monsters. As this contributor wrote nearly a decade ago, even a butcher like Sharon considered Netanyahu an aberration: a far-right huckster who would upend the general's carefully laid plans for apartheid. As Sharon put it, "It is impossible to have a Jewish, democratic state and at the same time to control all of Eretz Israel. If we insist on fulfilling the dream in its entirety, we are liable to lose it all. Everything."

That is now happening: at no other time has the idea of Eretz Israel seemed so intellectually bankrupt and plainly murderous — a haze of bombed-out hospitals, dead children, and plans for ethnic cleansing all the way to the sands of the Sinai — backed by the slack-jawed Joe Biden and Lockheed Martin's soaring stocks. With each day that passes without a ceasefire, that idea will continue to seep poison.

Because until Palestine is free, 'never again' is now. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan participates in CIIE with largest effort ever: Pak Consul General

BEIJING (APP): As many as 19 Pakistani exhibitors are participating in the ongoing 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held from November 5 to 10 in Shanghai, which has made a remarkable mark by showcasing Pakistan's largest effort ever.

The expo, which has been held annually in Shanghai since 2018, is a major platform for promoting international trade and cooperation. "Pakistan's active participation in this prestigious event highlights its commitment to strengthening economic ties with China, Pakistan's

second largest export destination, and exploring new avenues of collaboration," highlighted Hussain Haider, Consul General in Shanghai.

One of the key highlights of Pakistan's participation in the 6th CIIE is its focus on promoting its diverse range of export products. From leathers and surgical instruments to agricultural goods and handicrafts, Pakistan has showcased its rich cultural heritage and economic potential.

Pakistan's pavilions, adorned with vibrant displays and innovative products, have attracted the attention of exhibitors

and visitors alike, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Recognizing the significance of CIIE, the Pakistani Ministry of Commerce has extended its full support to the participating businesses. Various incentives, including financial subsidies and facilitation services, have been provided to ensure a successful exhibition experience. This proactive approach by the government was widely appreciated by the Pakistani exhibitors and further enhanced Pakistan's image as an attractive investment destination.



RAWALPINDI: A potter examine the newly made mud ovens "Tandoor" at his setup at Gowalmandi area in City.

Trader association asked to submit certificate of non involvement of illegal foreigners

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Administration directed all trader associations to submit a certificate of non involvement of illegal foreigners in their respective markets.

The directives were issued to heads of traders and market associations by assistant commissioners of Garden, Saddar and Aram Bagh towns in separate meetings held here on instructions of Deputy Commissioner Karachi South Captain (ret'd) Altaf

Hussain Sario, said a statement issued here on Thursday.

The meetings also attended by officers of police, rangers and special branch reviewed matters relating to repatriation of foreign nationals illegally residing in Pakistan.

In the meetings, all traders were asked to submit certificates of non-involvement of illegal foreigners in the respective markets by Friday, November 10.

PPP Leader Channar seeks subsidies for farmers

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Secretary Information of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Bahawalpur Division, Malik Shah Muhammad Channar, has opined that continuous provision of subsidies to farmers would help boost the agro-economy.

In a press release issued here Thursday, he said that the agro-economy was considered the backbone of the economy of any country in the world.

Customs seizes cigarettes worth Rs156 million

ISLAMABAD (APP): ISLAMABAD Customs in its recent drive has seized 8,157,200 sticks of cigarettes valued at Rs.156 million during the period from October 30, 2023 to November 05, 2023.

Accordingly, Pakistan Customs had constituted special teams to launch anti-smuggling operations against foreign origin cigarettes being smuggled into the country, said a news release here on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam M Tugio receives souvenir from President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) during his visit of ICCI in Federal Capital.

ICCI proposes highest civil award of Pakistan for Indonesian Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Business Community proposed to give the highest civil award of Pakistan to the Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio for extraordinary services in strengthening the bilateral economic, trade, political and diplomatic relations between both the

countries. Addressing the farewell dinner in his honour hosted by the ICCI's President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawri, the Indonesian Ambassador said Indonesia and Pakistan have huge potential to increase their economy and the role of business communities of both sides was significant in this regard.

He said there are many potential sectors

including tourism, trade, technology, energy and agriculture through which the two countries can expand their relations and by finding new economic sectors for increasing bilateral ties.

He said: "Indonesia and Pakistan are connected by historical religious ties and we have to transfer this legacy to our next generation for which both nations are responsible."

SAU, FAO agreed to jointly work for Bananas, Bioeconomy: Transforming Waste project

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have agreed to jointly work to attract industry and investors under "Bananas in Pakistan's Bioeconomy: Transforming Waste into Textile", the project of Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the use of banana waste for making yarn, food items, and organic fertilizer, instead of burning the precious resource of Sindh.

In this regard, on Thursday a meeting was held at the university committee room, presided by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Fateh

Marri, in which officials associated with various sectors of FAO in Rome, Australia, and Pakistan and experts from Sindh Agriculture University participated.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri said that due to a lack of knowledge about the importance of banana waste, 3.5 million tons of banana waste is burnt annually in the country, which has negative effects on the environment.

He said that the SAU can make fiber, food items, and liquid and composite organic fertilizers from banana waste, while students have

also been involved in this project for the expansion of research, and various farmers will be transferred with this modern technology.

Associate Professional Officer FAO, attached to the Rome Headquarters, Ms. Lindsy Norluno, said that the GEF project will improve Pakistan's economy and address environmental issues by converting banana waste into textiles and hazardous chemicals through an integrated supply chain program, while GEF also focuses specifically on the fashion and construction sectors.

Ms Urie, Deputy Program Manager of FAO,

94 shopkeepers fined for price gouging, two shops sealed

KARACHI (APP): In response to a crackdown on hawkers, profiteers, and hoarders in the city, 94 shopkeepers were fined a total of 933,000 on Thursday. Two shops were sealed, and numerous other shopkeepers received warnings. Across various districts of the city, heavy fines were imposed on vendors selling food items, poultry, vegetables, meat, fruits, flour, and sugar at prices higher than the official rates, according to a spokesman for Commissioner Karachi.

In the Korangi district, 11 shopkeepers were fined 1 lakh 25 thousand; in the South district, 25 shopkeepers were fined 154,000 rupees. The

Central district saw fines of 20,000 rupees imposed on two shopkeepers.

In the Malir district, a fine of 23,000 rupees was imposed on two shopkeepers, while the district East levied fines of 75,000 rupees on two shopkeepers. Additionally, the west district fined three shopkeepers a total of 21 thousand rupees, and the Keamari district imposed a substantial fine of 415,000 rupees on 49 shopkeepers.

Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput urged citizens to register complaints on Commissioner Control Room No. 021-99203443 or Rescue 1299 for prompt redressal.



RAWALPINDI: A street vendor is arranging gloves on his road side setup as during winters bikers buy such items in large number at City.

said that with the financial support of GEF, instead of burning the banana residue to combat environmental pollution, in cooperation with SAU, we will train and support farmers and field workers, while to ensure the participation of farmers through seminars, workshops, and training programs, we will work on the survey of different banana growing districts. Dr. Waqar a Communication Specialist of FAO said this project will officially launch by March 2024.

Fazal Deen, in charge of this project in Pakistan, said that according to the

demand, concerns, and expectations of the industry, research on the quality and purity of the fiber should be a priority and an environment of interest of investors in banana fibre should be created.

On this occasion, FAO's Bengal-born Australian expert Nazimuddin, Dr. Shaikat Ibrahim Abro of SAU gave his presentation on the domestic and industrial importance of fiber.

Ghulam Murtaza Sahito, Director BIC, Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro, and others were present.

Earlier, the FAO team also visited the Banana Project at the University.

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 Heri-

itage and Pakistan Women Foundation for peace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Besides Caretaker Cabinet Members,

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

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



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

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

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

Four people shot dead in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): At least four people including two women were gunned down over domestic issues here at Ghalla 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 Sarfraz (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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

International News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aid agencies called for an immediate ceasefire.

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

"Without a ceasefire,

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

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

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

China 'ready' to improve ties with US

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: The European Commission's annual report on 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.

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: 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.

Belgian deputy PM seeks sanctions on Israel

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

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

MSF staffer killed in Israeli strike in Gaza

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

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

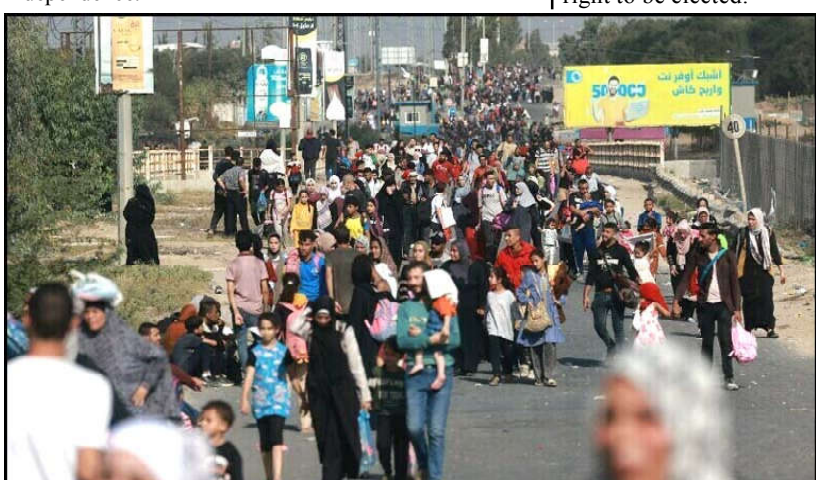
"Today, Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is mourning the loss of one of our team members in Gaza."

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Speaking in the 193-member Assembly on the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Vienna-based UN agency, he said Pakistan is party to several leading international instruments related to nuclear safety and security, with a rigorously enforced framework that complies with the highest global standards.

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

nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts on a global scale.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy highlighted Pakistan's extensive experience in operating a secure and fully safeguarded nuclear power programme, pointing to six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 megawatts, as well as the country's construction of another nuclear power plant, Chashma unit 5, with a capacity of 1200 megawatts.

Underscoring the fundamental importance of removing barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation, Ambassador Akram affirmed that all States should fully comply with their safeguards obligations.

However, he said, "the Agency's safeguards should not be used to serve partisan 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, large and small.

This new consensus should eliminate discrimination and double standards inherent in existing non-proliferation arrangements and establish a framework for promoting peaceful nuclear energy under appropriate international safeguards, in line with the international obligations of States and on a non-discriminatory basis, the Pakistani envoy said. Pakistan will continue to support the IAEA's role in the promotion of peaceful nuclear technology in accordance with its mandate, as outlined in its Statute.



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

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\$

Shora Village, Jamshoro District, Sindh" under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human

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

PRADO has been working in the field of education since 2010, mainly in the rural areas of Sindh. In 2017, they implemented the construction of two primary schools in Matiari under the GGP programme.



59,304 to Participatory Research and Development Organization (PRADO) for "The Project for Expanding Sachal Educational Academy in

Security Projects (GGP). The grant contract was signed between the Consul-General of Japan, Mr. ODAGIRI Toshio and President of PRADO, Mr.



HYDERABAD: Hindu Council Chairman, Suraj Kumar Kohistani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

Keeping lights off: Undocumented foreigners go underground in Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): After living in Pakistan for years, thousands of Afghans have gone into hiding to escape a government order to expel undocumented foreigners because they fear persecution under a Taliban administration in their homeland, rights activists say.

"The gate is locked from the outside... we are locked inside, we can't come out, we can't turn on our lights, we can't even talk loudly," said a 23-year-old Afghan woman, speaking online from a shelter where she said dozens of others had holed up until earlier this week before moving on to a new hideout. Local supporters put a lock on the gate so neighbours believe the house is unoccupied, said other inmates.

The woman, who is from the Afghan capital Kabul, said she fears prosecution if she returns to Afghanistan because she

converted from Islam to Christianity in 2019 and renunciation of the Islamic faith is a serious offence under the strict Islamic law practised by the Taliban.

She is one of thousands believed by rights activists to be in hiding in Pakistan to avoid deportation under a government push for undocumented migrants to leave the country. That includes over one million Afghans, many of whom the Pakistan government says have been involved in militant attacks and crime. Authorities began rounding up operations across the country after a deadline for voluntary exits expired on Nov. 1. Sijal Shafiq, 30, a Karachi-based human rights activist who helped vulnerable Afghans find shelter before Pakistan's new expulsion policy, is one of several petitioners asking the Supreme Court to halt the deportation programme.

Land dispute claims two lives

HYDERABAD (APP): Two people were killed in a firing incident in the limits of the Paban Police station here on Thursday.

According to details, the firing incident happened over a land dispute between two groups when Members of both groups opened fire at each other, killing Rashid Ali s/o Abdullah and Gul Muhammad on the spot.

The police rushed to the site and shifted the bodies to Civil Hospital for post mortem.

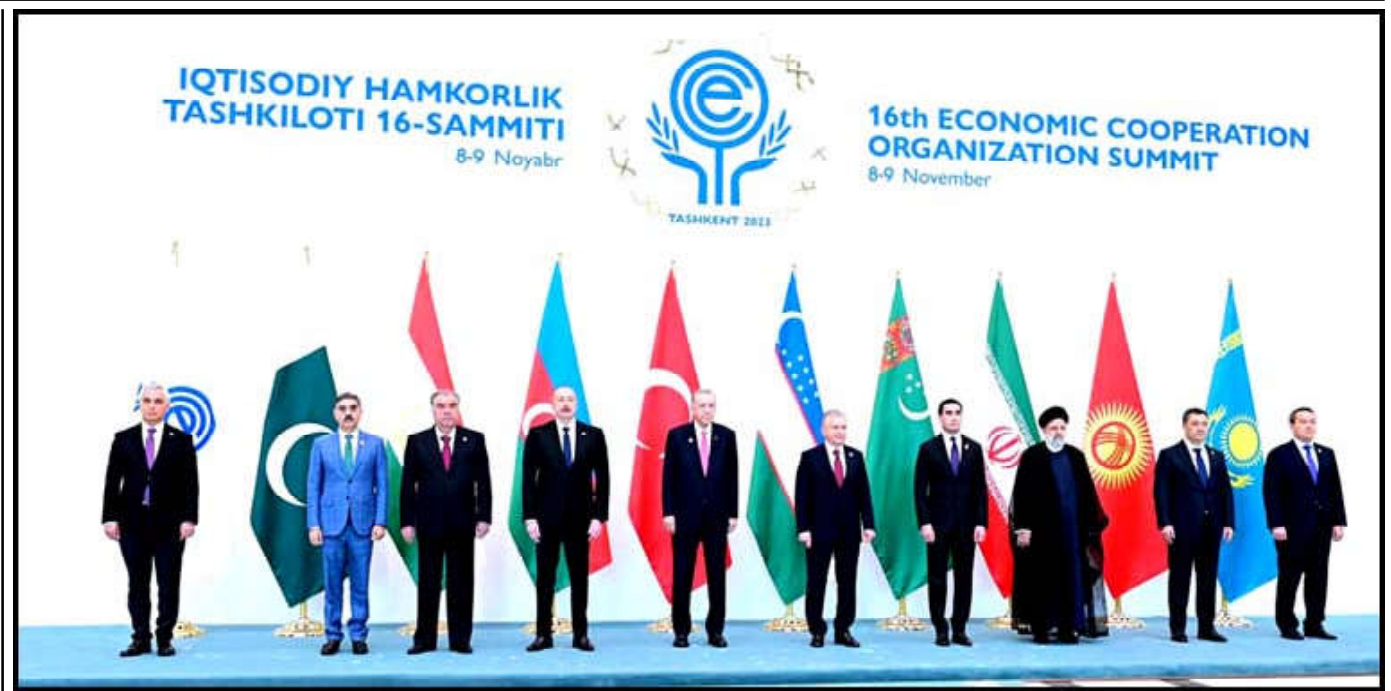
Police held two outlaws, recovered weapon, marijuana

HYDERABAD (APP): Police claimed to have arrested street criminal and drug peddler in two separate actions.

Incharge Naseem Nagar police station Sub Inspector Wahid Panhwar along with SIP Najum Abrar and other staff arrested a street criminal Shahziab and recovered a pistol without license and ammunition.

Police registered a case against the accused under Arms act.

In another drive, Naseem Nagar Police station while patrolling arrested a drug peddler Nazeer and recovered 1015 gram marijuana from his possession and registered a case under Narcotics Control Act.



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

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.

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 blockade (of the Gaza Strip) has been tightened.



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons at different areas of Keamari Machar Colony area in Karachi.

DC vows to improve DHQ hospital's treatment, sanitation facilities

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Dr Rashid Masood Khan on Thursday visited the District Headquarters Hospital and instructed the Medical Superintendent of Civil Hospital Dr Hemji Kolhi to improve the sanitary conditions in DHQ Hospital along with the treatment facilities.

According to the DC office, Dr. Rashid Masood Khan made a detailed visit to the emergency ward, male ward, female ward, cardio ward, X-ray, laboratory and other wards of the district headquarters hospital and directed the local administration's representative to arrange for better sanitary facilities.

On this occasion, MS while sharing the problems faced by the hospital administration said that uniforms have been provided

to 165 staff in the hospital and there are 581 posts of doctors, paramedical staff and other staff in the hospital, of which 361 posts were being filled while 220 posts are still vacant.

The deputy commissioner said that visits are being made in connection with the problems facing the DHQ Hospital, aiming to make DHQ functional to provide better health facilities to the commuters.

While replying to the queries, he said that to meet the shortage of staff, District Administration already write to the higher Authorities about the fulfilment of the vacant posts, the district administration is making every possible effort to improve cleanliness in the first phase and to solve the problems faced by each ward.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Kisan Mori are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Hyderabad press club.

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

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, led tributes to the iconic calligrapher, painter, and poet, Syed Sadequain Ahmed Naqvi, known as Sadequain Naqqash.

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."

In addition, a photo exhibition was also arranged by the embassy in collaboration with the International Academy of Letters,

USA, the Sadequain Foundation, USA, and the Sadequain Gallery of Chicago to pay tribute to the iconic calligrapher, painter, and poet, Syed Sadequain Ahmed Naqvi, known as Sadequain Naqqash.

Highlighting Iqbal's life and mission, 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."

A poet par excellence, the ambassador said, "His thought has influenced the whole of South Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran."

His philosophy was not confined to the subcontinent; he looked at the universe and how it was evolving.

ing in its spiritual and physical dimensions, Masood Khan said.

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

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

He said that many clerics and religious scholars cited Iqbal when they wanted to elaborate on some complex thoughts in Islam.

"Iqbal was a universalist. He was not a parochial poet. His poetry is a universal heritage," he said.



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan addressing a special ceremony to commemorate Iqbal Day, during the photo exhibition organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in collaboration with International Academy of Letters USA, Sadequain Foundation USA and Sadequain Gallery of Chicago.

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.

Wednesday 4,119 illegal Afghan immigrants returned to their homes. Afghan nationals' 702 families

travelled to Afghanistan in 251 vehicles.

Undocumented Afghan immigrants returning in droves to their home country daily, authorities said.

Illegal immigrants, mostly Afghans, returning via Chaman border and Torkham border crossings to Afghanistan.

Case against NMI hospital registered for storing smuggled drugs in pharmacy

KARACHI (APP): The district administration, along with the Chief Drug Inspector, has to register a case against NMI Hospital for storing smuggled drugs in its pharmacy.

According to the statement, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner South Capt. @ Altaf Hussain Sario, AC Saddar Zara Zahid, and Chief Drug Inspector Gulam Ali Lakho, they inspected pharmacies located in the district and found smuggled drugs stored in the NMI hospital pharmacy.

The FIA officials recovered foreign currency in millions from the arrested individuals who were identified as Mohammad Asif, Hafiz Faheem, and Imran Udmani. During the raid, the law enforcers recovered domestic and foreign currencies including Omani Riyal, Canadian Dollars, Rs 700,000 PKR, 10 million.

The decision to take this effect was made on the directive of Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, said a statement on Thursday. The next date will be announced later.

According to the details, the apprehended suspects were allegedly involved in Hawala/Hundi as well as operating an illegal currency exchange business without license.



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

Pakistan releases 80 Indian fishermen

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan has released 80 Indian fishermen imprisoned in Karachi's Malir Jail as a gesture of goodwill.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the fishermen were taken to Cantt Station, Karachi, under tight security, where they will be sent to Lahore. All the travel expenses of the Indian fishermen are borne by the Edhi Foundation.

Saad Edhi, the son of Faisal Edhi, the head of Edhi Foundation, has told the media that the Edhi Foundation has given money, clothes and necessary equipment to the Indian fishermen. Regarding the release, the Indian fishermen said that they were very happy as they were returning to their country after many years and missing their families and children.