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At ECO Summit 2023:

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

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

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

"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.

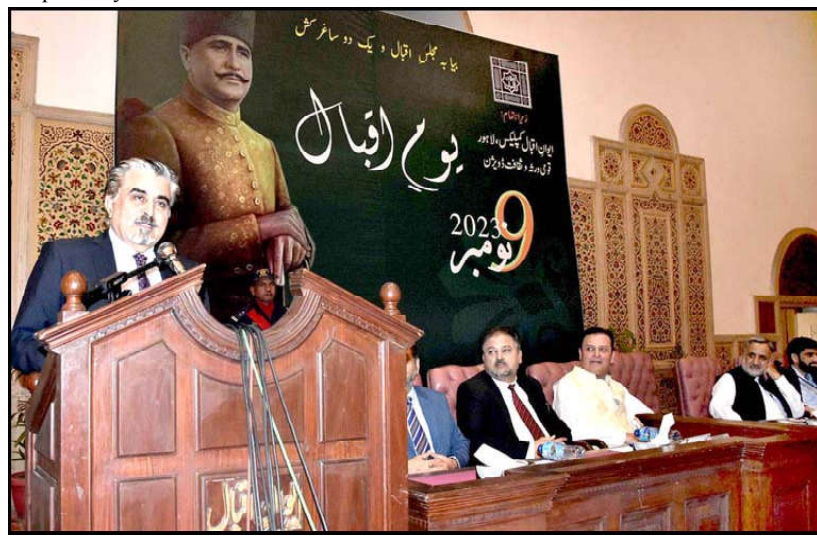
In his wide-ranging address, he raised the issue of Gaza humanitarian crisis twice and reiterated condemnation of killing of children and women, and targeting the hospitals by Israeli forces.

He told the ECO leaders that the incessant and lethal Israeli bombardment on Gaza was a deplorable act calling for international condemnation.

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



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah addressing during program Yuum-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 Heritage and Culture 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).

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.

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 further said that there should be respect of diversity adding that indigenous culture narrative had such mechanisms of conflict resolutions which could

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

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

The minister wrote this on the social media platform sharing a video clip of Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's address at the Economic Cooperation Organization Summit in Tashkent in which he strongly denounced the Israeli bombardment of Gaza.

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

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

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

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

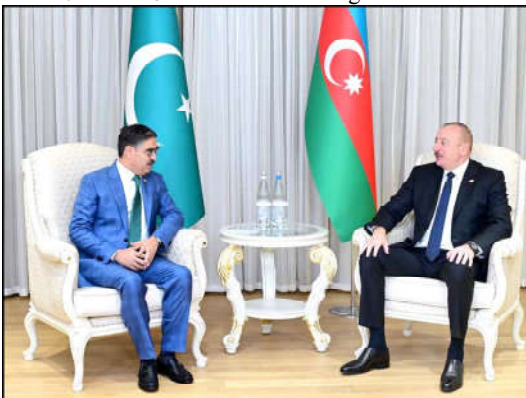
Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the announcement of direct flight operations by Azerbaijan Airline

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

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

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

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



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

Another Congo fever patient breathes his last in Karachi

Two more cases of Congo virus reported in Quetta; Tally of patients increases to 48 this season

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

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

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

Meanwhile two more

cases of Congo virus have been reported in the Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital Quetta on Thursday.

According to the Fatima Jinnah Hospital sources, the fresh cases of Congo have been reported in the Hospital from Quetta.

The patients with symptoms of Congo virus were brought from Jinnah Town and Kasi road on Thursday morning and evening respectively.

The sources said that the cases of Congo virus have increased to 48 during this season.

In addition to this, 16 persons including 10 doctors, five health workers had been sent to Karachi for treatment.

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

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

Talking to a private TV channel, she said that staff-

level talks between the two sides, which have been in progress since November 2, will finish on November 15.

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

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

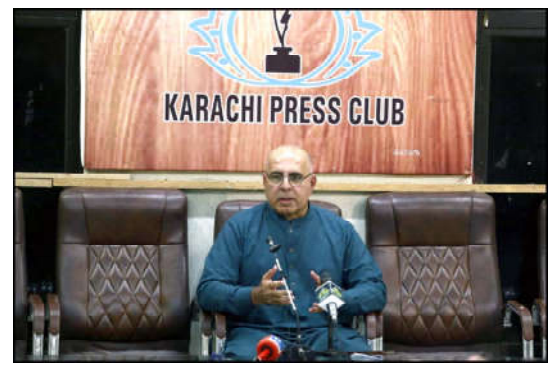
Warns Afghan govt against giving harsh statements; It is a fact that Afghan soil is being used against us; We expect Afghanistan to do same; send back illegal Pakistanis

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

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

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

During his visit, the prime minister attended the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and held bilateral meetings with the leadership of Uzbekistan and other participating leaders.

Domki grieved over death of brother of Ejaz Khan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of younger brother of Bureau Chief of private TV channel (Geo TV), Muhammad Ejaz Khan, Sajjad Khan.

In a condolence statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that he is grieved by hearing the news of death of Sajjad Khan. He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

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

Independent Report

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

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

The Governor said that no national movement can meet success without the conscience guidance.

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

He said that the occasion reminds us those ideas

and ideology which were advocated by Allama Muhammad Iqbal through his poetry.

Allama Iqbal had also dedicated his life for the supremacy of Islam, betterment and development of the Muslims ummah through his thoughtful poetry, he maintained.

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

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

'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 met other political parties' chiefs as well.

Rana Sanaullah stated that Asif Ali Zardari has the right to stop someone from Lahore from becoming prime minister and make a prime minister from Larkana.

Jogezai visits Afghan refugee camp in Degree College Pishin

Independent Report

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai had detailed interaction with the refugees present in the camp. He said that the refugees were very happy about the 40 years' hospitality. The refugees also thanked the government of Pakistan in this regard. The refugees present in the camp were also of the views that they would carry the positive and lovely message to their country.



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

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

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

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

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

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

According to the details, due to landslides caused by recent heavy rains in Dhanasar, an area adjacent to Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the main highway was severely affected and all traffic was suspended.

Mohsin Dawar briefly held in Quetta; sent to Islamabad

Independent Report

QUETTA: The leader of National Democratic Movement and former Member National Assembly, Mohsin Javed Dawar was briefly taken into custody by the police soon after he arrived at the Quetta airport on Thursday.

The police sources confirmed the brief custody of the NDM's central leader after his arrival in Quetta, however, he was sent to Islamabad by a private airline's plane the same day.



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









## Pakistan participates in CIEE with largest effort ever: Pak Consul General

BEIJING (APP): As many as 19 Pakistani exhibitors are participating in the ongoing 6<sup>th</sup> China International Import Expo (CIEE) 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 6<sup>th</sup> CIEE 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 CIEE, 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.

CIEE is one of the biggest signs of the opening-up of the Chinese economy. It is encouraging that China's "dual circulation" development model provides more space for international high-quality imports, Haider said.

Pakistan's exports to China in September have surged by an impressive 100.5% compared to the corresponding month during the previous financial year, which bodes well. The CG said the country needs to sustain its exports to China and take advantage of the opening up of the Chinese economy and the free trade agreement that offers a lot of concessions.

Since the beginning of this year, the two countries have signed protocols on export of boiled beef, dried chillies and dairy products from Pakistan to China.



FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development SM Tanveer distributing certified wheat seed amongst the farmers.

## Alamgir says: Modern technology, innovation essential for Agriculture productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of National Productivity Organization (NPO) Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said that the use of modern technology, innovation and hybrid seeds is essential to increase productivity in agriculture.

Agriculture has an 18% share in Pakistan's annual Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and productivity in this sector is important for our economic development, Chief Executive Officer of the National Productivity Organization (NPO) told APP here.

Alamgir said that Pakistan is among the top five countries in the production of milk, mango,

wheat and other agricultural commodities.

He said that our main issue here is value addition, without which economic growth is not possible.

He said that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including Thailand, have an export of about \$38 billion in mangoes and strawberry pulp, but strawberries were not the production of these countries. Similarly, Bangladesh's biggest export is textiles in the world but its raw material cotton was not Bangladesh's production.

He said, "we have to learn modern agriculture from Japan and ASEAN countries, which also increases the production per acre."

## PFC chairman says: Pak furniture industry received response from buyers at Canton Fair

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) delegation received an encouraging response from foreign buyers and investors at the Canton Fair, China.

The event served as a remarkable platform for showcasing the excellence of Pakistan's furniture industry to the global market, PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said while chairing its Board of Directors meeting Thursday, according to a news release. He said several foreign buyers and investors expressed keen

interest in exploring joint ventures and collaboration opportunities within the Pakistani furniture sector.

"Their positive feedback highlights the outstanding craftsmanship, innovative designs, and quality of our products, making a significant impression on the international business community," he added.

He said the enthusiastic response "reaffirms our position in the global market and showcases the potential for fruitful partnerships with famous international counterparts".



QUETTA: Warm clothes and shoes are being selling at a roadside stall as the demand of warm clothes increased in city on the arrival of cold waves of winter season, at Spinney road in Quetta.

## 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. He suggested that subsidies to farmers on agricultural tube-wells' electricity bills should remain continuous in order to boost the agro-economy.

Referring to the PPP's role in participation in the upcoming general elections, he said that their party would continue measures being taken to help peasants.

## Customs seizes cigarettes worth Rs156 million

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan 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.

Moreover, instructions have been issued to the anti-smuggling formations, including mobile squads deployed at various Collectorate and airports, to maintain constant



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."

Ambassador Tugio said that the best memories of his life are associated with Pakistan.

This country is extremely hospitable and it is unparalleled in its natural beauty.

The Indonesian envoy said that his experiences as the ambassador to Pakistan were very wonderful.

## Minister Punjab says: 16m acres land to be brought under wheat cultivation in province

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture SM Tanveer has said that 16 million acres of land is being brought under wheat crop cultivation during the current season in Punjab province.

Addressing a farmer outreach and student affairs program at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad here on Thursday, he said that the support price of 40kg wheat has been fixed Rs 4,000 by the Punjab government.

He urged the farmers to bring maximum areas of land under wheat crop

cultivation and earn huge profit.

The minister said that the Punjab government is taking effective measures for ensuring protection of interests of farmers across the province.

He said that the farmers out-reach program is providing technical assistance to farmers.

He also distributed certified seed bags of wheat among farmers free of cost.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan, teachers, students and officers of agriculture department were also present on the occasion.



QUETTA: Tandoor Association Leaders, Wali Afghan, Naeem Khilji and others addressing a Press conference, at Quetta Press Club.

## Sialkot exporters cuts cake at Iqbal Manzil

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) organized a cake-cutting ceremony at Iqbal Manzil, the birthplace of the poet of the east, on the eve of the 146<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Chairman SCCI's Committee on Farogh-e-Iqbaliyat Shehzada Ibne Iqbal Syed, Chairman SCCI Departmental Committee on Risk Management Muhammad Shehbaz Saim, former President SCCI Mian Naeem Javed and former Chairman Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) Khawar Anwar Khawaja jointly cut the birthday cake of Dr. Allama Iqbal,

while PRO SCCI Tajamal Hussain, Chacha Cricket Soofi Abdul Jalil, Executive Director Community Development Abdul Shakoor Mirza, senior journalists, students and teachers attended the ceremony.

Chairman SCCI's Committee on Farogh-e-Iqbaliyat Shehzada Ibne Iqbal Syed paid homage to the great poet, philosopher.

Addressing to participants, SCCI Departmental Committee on Risk Management Muhammad Shehbaz Saim said that teachings of Allama Iqbal were like a beacon to maintain tolerance.

## PHSA Chairman says: WB- Punjab Govt collaboration to bring prosperity for farmers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday said the World Bank's collaboration with the Punjab Government in the agriculture sector would usher an era of prosperity for farmers through bumper crops.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said the World Bank had reaffirmed its commitment for a

sustainable agricultural revolution in Punjab through a "game-changing collaboration with the Punjab Government", according to a news release.

The PHSA chairman said a delegation from the World Bank's Review Mission recently visited Multan, marking a significant milestone in the "Revolutionary Plan for Sustainable Agricultural Development" in the province.

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

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. Lindis 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, 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.



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

## Jazz CEO advances financial inclusion agenda at WEF's spotlight Pakistan day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jazz and Chairman Mobilink Microfinance Bank (MMBL) Amir Ibrahim has emphasized the urgent need to build a more inclusive financial system and presented recommendations for the same.

Speaking at a webinar "Spotlight Pakistan Day" hosted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Virtual Remittance Gateway (VRG), Amir Ibrahim reiterated the unwavering commitment of JazzCash, Pakistan's leading fintech, to improving lives and livelihoods through technology, particularly for women and underserved communities.

VRG is the Pakistan partner of the Edison Alliance, a WEF global initiative focused on improving digital inclusion and supporting underserved communities worldwide, according to a press release issued here on

Thursday. The event, where government organizations and private sector entities were invited, was focused on discussing the success of the Virtual Remittance Gateway's (VRG) Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) scheme. Caretaker Prime Minister - Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs - Dr Shamshad Akhtar, VRG and Pathfinder Group Chairman - Zarrar Sehgal, VRG CEO Muhammad - Salman Ali, among others, participated in the webinar and shared their insights on Pakistan's financial inclusion progress.

Amir Ibrahim highlighted how the platform - with its largest mobile money customer base of 43 million - continues to reduce women's financial exclusion and empower them through carefully designed financial solutions.



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

## Kashif urges diversified approach to PKR reserves for stability, growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis, in the ever-changing landscape of global economics, Thursday called for adopting a more diversified approach to Pakistani currency reserves that can contribute significantly to stability and growth.

Speaking at a seminar on "Importance of Diversification of Currency for Pakistan" held under the aegis of the Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he suggested considering the inclusion of currencies like the Renminbi (RMB) and the Russian Ruble (RUB) in its foreign exchange reserves, according to a news release issued here.

He said, "The Chinese renminbi, being one of the world's major reserve currencies, is widely used in international trade, providing numerous benefits such as increased trade opportunities, reduced currency risk, and enhanced economic collaboration with China, one of Pakistan's significant trading partners." He said similarly, incorporating the Russian Ruble would foster stronger economic ties with Russia, opening doors for bilateral investments, joint ventures, and strategic partnerships.

"Diversifying our currency reserves will not only mitigate the risks associated with relying heavily on a single currency but also provide Pakistan with the flexibility.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

among the total dead, she added.

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

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

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

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

She also criticized the Western countries for their continued support for Israel despite its human rights abuses.

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

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

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

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

She also criticized the Western countries for their continued support for Israel despite its human rights abuses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They directed to the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moreover, the Secre-

tary Transport, Yasir Khan kakar and Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat also issued directives in this regard.

According to the high ups, trekkers would be installed in the buses of all long routes.

They also warned that action would be taken against those companies and transporters on non-functional of the trekkers in their buses.

They said that trekkers would also be installed in the buses running on the inter-provincial routes including Quetta-Karachi route.

## Poliovirus found in environmental samples of six districts

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

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

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

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



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

## PM Kakar warns of trans-regional spillover of Gaza war

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

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

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

PM Kakar said Israel could not just kill children

and say that it had got the right to defend itself. The prime minister said it was the licence to barbaric retaliation. He said the entire Muslim nation should think over about its contribution in science and technology and defence. The prime minister also criticised governance structures in Muslim nations, saying their challenges were deeper than the mere quagmire of the Palestinian situation.

Meanwhile, the 16th Summit of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was in progress in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was representing Pakistan in the summit. In his address, the Prime Minister will reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to ECO Vision 2025 and to promotion of regional cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity.

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

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

"Iqbal dreamed of Pakistan, and we are a mani-

sonic 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 ba-



Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C.

festation of his dream," the envoy told the meeting held at the Pakistan embassy here.

In addition, a photo exhibition was also arranged by the embassy in collaboration with the International Academy of Letters, USA, the Sadequain Foundation, USA, and the Sadequain Gallery of Chicago to pay tribute to the

festation of his dream," the envoy told the meeting held at the Pakistan embassy here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Whether we succeed or not, only God knows. But we will work with good intentions and will

think of the people first. If we do that, then we will be successful."

Commenting on Sarwar's decision to join the party, Tareen said that the relationship between the two was like that between "brothers".

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



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

## So called narrative of Imran Khan integrity stands exposed

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

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

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

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

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

## Tandoor association announces strike in Quetta from today

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: President PFUJ Afzal Butt giving away Journalist of the Year award to journalists Arshad Ansari, Saleem Shahid and others.

## Punjab Govt partially lift lockdown

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

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued an advisory warning of the possibility of smog levels reaching dangerous levels in central and southern Punjab next week. Gujranwala, Multan, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Sargodha, DG Khan, and Sahiwal are among the districts likely to be affected.

Citizens are advised to

limit outdoor activities, wear masks when going out, and stay informed about local air quality levels. They should also drink plenty of water to protect their respiratory systems from the harmful effects of smog.

DIG Operations Lahore Ali Nasir Rizvi has directed police officers to strictly enforce the smart lockdown measures. He has criticized police officers for remaining indoors until 10:00 AM, stating that "if they remain in their houses till 10:00 in the morning, how will Lahore work?" Under the smart lockdown, only emergency services will be allowed to operate. All other businesses and activities will remain closed.

## Multiple theft, fraud charges against Fawad case comes to light

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

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

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

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

As per details, the former PTI MNAs were reportedly in residence of local party leader Razauallah Khan who was also arrested along with his cousins. The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab on Friday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser from Islamabad. According to details, the Anti-Corruption Establishment arrested the former National Assembly (NA) Speaker for his nomination.



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