

Independent

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Four soldiers martyred, 12 terrorists killed in heavily armed attack along Pak-Afghan border

RAWALPINDI (APP): Four soldiers of Pakistan Army on Wednesday embraced martyrdom while gallantly thwarting a heavily armed terrorists' attack on two military posts along Pak-Afghan border in Chitral, whereas 12 terrorists were killed and several critically injured amid intense exchange of fire.

A large group of terrorists equipped with the latest weapons attacked two Pakistani military posts located closer to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in general area Kalash, District Chitral, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The military's media wing said the terrorists' movement and concentration in Gawardesh, Pitigal, Barg-e-Matel and Bataash areas of Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan had already been picked up and were timely shared with the Interim Afghan Government.

Owing to heightened

threat environment, the Pakistan Army posts were already on high alert. "The valiant soldiers fought bravely and repulsed the attacks inflicting heavy casualties to the terrorists. During the fire exchange, twelve terrorists were sent to hell, while a large number has been critically injured," the ISPR said.

Sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve. The brave people of Chitral also stand firmly with the security forces in not allowing the terrorists to ruin the peace of the area," the ISPR said.

Interim Afghan Government was expected to fulfill its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan, it added.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor calls for preparing comprehensive strategy to reduce economic sufferings of public

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has directed the concerned authorities to remove the public complaints about the unsatisfactory situation of health and hygiene as well as the overbilling of gas and electricity consumers and their unannounced load shedding in Quetta city.

He said that the hardships of domestic consumers of gas and electricity have been increased due to the severe price hike.

Therefore, it is necessary to prepare a comprehensive strategy to reduce the economic sufferings of the masses, maintained the Governor while speaking to

different delegations who called on him at Governor House on Wednesday. The members of delegations representing different segments apprised the Governor about their complaints.

The Governor said that people of Balochistan are suffering more issues than other provinces of the country. He said that the opportunities of jobs are limited due to the lack of factories in the province. He said that the people suffered from the world epidemic Corona and then the devastating floods. Under the given situation, it would be ensured to remove the public complaints by taking revolutionary steps for their welfare, he added.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jozgazi meeting with Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai

Pakistan Defence Day celebrated with zeal in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Defence and Martyrs Day of Pakistan was celebrated with enthusiasm in respective areas of Balochistan on Wednesday.

The day dawned with the recitation of the Holy Quran and special prayers for the prosperity of Pakistan in all mosques throughout the province.

Officers of Pak Army, Frontier Corps, Police and Levies Force while offering Fateha for the fallen heroes of the nation laid floral wreath at different Yadgar-e-Shuhada set up in various districts of the province.

Rallies were taken out in respective districts including Quetta to pay rich tribute to martyrs on the Defence Day.

Likewise, different cer-

emonies were held in various districts including Panjgur, Killa Abdullah, Khuzdar, Kohlu, Pishin, Kharan, Nushki, Taftan, Gwadar, Naseerabad, Jafarabad, Dera Bugti, Chaman, and other district to celebrate the Defence Day with enthusiasm.

Participants in the ceremonies paying homage to the martyrs and Ghazis highlighted the sacrifices rendered by the Armed forces. In the programs held in connection with the Defence Day different stalls were set up to portray army's role in defending the motherland and nation building.

Students of various schools also performed tableaux prepared in connection with the Defence Day.



ISLAMABAD: DEFENCE & MARTYRS DAY: To pay homage and tribute to the Martyrs & Ghazis of the 1965 war, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laying floral wreath and offering Dua at Pakistan Monument.

100 dams project be completed at the earliest: Caretaker CM stresses need to increase capacity of water storage for promotion of agriculture

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QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned authorities to complete the project of construction of 100 dams in province at the earliest.

In addition to the construction of dams, the projects of development of command areas should also be completed soon, maintained the caretaker Chief Minister while chairing a meeting about the departmental affairs of Provincial Irrigation department here on Wednesday.

The Advisor to Chief Minister for Irrigation, Mir Danish Langove, Chief Secretary, Shakil Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary development,

Secretary Finance and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The Secretary Irrigation Department Hafiz Abdul Majid briefed the meeting about the departmental affairs.

The meeting was also briefed about construction of dams, re-modelling of Pat feeder canal and extension of Kachhi canal project.

It was informed that around 0.8 million acres more land would be brought under cultivation through re-modelling of the Pa feeder canal and extension of Kachhi canal project.

Addressing the meeting, caretaker Chief Minister stressed the need to increase the capacity of water storage for promo-

tion of agriculture in the province.

He noted with concern that we are consuming the drinking water of next generations by utilizing the underground water for agriculture.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki directed to complete the ongoing projects of dams immediately.

He also directed to complete the projects of development of command area along with the dams just because their (dams) utilization would not be possible without developing command area.

Moreover, the prompt implementation of the proposed federal projects of dams in Panjgur and Awaran should also be ensured, the caretaker Chief Minister directed further.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and caretaker Federal Minister for Power Muhammad Ali addressing a press conference.

Govt announces crackdown across country to control electricity theft

Launches crackdown against dollar-smuggling, hoarding

ISLAMABAD (Online): The federal government under the directives of the Prime Minister is going to launch crackdown across the country soon to control electricity theft.

Addressing a news conference flanked by Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Minister for Power and Energy Muhammad Ali said there are ten distribution companies in Pakistan which are facing a total loss of 589 billion rupees annually.

He said power theft and nonpayment of electricity bills are the major causes of this huge loss.

The Minister said the government has planned a comprehensive three-pronged strategy to deal with the issue of power

theft.

He said under this strategy, technology interventions will be made in the areas where electricity theft is 15 to 30 percent. Secondly, involvement of private sector will be ensured in the management where electricity theft is from 30 to 60 percent while enforcement will be ensured in the areas where power theft is more than 60 percent.

Giving details about the steps to be taken to stop power theft, Muhammad Ali said there is dire need of introducing reforms in the energy sector. He said the government is reviewing the performance of the Board of Directors of power distribution companies and will bring change in their management.



QUETTA: Teachers and Students of Govt Elementary College Jinnah Town Quetta experiencing gunshot at Shooting Range Quetta during their visit on the occasion of Defence Day.

We owe martyrs, their families a great deal Caretaker PM lauds martyrs' sacrifices for defence of motherland

Says nation stands with armed forces to thwart evil designs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday highly praised the sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives for the defence of the country.

While addressing a ceremony held in connection with the Defence Day celebrations at the national monument Shakaiparian, he threw light on the significance of martyrdom in Islam.

"A Shaheed will desire to go to the world and wish to experience the same thing of being killed in the path of Allah again and again," he pointed out.

"Our martyrs are the crown of our heads. We owe them and their families a great deal. The slightest thing we can do for them is respect the families of the martyrs," he said.

The prime minister also laid flowers at the national monument and also paid homage to the heroes of the freedom struggle.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday laid floral wreath here at Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay homage and tribute to the valiant soldiers of the armed forces.

Speaking at a ceremony held here at Pakistan monument in connection with the Defence and Martyrs Day, the prime minister said "We come here to pay tribute to valiant sons of the soil who embraced 'Shahadat' while ensuring the security of the nation".

He said "our martyrs who embraced martyrdom for the sake of their people and the country can never be forgotten and will al-

ways remain in our hearts".

The prime minister said Quran e Kareem had also specifically mentioned martyrs with great reverence.

The people, he said who in their respective times sacrificed their lives to safeguard their nation, country, people and laws had in fact offered their lives in the way of Allah Almighty.

Referring to the moments of martyrdom of the valiant soldiers, the prime minister said "this is the moment that appears to be a death but actually it is the moment of meeting with the immortal".

He said the way the martyrs receive peace and blessings after death, they would have been longing for sacrificing their lives again and again.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Prince Ali Ahmed Baloch meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

CJSC, Services Chiefs pay tribute to martyrs, families on 58th Defence Day

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), Services Chiefs and Armed Forces of the country paid rich tribute to martyrs, their families and war veterans on the 58th Defence and Martyrs' Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the country's military leadership in its message said that on 6th September 1965, it was yet again displayed that a smaller but righteous force overcame a numerically larger enemy with professionalism, determination and faith.

"Indeed this day and associated heroics and sacrifices continue to inspire our generations. The day exudes the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland," the ISPR said.

"We owe our freedom and peace to the unprecedented sacrifices of our martyrs and veterans. Pakistan remain committed to ensuring the defence of the motherland against all internal and external threats.

Ch Shujaat has sent me to PTI: Pervaiz Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI president Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has said Chaudhry Shujaat has sent him to PTI, therefore, he is not leaving party.

He said this during informal talks with media men in court room on Wednesday.

To a question from journalist Chaudhry Sahb why are you not returning to your party he said Chaudhry Shujaat himself has sent him to PTI, therefore, he is not leaving party.

The journalist again questioned why Chaudhry Shujaat does not join PTI himself. Pervaiz Elahi said Chaudhry Shujaat would have joined PTI but he could not come due to his son Chaudhry Salik. He was very fond of becoming minister so he has fulfilled his desire.

Jan Achakzai welcomes Caretaker PM's crackdown on sugar smuggling

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QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has welcomed Prime Minister Anwar Kakar's crackdown on sugar smuggling.

In a statement issued here, Jan Achakzai said the effort will help to reduce the price of sugar in the province.

Achakzai said that the Frontier Corps (FC) North has led a successful operation against sugar smugglers in Balochistan, impounding a large quantity of the commodity. He said the FC has become a focal agency to lead the efforts to curb sugar smuggling.

The information minister assured the people of Balochistan that the government will do everything in its power to control the menace of sugar smuggling and ensure that the price of sugar remains affordable.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Admiral Erumtut Tatlioglu, Commander Turkish Naval Forces during meeting held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

Cmdr Turkish Naval Force, Naval Chief discuss bilateral naval collaboration

ISLAMABAD (INP): Commander Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Erumtut Tatlioglu on Wednesday paid visit to Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the dignitary

was received by Chief of the Naval Staff.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour. Chief of Turkish Navy laid floral wreath at Shuhada Monument and afterwards was introduced to Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters.

Jl Balochistan to stage dharna against inflation in front of Governor House on 24th

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QUETTA: The Jama'at-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan would stage protest sit-in (dharna) against inflation on September 24 in front of the Governor House, Quetta.

The Ameer Jama'at-e-Islami Sirajul Haq would lead the dharna in Quetta. This was announced by the provincial Ameer of JI Balochistan, Abdul Haq

Hashmi while addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Wednesday. He expressed deep concern over the increasing price hike in the country, which has made the life of common men miserable.

He said that the recent increase in the petroleum prices and tariff of electricity has contributed a lot in the ever increasing inflation in the country.

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Unreal expectations

Though the nation is going through a painful cost-of-living crisis, the civilian and military leaderships are of the view that better days are just around the corner. They base their optimism on the hope that our friends in the Gulf are ready to pour in tens of billions of dollars into Pakistan in the shape of deposits as well as investments. While speaking on Monday, interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern states were likely to invest \$25bn in the country over the next two to five years. Similar comments were reportedly made by the army chief while meeting business tycoons in Karachi recently.

As reported, the COAS told businessmen he had asked the Saudis and Emiratis to deposit \$10bn each to help shore up Pakistan's dwindling foreign exchange reserves. Moreover, the army chief is reported to have said that between \$75bn-100bn could be invested in the country by the Gulf states.

While Pakistan needs all the investment it can get, we must ask how realistic these projections are.

For example, the country went through an excruciating period of uncertainty — when default seemed to be staring us in the face — before the IMF approved a mere \$1.2bn in July, the first tranche of a \$3bn bailout.

What guarantee do we have that our friends and benefactors will be willing to shower us with dollars — amounts much larger than the bailout — when we were made to jump through multiple hoops for \$1.2bn?

The fact is that even our trusted partners, including the Gulf states and China, sent not-so-subtle messages that unless we comply with IMF demands, they were unlikely to help. Quite clearly, the age of the free lunch is over.

The international community, including our traditional allies, expects us to address the fundamentals of our sputtering economy, as well as political instability, before they put more money into Pakistan. Mr Kakar had also alluded to this, when he mentioned that reforms were needed in taxation and the power sector.

Questions also arise about the caretakers' intentions — their long-term plans are puzzling in view of their constitutionally limited stay. The interim set-up should only focus on keeping the economy stable, ensure timely polls, and then call it a day.

Long-term economic policymaking is the responsibility of the next elected government, that should not feel the need to rely on input from the security establishment.

Without doubt, this country has ample resources and a hardworking populace. Yet unless we fix our fundamentals — taxing the untaxed, curbing corruption, reining in wasteful spending — this potential will remain unutilised. Moreover, those who put money in Pakistan will expect decent returns on their investments, which can only be achieved through the rule of law, political stability and democratic continuity.



Zahid Hussain

We are living in a world of illusions. While the country is fast hurtling towards an economic meltdown, we are told that our bad days are over, with billions of dollars in investment soon expected to be pouring into the country that would change our fortunes.

The caretaker prime minister says that Saudi Arabia will be investing \$25bn in the country over the next five years, while the army chief is reported to have reassured a group of businessmen that Pakistan has the potential to attract up to \$100bn in investments from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others to alleviate the suffering of the Pakistani people.

There is a sense that the army leadership is on a

mission to steer the country towards a new era of economic prosperity, by fixing everything — from containing the dollar to stopping smuggling and eradicating corruption in the next few months.

It believes that the recently formed Special Investment Facilitation Council will be able to bring in investments in the energy, IT, minerals, defence and agriculture sectors. The SIFC structure, which includes the COAS as well as other military representatives in key roles, aims to take a "unified approach" to get the country out of the current state of economic turmoil in which it finds itself.

However, it appears to be part of the game of illusions long played by our ruling elite. For a number of years, it was the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that was supposed to be a game changer for the country. But after tens of billions of dollars of Chinese investment, the country's economic plight has continued to slide. The promise of change never materialised, despite the massive inflow of finances over the years.

While the CPEC project at least has something to show for it in terms of some infrastructure and power sector development, mobilising \$100bn in investment is a pipe dream, especially as there is no indication so far that the Gulf sheikhdoms have started looking at a country riven by multiple crises as a lucrative investment destination. Notwithstanding some of them acquiring interests in certain state-owned ventures being offered for disinvestment, there is no tangible commitment to invest in new projects. But our caretaker prime minister is euphoric about the prospect of \$25bn in Saudi investment coming in various sectors, particularly in mining, agriculture and information technology, in the next two to three years. One can only wait to see such a wonder happening that could change the fortunes of a country struggling to keep itself afloat amid a massive foreign debt burden and looming stagflation.

Curiously, the civil and military leadership never gets tired of hyping Pakistan's rich untapped

mineral resources. Their latest estimate is that the country is sitting on precious minerals valued up to \$6 trillion. One former minister in the previous government got very excited during a TV talk show, claiming that the amount was only the value of the 'dust' and the real worth of the untapped minerals was far more. There is no limit to such absurdities that come in plenty, even at a time of extreme gloom.

It was not surprising that the pep talk delivered to the select group of businessmen leaked to the media has evoked a mixed response. Some elements in the media were quick to eulogise the COAS for 'leading from the front' in a bid to take the country to economic recovery.

However, past experience has taught us that it has been a norm under successive hybrid set-ups for the military leadership to be involved in matters ranging from governance to economic policies. The latest example is the SIFC, mentioned earlier, with considerable military representation, formed under the Shehbaz Sharif gov-

ernment as a one-window operation to facilitate foreign investment in the country.

Indeed, we have seen such involvement in the economic policymaking process quite a few times. The hybrid administration under former prime minister Imran Khan in 2019 had established the National Development Council with the aim to spur economic growth. One of its members was the then army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa. Very little was heard of the body that had hardly anything to show for the revival of the economy.

But the current military leadership's involvement in matters of economic and investment policymaking process under the interim administration has reinforced apprehensions about the establishment's long-term agenda. There is no ambiguity left now about who is in charge.

The most worrying aspect, though, is the misplaced expectation of massive inflows of foreign investment. One cannot deny the importance of a unified approach and the

removal of bureaucratic hurdles in order to facilitate much-needed foreign investments in the country. But far more is required to create an atmosphere to give foreign investors some confidence in conditions here.

Foreign investment will come when the economic fundamentals are in place and security for investment is guaranteed. It's not enough to have a "unified approach". With the prevailing political and economic uncertainty, there is hardly any hope of any kind of investment flowing in. The biggest obstacle in the way of foreign investment is the deteriorating law-and-order situation, particularly in the regions which are believed to have the major deposits of minerals.

Surely, we badly need investments to make the country stand up on its feet. But for that, we need to emerge from our state of illusion and confront the reality. There is no magic wand the security establishment has to fix our chronic problems within months. -- Courtesy Dawn

Malice towards none



Dr Naazir Mahmood

No judiciary can afford an undeniably partisan appearance and antics that betray an agenda. It has been nearly 15 years that we have seen judges trying to become the darlings of social media, which is much easier in our day and age. Of course, it is a challenging task for the judiciary to be both adaptable and tough — the two qualities deemed critical for its smooth functioning. But all such crude attempts made while deciding on or discussing cases to defend one's opinion make the entire exercise questionable.

Jurisprudence is more of an art form or a craft that powers important advances in the constitutional and legal history of a country. Ideally, the constitution is a multipurpose gripping device that holds the country together. In Pakistan,

the most recent discussions and observations in and outside courtrooms have created some controversies.

In many countries, judicial review is a standard practice but ideally it applies to the most exceptional cases. In Pakistan, for the last 15 years at least, the judiciary has been using three devices to assert its authority and to some extent cripple other organs of the state: contempt of court, judicial reviews, and suo motu notices. These three devices were put in place for exceptional situations, especially when fundamental rights of the people are under threat. Society expects that the apex courts exercise their powers with utmost care and diligence, and not to forward some agenda of selective justice.

'Contempt of court' is a useful tool to enhance accountability in society so that no official violates court orders. If a judge delivers an order — mostly in favour of an applicant who may be a victim of gross injustice — the order is binding. All concerned must follow and implement those orders without exception. If the executive and its concerned officers refuse to listen,

it may cause a complete breakdown of the judiciary in society. The judiciary must have the authority to punish any officer who refuses to implement the court orders.

Unfortunately, in Pakistan, there have been many instances when judges used contempt of court to settle personal scores, target an undesirable individual, or satisfy an inflated ego. There have been examples in which contempt of court had nothing to do with protecting fundamental rights or a victim. The case in which the apex court punished an elected prime minister — Yusuf Raza Gilani — and sent him packing was not worthy of such harsh punishment. But nobody could question the honourable chief justice, neither was there any mechanism to challenge that decision.

The second device that has both curative and deadly potentials is judicial review. This mechanism is useful if the executive or the government approves laws that go against fundamental and human rights. The primary responsibility of the judiciary — or of any other organ of the state — is

to facilitate and protect its people.

If the legislature or the executive embarks on a journey to target people — or any particular individual — through discriminatory acts and amendments, it is the judiciary that uses judicial review to assert people's rights. This device is for the people and not for the judiciary itself.

For any such review of the legislation, there should be at least two criteria: first, the criterion of fundamental and human rights, and second, the number and seniority of judges who do sit to review any piece of legislation that parliament has passed. Ideally, if the legislation has nothing to do with people's fundamental and human rights, there is perhaps no need to review it. Parliament should have absolute authority over such matters of legislation. If the apex court decides to take up the case of a judicial review, ideally the full bench should hear the case.

Here two examples may be of use to clear the point. The Kesavananda Bharati case of 1973 in India was a prominent case in which the Supreme Court of India delivered a land-

mark decision to protect people's rights. With a razor-thin majority of 7:6, the court held that the Indian parliament could amend any provision of the constitution to fulfil its 'socio-economic obligations'. The Indian constitution's preamble says "provided that such amendments did not change the constitution's basic structure" with regard to people's rights that all organs of the state must protect. The Indian court held that the 24th Amendment was entirely valid but found that the first part of the 25th Amendment was intra vires (inside the powers) and the second part of the same ultra vires (outside the powers). The second example is from our past when in August 2015, the Supreme Court of Pakistan delivered another landmark judgment. It was chief justice Nasirul Mulk who ensured that the full bench of 17 judges hear the case in which applicants had challenged the 18th and 21st amendments.

There were 35 identical applications against the two amendments and the 17-member bench dismissed the petitions challenging the 21st Amendment with 11 judges voting to

dismiss the pleas and six in favour. The apex court also rejected the petitions challenging the 18th Amendment by a 14-3 vote. Chief justice Nasirul Mulk adhered to the two criteria: one, the legislations and petitions did involve fundamental rights, and two, the full bench heard the case.

Lastly, the power of suo motu has also become controversial as many such notices in the past 15 years have yielded verdicts that lack fairness and transparency. This nation has experienced judicial activism in the shape of suo motu notices that had no proper justification.

It has resulted in the trivialization of jurisprudence at the highest level. The apex court must keep itself above petty issues and frivolous matters. The dignity and respect of the judiciary depends on its behaviour. Contempt of court, judicial review, and suo-motu notices are useful tools to protect fundamental and human rights and ensure the implementation of verdicts. The judiciary must use them sparingly and only in favour of public interest, not in malice to anyone. -- Courtesy TheNews

Coordination is key



Arif Hasan

I worked on a number of large community infrastructure development projects in the 1990s, some of which were disastrous but whose sponsors dubbed them as "best practices". The reasons for the problems with these projects were always the same: an absence of co-ordination between the agencies involved in the project concept, planning and implementation and the blaming of each other for their problems. The situation is not very different in the Pakistan of today.

Our country is in the midst of a major civil-civil war. All the pillars of state are in conflict with each other and within each pillar there are conflicts as well. If there was coordination between them and within them then the continued killing of security personnel would be considerably lower and people would not disappear, as they do without a trace. There would be better control on inflation and our relations with our neighbours (except perhaps for India) would also be better. Evictions and arbitrary arrests would not take place, and bureaucrats who take decisions on governance issues would not be changed every second day.

Then there are other serious coordination-related issues too. Railway accidents happen all the time because of an absence of coordination. Buses carrying passengers have accidents killing tens of people every time and trucks and tankers overturn into ditches and collapsed roads, making travel dangerous. We cannot decide who is

responsible for this. Factories, commercial and residential buildings catch fire in which hundreds of persons get burned just because the implementation of existing building by-laws are not followed and as soon as that happens, agencies start blaming each other.

Similarly, in violation of all zoning regulations, real estate 'entrepreneurs' acquire land destroying the ecology of the regions where the cities are located, making them ungovernable. Many of the persons involved in this, work closely with what we call mafias.

There are also conflicts between the police and the local administration, creating huge traffic jams that make things ungovernable and resulting in car parking issues that are managed by private mafias in league with sections of the police and local government. Billboards collapse as they are built in violation of local government rules and directions of the two exists. Buildings collapse since they have never been checked for structural quality, and so do walls, killing a large number of people all over Pakistan. Almost daily children disappear into manholes, which have no covers, and die.

The most serious of all coordination issues is related to the judiciary where in recent history it has failed to reach a consensus on how to deal with major constitutional issues. Cases of rape and abduction also remain unresolved for years, and because of a lack of faith in the system, most are unreported, unpursued and eventually forgotten making a mockery of justice and exposing the misogyny of those in power.

This absence of coordination and internal strife promotes corruption, negligence and delays, and a lack of accountability and transparency. This in turn

makes nepotism possible giving power to politicians at all levels to appoint their preferred individuals in positions of prominence, where commissions and other financial benefits are possible.

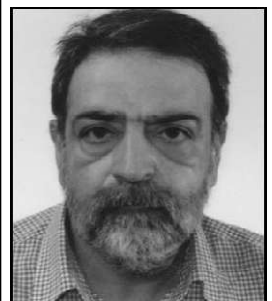
The media for the last few years has been talking mainly about constitutional issues in a vocabulary which even 'educated' individuals in the country do not understand.

A common man has not been explained as to what a constitution is; I doubt if even the experts who are brought to discuss it on TV know the niceties of it. They spend most of their time, day after day, talking to each other, from the same point of view which are of little relevance to the daily life of a common man. In addition, all the channels have the same news and international news, much of which concerns Pakistan, is missing. Concerns of daily life are touched upon but they do not form the most important of news on the news channels.

All this and much more is because of an absence of coordination between the pillars of state and the disputes within them because of which even existing laws of the country are not followed. In the meetings of bureaucrats, it is common that some representing a particular agency do not turn up, or are called away by a senior bureaucrat or politician. Minutes sometimes do not reflect the discussions that have taken place.

For any public-sector reform, coordination between different agencies and their mid-level staff has to be guaranteed so that existing rules, regulations, and procedures can be followed making the implementation of some very progressive laws possible. -- Courtesy Dawn

Killing democracy



Mahir Ali

The US has never officially been willing to concede that recent history encompasses not one but two 9/11s. There's the one 22 years ago that everyone is supposed to remember, overlooking the disastrous consequences of the US reaction that continues to bedevil several nations.

There's even more to overlook, though, in what happened in Santiago on Sept 11, 1973, when Chilean armed forces thwarted a democratic experiment in socioeconomic justice. That's because the US was inextricably implicated in the military coup it had been seeking to instigate for over three years.

The intervention had begun even before the Sept 4, 1970, election that potentially elevated Salvador Allende to the presidency after decades of effort. The Socialist Party candidate was prone to joke in preceding years that his epitaph would read: "Here lies... the future president of Chile."

Even before the election, there were indications which way the wind of change was blowing. "I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people," declared Henry Kissinger, foreign policy head honcho in the Nixon administration.

Once the voters gave Allende a plurality, US efforts were dedicated to ensuring that the Chilean parliament did not support his presidency. The

best bet was a military coup, but army chief René Schneider was a constitutionalist. A CIA-assisted attempt to kidnap him resulted in his assassination by far right elements, and in October the Chilean congress endorsed Allende by 153 to 35.

Washington's worst nightmare was unfolding in what it considered as its backyard. The next step was to strangle its economy, especially after Allende lived up to his reputation with a programme of nationalisation and expropriation aimed at exploitative multinationals and privately owned latifundias.

Vast US corporations — notably ITT, Dow Chemicals and Anaconda — were dedicated to exploiting Chile's natural resources and its infrastructure for profits. As far as neocolonial interests go, the Chilean example was worse than the revolutionary variant in Cuba a decade earlier. Socialism achieved via elections could inspire voters not only across Latin America but far beyond.

It helped that Allende's Popular Unity government turned out to be dysfunctional in some ways, given the coalition stretched from radical forces to the left of the Communist Party to the social democratic faction of the Christian Democrats. Yet its ambitious agenda captured the popular imagination as reflected in the results of subsequent municipal and parliamentary polls.

But as far as the threatened vested interests within Chile and their foreign collaborators were concerned, this only underlined the urgent need to halt the experiment. In their eyes, its potential success posed a monumental threat. The Nixon administration had vowed to "make the economy

scream", and it had the weapons to facilitate this aim.

There was never a dull moment between the inauguration of Allende's administration and its brutal demise less than three years later, with all manner of strikes, demonstrations and violence thrown into the mix. Yet the government survived. Dislodging required military action, and just days before 9/11 in 1973, the newly inaugurated chief of a divided military switched sides.

Thereafter, Augusto Pinochet would pursue his new aims with the perverse passion of a convert, seeking to obliterate all vestiges of the recent past. That involved mass murder, preceded by rape and other forms of torture. The remains of a substantial proportion of his junta's thousands of victims are still being sought 50 years later.

In his final address to Chileans that morning, Allende declared he wasn't inclined towards martyrdom, but would resist to the end. Which is what he did, wearing a helmet and clutching an automatic rifle — a gift from Fidel Castro, who had advised him a couple of years earlier to arm his supporters. But Allende believed in the peaceful, parliamentary road to socialism.

In the short term, it appeared he had been proved wrong as much of the continent lapsed into US-backed military rule, with Chile a leading participant in the genocidal Operation Condor. But on the cusp of the 21st century, intriguing alternatives to the neocolonial and neoliberal order emerged, and there's still hope that Allende's audacity will serve as a more powerful example than Pinochet's perversity, not least in Chile itself. -- Courtesy Dawn

KP's caretaker cabinet approves raise in minimum wages of laborers to Rs. 32000

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister, Azam Khan here Wednesday, accorded approval for raising the minimum wage for laborers in the province from Rs.25000 to Rs.32000.

The meeting was attended by caretaker ministers, advisors, special assistants, chief secretary and other senior officials.

The caretaker cabinet meeting discussed the agenda including matters relating to Aqaf, Local Government, Agriculture and Population Welfare Department. The cabinet also deliberated on additional grant-in-aid for schools under Workers Children Education Board. The cabinet recognized the need for supplementary fi-

nanial support to cover expenses related to salaries, book purchases, uniforms and stipends for the year 2022-23 in these schools approving additional grant-in-aid to alleviate financial constraints. Cabinet meeting also approved the transfer of 3 kanals of land owned by Health Department in Dir Lower to Emergency Rescue Services KP. The transfer would help the establishment of Rescue 1122 station in Adanzai Tehsil of Dir Lower District. In a bid to expedite compensation disbursement for damages to land, property and buildings in Miran Shah Bazar, the cabinet approved a supplementary grant under the ongoing AIP project for affected property owners in North Waziristan district.



MUZAFFERABAD: Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz offering dua during laying floral wreath at monument of Martyrs during ceremony to mark the "Defense Day" in the Capital of A.J.K.

Army makes Pakistan invincible: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs Punjab Kanwer Muhammad Dilshad said that Pak army had made Pakistan invincible by defending its all boundaries.

He was addressing a seminar on "Allama Iqbal's Thoughts and Pakistan's Defence" organized by University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with Majlis Rumi & Iqbal to mark Pakistan's Defence Day here on Wednesday.

He said that Pakistan was achieved after many sacrifices. "Now it is our responsibility to play our role for development and

prosperity of the country," he added. "We should inculcate the thoughts of Iqbal in the young generation so that they can become Shaheen of Allama Iqbal", he added.

UAF Vice Chancellor ProfDr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the sacrifices of martyrs would be remembered always.

He said that all possible efforts were being made to make the young generation enlightened with Allama Iqbal's thoughts so that they could pave new ways of development.

Senator Waleed Iqbal urged the people to understand the message of Allama Iqbal.



SIALKOT: Former Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif offering Fatcha after laying wreath on the grave of Army Martyrs at Chawinda.

First Lady for raising awareness about early symptoms of breast cancer, self-examination

LAHORE (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi on Wednesday, emphasizing the diagnosis and curability of breast cancer in early stage, has called for raising awareness about the initial symptoms of breast cancer to control the fatal disease, besides educating women to adopt the habit of 5-minute self-examination every month.

Speaking at a seminar on "Breast Cancer, Mental Health and Facilitation of Persons with Disabilities" jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and University of Lahore (UOL), she stressed that healthy women are vital for a prosperous Pakistan.

annations every month to detect breast cancer at early stages and seek medical advice in case of any abnormalities. Highlighting that women make up almost 50 percent of the population, she emphasized the importance of broadcasting messages related to breast cancer and mental health through various media channels, including TV, radio, dramas and newspapers.

The First Lady also advocated for individuals with disabilities, calling for their job quotas in both the public and private sectors.

She applauded the progress made in spreading awareness about breast cancer over the past five years, resulting in a higher number of cases being diagnosed at stages 1 or 2, which are curable. She stressed the need for con-



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing ceremony organized in connection with Pakistan Defence Day at Governor House

September 6 is day of our national unity: Memon

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party leader and former provincial minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that September 6 is the day of our national unity, solidarity, and patriotism here on Tuesday.

In his message on the occasion of Defence Day, the former minister said "This day renews national enthusiasm, unity, faith, and belief".

Sharjeel Memon said, "The nation cannot forget the eternal sacrifices of our martyrs, and we salute the martyrs who defeated the enemy's ambitions by sacrificing their lives in the September 1965 war".

Our brave armed forces defeated enemy by power of faith, courage: Baligh

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony organized in connection with Pakistan Defence Day at Governor House Lahore today.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that this day reminds us of the indomitable courage of ghazis and unparalleled sacrifices of martyrs rendered for defending the motherland.

He said that our brave armed forces defeated an enemy many times bigger than them by the power of faith and courage. The enemy was big in number and resources, but the courage of our nation and army was great, he added. Governor Punjab said that on September 6, 1965, valiant armed forces and nation foiled the nefarious designs of the army. He said we should renew the pledge on this historic day to remain united and defend the motherland against all odds.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that all nations in the world respect and honour their martyrs, adding that some red lines are not allowed to be crossed all over the world.

However, it is a national tragedy that some people instilled so much hatred in the youth by hate speeches that they desecrated the memorials of

martyrs. Governor Punjab urged that academia has to play its role to prevent such incidents in future. He said that the soldiers and officers of armed forces are embracing martyrdom in war against terrorism.

He said that the nation holds the sacrifices of the martyrs rendered for defending the homeland in high esteem.

President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Ulema Mashaikh Wing, Dr. Mufti Intikhab Ahmad Noori, Rector of Garrison University, Major General Shahzad Sikandar @, Brigadier Liaquat Ali Toor (Ghazi), Dr. Raghib Naimi and Ghazis and families of martyrs of 1965 War were present in the ceremony.

Memon said that our future generations will continue to be proud of the day of September 6, as our heroes laid down their lives for the defence of the motherland.

He said, "The defence of our motherland is invincible, and all nefarious intentions against our country will be thwarted".

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Armed Forces defending borders are our heroes: Gilani

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, said that the Armed Forces defending our borders were our heroes and they would not compromise on their respect and reverence. In a message on Defence Day issued here on Wednesday, he said it was a day of renewed pledge to defend our motherland, and they would not hesitate in rendering sacrifices for it.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs Punjab Kanwer Muhammad Dilshad is addressing a seminar on "Allama Iqbal Thoughts & Pakistan's Defence" arranged by University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) to mark Pakistan Defense Day.

CM visits Allama Iqbal Memorial teaching hospital, Rangpura Police Station

SIALKOT (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Allama Iqbal Memorial Teaching Hospital, Rangpura Police Station and Sialkot Sambrial Road, late at last night.

The Chief Minister made a detailed visit to the entire hospital including emergency, CT scan room, baby ward, medical ward, surgical ward, ENT ward, nephrology ward and others.

He expressed deep concern over the condition of the hospital. Dirty and blood-stained bed sheets and insects were found in the different wards of the hospital, cockroach and insects were seen crawling in the wards and found the washrooms in a bad condition.

On this occasion, the patients and the doctors complained about the misbehavior of the hospital guards, while the patients and the attendants also complained about conducting some tests from outside the hospital.

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi expressed his anger on the lack of facilities and the bad situation in the hospital and warned the principal and MS.

The CM directed that the situation of the hospital should be improved immediately and the complaints of the patients should be resolved in a timely manner.

He directed to immediately shift the 4-year-old girl Haya Fatima, who was being treated in the child ward, to the Children's Hospital in a special ambulance.

He inquired the patients under treatment and reviewed the medical facilities provided to them in the hospital.

WHO played vital role in eradicating Polio in country: Dr Jamal Nasir

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health and Population Welfare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Wednesday said that the World Health Organization (WHO) had played a key role in eradicating the Polio virus from Pakistan and with the support of WHO, Pakistan would be declared a Polio-free country soon.

787,000 children under five years of age would be vaccinated against Polio in Rawalpindi during the campaign.

On the occasion WHO representative Dr Pleetha Mahipala said that the establishment of the PEI field office aimed to make Pakistan free from the Polio virus.

He said that Polio was being eradicated due to WHO's exemplary actions worldwide.

The official of the district health authority on the occasion briefed that Rawalpindi's population was about 6.2 million, of which 1.01 million were children.

He said this while inaugurating the Anti-Polio drive field office at the District Health Authority Rawalpindi building along with WHO representative in Pakistan Dr. Pleetha Mahipala.

Dr Jamal said that WHO was playing a crucial role in eliminating the crippling disease and the establishment of a Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) field office will further strengthen the anti-polio campaigns.

The minister informed that a case response anti-polio drive had been launched in two districts of the province Lahore and Rawalpindi on September 4 after the detection of the virus in the environmental samples.

He said that around

CTD detains four suspects in search operation

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Wednesday detained four suspects in an information based phase-wise search operation.

According to spokesman for CTD Sindh, the CTD along with the concerned police station conducted a search operation in Malir area during which 93 suspected persons were checked and their data was verified through Talash App.

Four of the suspects were handed over to Malir City police station for further verifications.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of experienced and expert officers of CTD.

The phase-wise search operations were initiated on September 1st, in sensitive areas of the megapolis to nab the suspects involved in terrorism and ensure peace, which were to continue till September 6th.

Four of the suspects were handed over to Malir City police station for further verifications.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of experienced and expert officers of CTD.

Decisions reserved on bail applications of 97 accused including Khadija Shah

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has reserved its decision on requests for release of 97 accused including Khadija Shah and Aliya Hamza arrested in 9th May incidents.

Justice Miss Alia Neelam and Justice Asjad Javed of Lahore High Court (LHC) heard the bail applications of Khadija Shah and others.

Special prosecutor Farhad Shah opposed the bail applications of the accused and said that new provisions have been made in the case. Most of the accused are on remands.

The lawyers of accused took stand that we condemn the incidents of 9th May.

Youth kills fiancé in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): A youth with the help of his brother in Jahangira tehsil of Swabi district killed his fiancé and dumped her body near River Indus, police informed on Wednesday.

Police said the incident occurred in the vicinity of Tor Dher police station where a youth named Kamran along with his brothers, Imran and Arshad killed his fiancé and threw her body in Belajata of River Indus in Moza Jahangira.

Police said the brother of the deceased girl told police that his would be brother-in-law Kamran along with brothers came to their house and took along his sister for a domestic feast.

LHC gives 13 days to IG Punjab for recovery of senior journalist Imran

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has given 13 days to IG Punjab in connection with recovery of senior journalist and anchor person Imran Riaz.

The petition filed by father of Imran Riaz came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Justice Muhammad Amir Bhatti Wednesday.

IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar and other senior officers appeared before the court during the hearing of the case.

IG police Punjab told the court much positive headway has been made in connection with the recovery of Imran Riaz. We will give you good news within

next 10 or 15 days. It is requested court should give us time.

The CJ LHC inquired more time is being sought.

IG Punjab requested that "we should be given time of 10 days more, we will give good news."

The CJ LHC Muhammad Amir Bhatti remarked there should be some progress.

The counsel for Imran Riaz said during the hearing of the case IG Punjab should give time for one hour meeting.

The CJ LHC while directing IG Punjab to hold meeting with father of Imran Riaz and legal team at 5pm adjourned the hearing of the case.

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Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khail George talking to media persons during the opening ceremony of "2nd cycle of National Media Fellowship on gender based violation and child marriage" at IBA city campus Karachi.

LHC remands bail petitions of 97 PTI workers to trial court

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday announced verdict on post-arrest bail petitions filed by 97 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers, including fashion designer Khadija Shah, Aalia Hamza, Sanam Javed, in May-9 violence cases, including attack on Jinnah House (the corps commander residence in Lahore).

The court, through a short order, remanded the bail petitions to the trial court, adding that the reasons would be recorded in detailed judgement.

The court observed that since new offences had been added in the cases and investigations were in progress from the accused, adding that some of the accused were on remand. He submitted that the petitioners should again approach the trial court in this situation after completion of investigations from them.

Earlier, Special Prosecutor Farhad Ali Shah opposed the bail petitions of the PTI workers before the bench. He submitted that new offences had been added in the cases and investigations were in progress from the accused, adding that some of the accused were on remand. He submitted that the petitioners should again approach the trial court in this situation after completion of investigations from them.

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PESHAWAR: Former caretaker Minister for Commerce and Chairman KEF Adnan Jilil and MD Bank of Khyber Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz in a group photo with other officials during BoK delegation visit to Khyber Eye Foundation.

We will soon inaugurate 22 roads in SITE Industrial Area: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said we will soon inaugurate 22 roads in the industrial area of the SITE where we have constructed 31 roads. The establishment of a football stadium in Manghopir was a long-standing demand of the people of the area, which has been fulfilled by the Sindh government, he said while addressing the ceremony held after the inauguration of the football stadium in Manghopir on Wednesday.

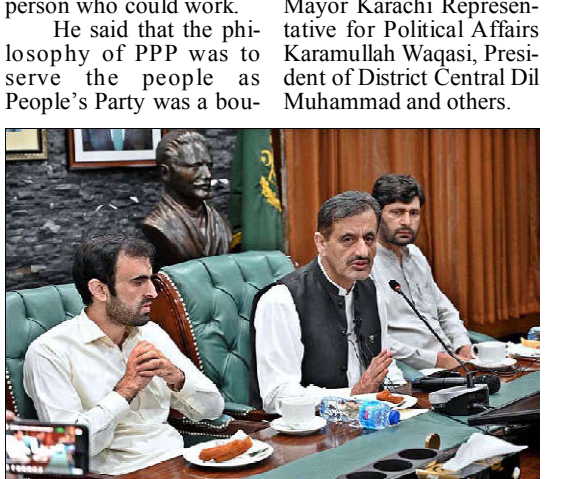
He said that the Mayor of PPP represented the entire city and the people of Karachi needed a person who could work.

He said that the philosophy of PPP was to serve the people as a bouquet of people who speak every language and it talked about humanity. "I will contest election from Gizri, Ibrahim Haidari and Mauripur", he said.

He said that according to the requirement of the prevailing local government law, he had decided to contest the elections from three UCs, including Gizri, Ibrahim Hydari and Mauripur. I am the representative of the city and whatever can be done to serve the city will be done definitely, he added. Leader of PPP and former Member of National Assembly Shahida Rahmani, Town Chairman Nawaz Brohi, Mayor Karachi Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, President of District Central Dil Muhammad and others.

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GILGIT: Advisor Information to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Eman Shah addressing a press conference regarding current law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan.



MUZAFFERABAD: Students of different schools and colleges shouting slogans in the favor of Pak Army and Pakistan during demonstrations to mark the "Defense Day" in the Capital of A.J.K.

Ali Mardan Domki says: Interim provincial Govt performing responsibilities as per mandate

Caretaker Chief Minister maintains it is our endeavor to take all segments along during short span of time of our tenure

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim provincial government is discharging responsibilities remaining in its given mandate, and it is our endeavour to take all segments of the society along in short span of our rule.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to a delegation of Balochistan Bar Council who called on him under leadership of its leader and senior lawyer, Rahib Khan Buledi here at the CM's secretariat on Wednesday.

Mr. Domki on the occasion mentioned that establishing law and order and conducting free

and fair elections is our topmost priority and responsibility. He said that the problems of common men can be resolved by ensuring justice in the society.

He said that there's an important role in provision of justice to the people, and active and efficient role of lawyers reflects the healthy society. Meanwhile, dur-

ing the course of meeting, the cooperation of provincial government for vocation training of the lawyers was also discussed. On this, the caretaker Chief Minister assure that the government would extend wholehearted cooperation for welfare and capacity building of the lawyers' community in the province.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about affairs of Irrigation department



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Federal Board of Revenue and Privatisation.

India's bid to undo UNSC's reform process to prove 'counterproductive': Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Without naming India, Pakistan told the UN Security Council that "one State" appeared bent on destroying the long-running Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process aimed at expanding the 15-member body, stressing: "This will prove counterproductive."

"To serve its misplaced ambitions, one 'State' appears willing to destroy the IGN process, which was established by the consensus support of the entire UN membership," Ambassador Munir Akram said, as he called for an improvement in the Security Council's working method, the subject of Tuesday's debate.

Since 2009, India, along with Brazil, Germany and Japan—known as G-4

—has been pushing for a permanent seat on the U.N.'s high table, a bid strongly opposed by the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group which opposes any additional permanent members.

Instead, UfC has proposed a new category of members—not permanent members—with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year term.

In June, when the General Assembly rolled over the Security Council reform to the 78th session, India lashed out at the move, calling it a "wasted

opportunity." Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj went on to warn that India was "looking beyond the IGN... as the only viable pathway to a future UN Security Council that would better reflect the world of today."

At the same June meeting, Ambassador Akram, the Pakistani envoy, defended the IGN process.

Despite the divergent positions, he said, the process is the "best avenue" to accomplish a reformed Council.

"It is only through patient exchanges, mutual accommodation and compromise that we can broaden the areas of convergence and reduce the points of divergence and thus evolve a 'model' for the reform that can be accepted

People, Armed Forces intertwined in unbreakable bond: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf Wednesday said that people and Pakistan's armed forces are intertwined in an unbreakable bond.

He said that the Pakistani people and its Armed Forces are always ready to offer any kind of sacrifice for the protection of the country.

He also said that Pakistan is bound to progress and develop as it is blessed with patriotic people.

Raja Pervez Ashraf expressed these views while talking to media representatives during his visit

to the tomb of Shaheed Captain Sarwar Muhammad Shaheed in Gujranwala on the occasion of Defence Day.

The speaker said that the people of Gujranwala, a land of Martyrs, would continue to sacrifice their lives to protect Pakistan.

He said, "We are a nation of peaceful people but would prove an unbreakable wall to defend our motherland from any nefarious designs of enemies. While denouncing the 9th May vandalism he said, any action to create a chasm between people of Pakistan and its Armed Forces would never succeed."

Chairman of Zakat Committees of various districts meet CM Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chairman of Zakat Committees and representatives of Usher committees of different districts of the province called on caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the Zakat and Usher committees' chairman and representatives apprised the caretaker Chief Minister about the issues including delay in release of the Zakat fund

and other related problems.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Domki assured to resolve the issues as raised by the members of delegation.

Those included in the delegation were: Chairman Zakat committee Ziarat, Saadullah Dotani, Chairman Zakat Committee Quetta, Zainul Abdeen, Chairman Zakat Committee Pishin, Saadullah Kakar, Chairman Zakat Committee Kalat, AbdulNabi and Chairman Zakat Committee, Killa Abdullah, Malik Nadir Khan.

PM for widening tax net, swift privatisation of loss-making SOEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, reiterating his government's priority to widen the tax net, instructed all the relevant departments to work collectively for bringing in tax reforms.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters pertaining to the Federal Board of Revenue and Privatisation Division, emphasised the need to improve coordination between federal and provincial governments to carry out tax documentation.

He said that the FBR was an important component of the government machinery.

He instructed the authorities concerned to fulfill the legal obligations to accelerate the privatisation of loss-making state-owned enterprises and asked all the

federal ministries to cooperate with the Privatisation Division.

In the briefing, the prime minister was told that the FBR was determined to achieve the tax collection target of Rs 9415 billion. The Board had collected Rs 538 billion in July this year against the target of Rs 534 billion, and Rs 669 billion in August against the target of Rs 648 billion.

It was told that the domestic tax collection had witnessed an increase of 38.7 percent during 2023-24 comparing the previous year.

The prime minister was told that digital tools were also being used to enhance the tax-to-GDP ratio and the FBR's database was also being linked with other departments.

The FBR was also striving to achieve the tar-

get of including another one million taxpayers in the tax net as 182,000 new taxpayers had already been added this year.

The prime minister was told that the scope of Point of Sales system was being expanded to more cities and retailers.

The efforts are being made to add another 20,000 new retailers in the PoS this year, besides formulating a strategy on Transit Trade Management System.

It was told that work on the Customs digitalisation was underway and Pakistan Single Window system was being linked with more government institutions.

The Privatisation Division was working to improve working and service delivery of government corporations by utilising the capabilities of the private sector.

Interior Secretary Abdullah Sumbal passes away due to cardiac arrest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Secretary Abdullah Khan Sumbal died due to cardiac arrest on Wednesday. According to details, Sumbal was seriously ill for the last four days and was under treatment at hospital. His demise occurred in Lahore while he was being transferred to the hospital due to deteriorating health conditions.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

City administration to auction parking plazas, motorcycle stands

QUETTA (APP): The city administration has decided to auction the designed parking plazas and motorcycle stands in the city to generate more revenue.

Talking to APP, Commissioner, Hamza Shafiqat on Wednesday said that the city administration had formulated a comprehensive plan to raise enough money from its own resources to ensure civic facilities to the masses.

He said the authority would auctioned around 100 parking spots transparently and enhanced tax collection to generate more revenue from its resources which would be spent on the development of the

city. The government had established parking plaza aimed to overcome roadside problems and provide safe parking places for the commuters.

Hamza Shafiqat said the Balochistan government was providing only 30 percent fund and Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) had generated 20 percent amount from its own resources of its total expenditure.

The QMC was facing 50 percent deficit of its monthly expenditure, due to which, the situation was deteriorating with every passing day, he added.

Commissioner fixes deadline of 2-months for completion various roads projects in Qta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has fixed deadline of two months for completing the projects of different roads under Quetta development Package.

He directed the concerned high ups to ensure completion of Sariab road, Sabzal road, Anscob road, Link Badini road and link Radio Pakistan road within two months time.

The Commissioner

was on visit of the sites of different roads being completed under the Quetta Package in Quetta city on Wednesday.

He reviewed the pace of development on the roads under Quetta Package.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner directed the concerned departments and high ups to take steps on war footing grounds to expedite the work on the roads projects and resolve the public issues.



LANDIKOTAL: People are facing inconvenience after Torkham border closed due to an exchange of gunfire between Afghan and Pakistani forces, in Torkham Border.

E-gates to be installed at New Gwadar Int'l Airport soon

GWADAR (INP): New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is soon to be equipped with Electronic Gates (E-gates) in line with international high-tech standards for the facilitation of passengers.

This is part of the project of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) to make installation of e-gates across Pakistan in phases. Other airports that will have e-gates include Islamabad, Allama Iqbal, and Jinnah International Airport.

This project will be completed under the supervision of the Aviation Secretary and the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority (DGCAA).

Sources indicate that suggestions have also been

obtained from different national institutions including the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), etc.

Meanwhile, tenders will be sought for the E-gate project, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

The installation of E-gates will eliminate the hassle for travelers as they don't need to wait in queue to get boarding pass and can obtain their boarding cards through the E-gate by scanning their passport and ticket.

The sources within CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) mentioned that the E-gate uses the data embedded in the Passport's biometric chip.

Another Congo virus patient admitted at hospital

QUETTA (INP): Another Congo virus patient has been admitted at a hospital here, sources in hospital administration said on Wednesday.

"Naimatullah 25, was brought to the hospital and found positive in test for Congo virus," Fatima Jinnah Hospital officials said.

"Naimatullah has been an Afghan national from Kandahar."

"This year 31 Congo viral fever patients have been reported in Balochistan till now," officials shared.

This is not the first instance that an epidemic of Congo virus fever has breaks out in Balochistan. In late 80s and mid-90s dozens of people had died of the disease, health sources said.

Three women among four shot dead over property in Jhelum

JHELUM (INP): Four people including three women were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Jhelum on Wednesday, police said. A heavy contingent of police led by district police officer (DPO) rushed to the spot and launched an investigation into the multiple murders.

The unknown attackers sprayed bullets on a sleeping couple and the women's two sisters. Initial findings indicated that the slain had a dispute with close relatives over the possession of a two-marla house.

Kisan Ittehad Pakistan takes out rally to celebrate Defence Day in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): The rally was taken out under the leadership of Kisan Ittehad Pakistan Chairman Khalid Hussain Bat from Toor Khan Nasir Gate to celebrate Defence Day on Wednesday.

The participants of the rally reached B, A Mall Askari Park after marching different highways to show solidarity with the soldiers of Pakistan Army.

While addressing the participants of the rally, Chairman of Kisan Ittehad Pakistan Khalid Hussain Bat, Asmatullah Dummer, Mir Attaullah Long Advocate, Malik Farooq Mehtarzai, Abdul Raziq Sarangzai and others said that the great sons of the country who fought the enemy without caring for protection of the lives of the nation.

The nation is proud of its brave forces, the defense of the country is in strong hands, in the presence of Pakistani forces, the enemy cannot dare to look at Pakistan with a lecherous eye,

they said.

On Defence Day, paying tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs and ghazis of the September 1965 Indo-Pak war, they said that the Pakistani forces have always made unparalleled sacrifices for the defense of the country.

They said that in the Indo-Pak war of September 1965, the army of Pakistan made a new history of courage and bravery by forcing an army many times bigger than itself to retreat.

The speakers said that today reminds us of the great martyrs and ghazis of the 1965 war who defended their borders without sacrificing their lives and by repulsing the Indian forces, their aggressive ambitions were put to rest.

They said that it is difficult to find an example in the history of the courage and bravery shown by the Pakistani forces in the 1965 India-Pakistan war.



QUETTA: Members of Pak Civil Soldier Organization are holding celebration demonstration to pay homage to the Ghazis and Shuhada of 06 September 1965 Indo-Pak War on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, at Quetta press club.

Court grants 2-day physical remand of Parvez in another case

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad gave Islamabad Police a two-day physical remand of PTI President Chaudhary Parvez Elahi in a case pertaining to an attack on the Judicial Complex of Islamabad.

The PTI leader was taken into custody by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) after the ATC announced the reserved verdict.

Earlier, Elahi was produced before the ATC at the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC). He was produced in the court of duty judge Shahrukh Arjumand in a terror case that dated back to March 18.

PM, CNS visit family of martyred Naval officer for condolence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday visited the family of Lt. Commander Hamza Abid of the Pakistan Navy who was martyred in a helicopter crash in Gwadar. Accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, the prime minister expressed condolences to the parents and family members of the martyred naval officer. The father of the martyred officer had also served in the Pakistan Navy.

"We as a nation are indebted to the martyrs," the prime minister wrote on X, formerly Twitter.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat giving away file to owner of a private hostel during inauguration ceremony of Brand Village Quetta

Senator Samina says: Pakistan's history made up of sacrifices

QUETTA (APP): Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Wednesday said that the history of Pakistan was made up of sacrifices since the creation of Pakistan till today our brave Armed Forces have made eternal sacrifices for the protection of the country on September 6, 1965.

She said, in a message on the occasion of Defence Day, that the 1965 war was a great and historic event not only for our brave Armed Forces but also for the Indian forces.

She said in the 1965 war the whole nation became like a leaden wall that was impossible to defeat. She said our Armed

Force and nation responded to Indian aggression on every front. Pakistani Armed Forces did not allow the enemy to take even an inch of the motherland, for which the entire nation paid tribute to the Pakistani armed Forces.

By showing courage and bravery, our Armed Forces sacrificed their lives to protect Pakistan and uprooted the enemy's feet and became invincible for the defense of the motherland, she noted.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said, "Today we have to renew our pledge that we would not let the sacrifices of our great martyrs go in vain and we could always maintain the same spirit of faith."