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Pak, Turkiye reiterate resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye on Tuesday reiterated their resolve to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse areas for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

This bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, who along with his delegation called on the president at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci, and government officials of both sides. Welcoming the Commander of Turkish Naval Forces, the president said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations which were based on common religion, historical bonds, besides having similar stance on various issues.

He emphasised the need to further improve bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including the maritime and defence cooperation. President Alvi recalled his visit to

Turkiye in August 2021 to participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the four MILGEM corvettes for Pakistan Navy.

He lauded the regular participation of the navies of the two brotherly countries in bilateral and multilateral exercises, adding that the close naval cooperation was a manifestation of strong relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

During the meeting, the president highlighted the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces against the Muslims in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), besides expressing concern over persecution of minorities in India.

He stressed that the international community should take notice of the human rights abuses in IIOJK as well as the persecution of minorities in India.

The president appreciated the Turkish support to Pakistan's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, along with the members of his delegation, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Petroleum.

Pakistan to mark Defence Day with national spirit, pay homage to nation's martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Determined to thwart any aggression against the motherland, the nation will hold the annual 'Defence Day of Pakistan' celebrations on Wednesday with a reinvigorated pledge to safeguard its geographical and ideological boundaries in every situation and at all cost.

The historic day of September 6 will be commemorated with an un-mutilated vigor and enthusiasm, sending a message loud and clear to hostile India that the Pakistani nation and armed forces were fully prepared to frustrate any designs against the country's sovereignty and integrity.

A number of activities will be held across the country, reaffirming the nation's resolve not to let anyone cast an evil eye at the homeland, achieved on August 14, 1947 after great sacrifices rendered by Muslims of the sub-continent.

The day will dawn with special prayers in the mosques for the well-being and prosperity of the country, besides 31-gun salute at the federal capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals.

The change of guard ceremony will take place at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi in the morning. 'Fateha' and Quran Khawani will be held for all those who sacrificed their

lives while defending the motherland.

Wreath laying ceremonies will be held at the mausoleums of the recipients of Nishan-e-Haider (the highest gallantry award), which will be attended by the senior officials of the respective areas across the country. The national media, both print and electronic, have chalked out comprehensive coverage plans of the events to be held in connection with the day.

Newspapers will publish special supplements, while electronic media will telecast special programmes, highlighting the importance of the day in Pakistan's military history.

PM directs to curb smuggling by enhancing surveillance at irregular border crossings

Emphasizes utilization of country's immense natural resources; Says main constitutional responsibility of caretaker government is to provide assistance in elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the Customs authorities to establish a monitoring system at irregular border crossings to prevent smuggling in the country.

He was chairing a meeting to discuss measures for discouraging smuggling and promoting trade through legal channels. He was given a detailed briefing by the Ministry of Commerce.

PM Kakar was informed about proposed plans to enhance exports volume, besides possible steps to curb smuggling.

Different modalities of trade under the Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement were also reviewed. It was

recommended to improve the system for scanning and monitoring of the traded goods.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has underlined the need for taking more steps to fully utilize the potential of country's immense natural resources.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review performance of Petroleum Division in Islamabad Tuesday, he said road infrastructure needs to be improved to access the natural resources.

The Prime Minister directed to take strict measures against illegal mining. He also instructed to complete all legal requirements at the earliest for appointment of the head of Oil and Gas Development Author-

ity.

On the occasion, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was given detailed briefing regarding the performance of the Petroleum Division.

The meeting was informed that apart from exploring more natural resources in country, the Petroleum Division is working on a program to increase oil and gas production in the country. It was further briefed that projects related to laying down pipelines are being prioritized to supply oil and gas from various reservoirs.

The meeting was apprised that Petroleum Division is preparing a Mineral Sector Development Framework for exploration of oil and gas. It was told

that a significant progress is being witnessed to promote foreign investment in mining sector.

Online adds: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that primary constitutional responsibility of the caretaker government is to provide assistance in elections.

"We cannot go beyond our constitutional mandate. We can't give any time frame for elections. Government has good relations with army and both are working together for economic recovery. The modern weapons left after withdrawal of US and allied forces in Afghanistan are threat to regional peace and stability, he said this while talking to represen-

tatives of foreign media here Tuesday.. Care taker Prime Minister Anwar Haq Kakar said that this is my first conversation with foreign media as Caretaker Prime Minister (PM), the main constitutional responsibility of caretaker government is to provide assistance in elections. Constitutionally, we cannot make major changes in the government system. Constituencies are required under the Constitution after the census, he added. All political parties registered with the Election Commission will have equal opportunities to participate in the general elections without discrimination, he remarked.

SC reserves judgment in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has reserved judgment on PTI chairman Imran Khan petition against NAB amendment.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked it can be estimated from the reasons for withdrawing NAB amendment that tilt is towards where.

He gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench during hearing of Chairman PTI petition against NAB amendment here Tuesday.

The other two members of bench are Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. At the inception of hearing of the case counsel for chairman PTI told the court written submissions have been filed.

The CJP Umar Ata Bandial while inquiring re-

marked have you read NAB report. NAB has told the reasons in respect of the references which were returned till May. It can be assessed from the reasons for returning the reference tilt is towards where. All have come on record the references of which personalities have been returned.

The CJP remarked one amendment came in May and second in June in section 23 of NAB law. The references which were returned before May are still held by NAB. Who will give reply to these questions from NAB side.

NAB special prosecutor said in his reply to question that additional prosecutor general will reach within some time.

Khawaja Haris said several pending cases were returned after amendments.

SAPM Mushaal calls on FM Jilani; HR situation in IIOJK discussed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Tuesday called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani.

The discussion focused on enhancing collaboration between the ministries of foreign affairs and human rights and projecting Pakistan's point of view at international fora, including the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The foreign minister and the SAPM also discussed the plight of the thousands of political activists,

journalists and human rights defenders, who have been arrested by the Indian authorities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

They expressed grave concern over the Indian authorities' fresh plea to seek the death penalty for one of the most important Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik, who was awarded a life sentence, last year.

They emphasized the urgent need for the release of all political prisoners; halting human rights violations; reversal of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019.

Pakistan keen to promote cooperation with Iran in fields of media, film: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that Pakistan was keen to promote cooperation with Iran in the fields of media, film and drama.



During a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam, who called on him here, the minister said, "Cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media is the need of the hour."

The minister and the ambassador discussed issues of mutual interest, fraternal relations between the two countries and promotion of cooperation in the field of media.

"Cooperation between the two countries in the field of media is indispensable," Murtaza Solangi said.

A memorandum of understanding had already been signed between the Associated Press of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), while many other agreements were under process to enhance cooperation between television, films, cinema, literary and linguistic institutions, he maintained.

These agreements, he said, would help project real culture and traditions of the two brotherly countries.

Sino-Pak joint air exercise Shaheen-X commences in Northwest China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sino-Pak joint annual air exercise Shaheen-X has commenced in the Jiuquan and Yinchuan cities of Northwest China. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF)'s lead fighter aircraft J-10 C and JF-17 are participating in the exercise along with air and ground crew.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force and Pakistan Air Force have

been conducting Shaheen joint exercises since 2011 which are being hosted by both countries on an alternate basis, a PAF news release said. The Shaheen exercise aims to enhance the aerial combat practices, operational readiness, promoting interoperability and creating synergy amongst the participating strategic and time-tested allies in the region.

COAS meets senior Uzbek civil-military leadership

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir is on a two-day official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan which is aimed at enhancing Military to Military cooperation and Defence collaboration.

During the visit, the COAS called on President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Defense Minister as well as the Chairman and Secretary of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS also emphasized upon enhancing mutual training cooperation and intelligence sharing.

The COAS appreciated the standard of training and readiness of the Uzbekistan Military Forces and their understanding about regional security issues.

Elahi arrested again after being released from police line

ISLAMABAD (Online): Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjab Chief Minister Ch. Parvez Elahi was arrested again after being released from the police line. According to the spokesperson of the Capital Police, Pervaiz Elahi has been arrested in the case number 3/23 registered in the police station CTD.

According to sources, PTI president will be transferred to CTD police station. Parvez Elahi came out of the police lines in the car of Sardar Abdul Razaq Advocate, his lawyer Sardar Abdul Razaq Advocate and the driver were taken down and Parvez Elahi was taken along with the car.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker Gilgit Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmed called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing a review meeting.

Speaker GB Legislative Assembly calls on NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Nazir Ahmed here on Tuesday called on National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf in Parliament House.

Raja Pervez Ashraf said that Gilgit Baltistan (GB) was blessed with unmatched natural resources which rendered the region a potentially great destination, said a news release.

He also assured all legislative and administrative support to newly established Gilgit Baltistan Assembly.

The speaker also said that supporting staff and members of GB legislative Assembly would be provided training in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) to enhance their professional capacity.

Interior Minister vows to tackle illegal immigration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Tuesday vowed to tackle the illegal immigration issue and provide foolproof security to the foreigners.

He was chairing a meeting on law and order situation in the country here, which was attended by senior officials from the police, security agencies, and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA).

The minister said that maintaining law and order was the top priority of the government and that miscreant activities by any individual or group would not be tolerated.

He directed the authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the return of foreigners living illegally in Pakistan.

Sarfraz Bugti also or-

dered completion of the action plan to open three more border crossings on the Pakistan-Iran border.

The minister stressed the need to clearly define the scope of police and security agencies in order to improve their performance.

He also directed the authorities to provide state-of-the-art training and resources to the civil armed forces.

Regarding the security of foreigners, the minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct by finalizing it.

He also ordered the provision of all possible facilities to visa applicants for business and investment.

The minister called another meeting next week to review the implementation of the National Action Plan.

Govt committed for uniform, quality education system on modern lines: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Tuesday assured that his government would ensure a uniform and quality educational system in the country and vowed to improve the ability of public sector teachers to modernize the education system.

"Quality education was the highest priority of the present government and assured the students of re-

solving their problems on immediate basis and that they would be assisted in every possible way", he said while talking to a Private news channel.

"Our main focus is to pay special attention to the higher education as well as character building of the students at school level so that they could use their leadership abilities for the betterment and sustainable development of the country", he added.

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GB unrest

Away from the glare of mainstream media, trouble has been brewing in Gilgit-Baltistan in recent weeks. Demonstrations and counter-protests have been held in the mountainous region, with key thoroughfares blocked and mobile internet shut, as sectarian hatreds have returned to cast a long shadow over the area.

According to reports, action was sought against a religious leader belonging to one school of thought, who had made a controversial statement last month. After protests in Chilas and elsewhere, a case was registered against the said cleric. This led to protests in Skardu and other towns, while allegedly derogatory remarks were made by another cleric, resulting in the filing of a case against this individual. Communal differences may only be a trigger for the protests, as there are several underlying factors in GB fuelling disaffection. However, the state's bulldozing of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, through parliament has certainly breathed new life into sectarian discourses that were largely dormant. GB may only be the first area where narrow communalism is being revived, thanks to this debatable legislation, and unless democratic forces and enlightened clerics speak up, the fire of hatred may spread, especially to those spots in the country where sectarian tensions are already high.

There are signs that matters are improving, as the region's chief minister met both Shia and Sunni clerics, who have promised to maintain calm. The caretaker federal information minister has said the area is experiencing "peace and stability", while adding that the military had been called in only to maintain peace during Chelum. Though GB has witnessed sporadic sectarian violence over the past several decades, matters, over the past few years, had been improving where inter-communal relations are concerned. Therefore, the local administration, as well as clerics from both sects, need to support efforts for peace-building and shunning those who promote divisive agendas.

In particular, hate groups must not be allowed to spread their toxic views in an effort to fan communal flames. But beyond GB, unless the bill in question, specifically the amendments to the blasphemy law, is reconsidered, it will only add to extremism and widen fault lines in society. As this paper has argued before, blasphemy cannot be condoned, and all religious figures should be respected. But bringing complicated theological and historical issues before parliament — which are better addressed by subject specialists and scholars of the highest calibre — and then rushing them through without any debate will only add to divisions in the country.

Such sensitive issues should not be codified in law in such a haphazard manner. For over four decades, Pakistan has been reeling from the effects of terrifying sectarian violence. To prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws, and the violence this begets, the amendments need to be rethought.

**Arifa Noor**

The countdown has begun, already — on how long the caretaker set-up can last, and what will replace it, if elections are not called. The first question was always going to be asked, for no one had any doubts that the caretakers would be around for longer than three months. However, few had predicted the rapidity with which the second question would pop up.

Indeed, the pressure on journalists and commentary in general notwithstanding, it is still safe to say the caretaker set-up has not filled many with hope and promise, for the present or future. The oath-taking of the prime minister and the cabinet was about as celebratory as the birth of the second child to the royal family; there is

wee relief but at the back of the mind is a feeling of foreboding of what the spare's efforts to find meaning in life will bring to the family. Margaret, Andrew and now Harry — they all followed the same course.

In our case, the caretakers may be well-meaning men and women, but none of them bring technocratic repute to ease the worry of the rich, nor do they bring the charisma of a popular leader who can promise better times to a people crushed by inflation. And neither do they enjoy the kind of authority that, say, Musharraf did, which allowed him to promise reform.

As a result, the continuing rumours of delayed elections and the caretaker set-up being in power for some time are now filling people with dread. Even part of the business community, which had pinned its hopes on a technocratic and apolitical caretaker set-up, is now trying to figure out what faraway dream basket they can drop their eggs in.

To be fair, the caretakers were dealt a Titanic though they appear equipped to sail a paper

boat. Consider their short track record, thus far.

They began their stint by encouraging — or perhaps asking for — media attention, lending further credence to concerns of a lengthy stay. (When was the last time a caretaker prime minister made so many public appearances or gave so many speeches on live television?) As a result, the mistakes were made in the full glare of TV channels.

Consider the biggest one, so far. When the electricity bills crisis came, they swung into action. A briefing of the energy secretary was held with journalists, which didn't achieve much. This was followed by a publicised emergency meeting in a bid to figure out short-term relief. The meeting stretched over days and then ended with a vague message that a solution was being found. That is still awaited, although there are few indications anyone is now pinning any hopes on it.

In between has come a flurry of statements which ended up causing so much confusion that they needed clarifications. There was the finance minister

who apparently said she was wondering why she had taken on this impossible job and the prime minister who commented about the magnitude of the bijli protests. And third was the storm in the teacup about the prime minister's visit to Kenya.

While the rest of the clarifications are only of interest to hacks, it is the electricity issue which has led to the perception of the new set-up being uninspiring as well as clueless as those who came before. For those who had pinned their hopes on the caretaker set-up, it was in reality a belief that those behind the scenes would have a plan, which would be executed once those who are simply here for a bit of caretaking were in position. But this 'plan' remained far more invisible than those who are babysitting the caretakers.

Consequently, the run on the rupee continued, while the people took to the streets to protest against their bills. The dreaded implosion seemed to have finally reached the steep slope.

No wonder then that by the end of the weekend,

came tweets galore about the meeting between the 'seniorist' military official and the business community. That all is well has to be said again, shows the realisation of providing assurance and those who have to provide the assurance.

The assurances provided, according to these tweets, were rather reassuring. As was the deadline, again provided in the same message: within six months all would be fixed — from smuggling to the tax base to corruption, which we had always assumed the PTI was so silly to focus on. Even the game-changing investment from friendly countries will arrive within months. Some of the promises brought a sense of déjà vu, reminding me of a bit of many weight-loss diets I had embarked on and abandoned. But as hope wins over experience, let's not be entirely sceptical.

However, there remain a couple of nagging questions. One was mentioned in the beginning of the piece. How easy will it be to keep providing assurances from behind, especially if those officially taking care do not improve their game? For if the eco-

nomie deterioration continues, would this caretaking façade not be dumped, as others have been, for a more direct fixing effort? Or will public opinion and scepticism simply be ignored? It is a question which is being asked with rapidity.

The second question, I tentatively ask: isn't this our third hybrid effort? After all, the PTI and Imran Khan were the first to be 'selected' and they proved inadequate.

So inadequate that the 'change' was replaced by the experienced; Shehbaz Sharif and his Punjab speed were given the chance and he, one has to admit, was far better at keeping everyone happy, from the coalition members to the powerful ones. So much so that the PDM government was christened Hybrid 2.0. But on the economy, he was only successful in making Imran Khan more popular. Has anyone in the PML-N heard the story of the Trojan horse?

So now there has been yet another selection. Third time's a charm, though some are being far too literal and want to know if it's the fourth or the fifth. -- Courtesy Dawn

The Kakar formula**How can the law help domestic workers?****Mehnaz Akber Aziz**

Slogans of banning child domestic workers are making headlines once again in public seminars and media, gaining attention of the wider civil society due to two ghastly incidents recently.

Rizwana, a 14-year-old domestic maid, was skinned from the head that was left to be infested with maggots. The extent of her suffering is harrowing — her frail body had the weight of multiple painful injuries: fractured teeth, ribs and visible strangulation marks. The employer — wife of a judge and resident of Islamabad — tortured the girl for months who was given in bonded labour by her parents.

Within weeks, there was a second case — in Khairpur Sindh — that left the whole country

shocked. A 10-year-old domestic maid, Fatima, could be seen in a CCTV video, writhing in pain and dying in the house of an influential local 'pir', the employer. Beaten and tortured, the death was caused due to rape multiple times.

The abuse meted out to child and women domestic workers is not new and time and again media picks up a case and it gains momentum publicly. A study by the International Labor Organization (ILO) determines that one in every four households in Pakistan hires a child domestic worker. According to another ILO survey, 8.5 million domestic workers are employed in the country who lack basic education or skills to find alternative employment, so they opt for this mode of earning to escape abject poverty and to earn bread and butter for their families. Domestic work is generally undervalued, invisible and informal as most of these workers belong to most underprivileged communities. They are always susceptible to discrimination with regards to forced or child labour, working condi-

tions, terms of employment, denial of rightful wages, lack of inspection and law enforcement involvement.

The constitution of Pakistan clearly provides a range of provisions with regard to labour or domestic workers rights. Article 11 of the constitution prohibits all forms of slavery, forced labour, services of cruel nature and children (below the age of 14 years) engaged in any "factory or mine or any other hazardous employment". Article 23 provides protection to every person against being deprived of their property. This article is against the bonded labour system that is also prohibited under the Bonded Labour Act.

Article 25 lays down the right of equality of all the citizens before the law and prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sex alone. Similarly, Article 37(e) obligates the state to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work, "ensuring that children and women are not employed in settings unsuited to their age or sex". Moreover, Article 38(a) obligates the state to pro-

mote social and economic well-being of people by "equitable rights of employers and employees".

Consequently, there has been a country-wide realization to undertake concrete policy reforms, legal steps and compliance to protect domestic workers, especially children. In this context, the Punjab Domestic Workers Act 2019, complying with global norms and International Labor Organization's agreements was enacted by the provincial assembly of Punjab.

In similar vein, to cater for a huge number of domestic workers living in the Capital Territory of Islamabad and an increasing number of incidents involving abuses and ill-treatment against them, parliament enacted the Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Act, 2022 which was moved by this author and that entrenched a legal and contractual mechanism to regulate and protect the rights as well as employment conditions of domestic workers.

As a much-needed initiative, I introduced the Act that recognized the eco-

nomie and social value of thousands of domestic workers residing in Islamabad by bringing them into the mainstream as against their previous exclusion from labour and social protection coverage.

Most importantly, the Act banned children under the age of 15 years from being employed. Prior to the Act domestic workers were considered as "invisible", with their employment status not more than "modern-day slaves", while the Act introduced key injunctions given as below:

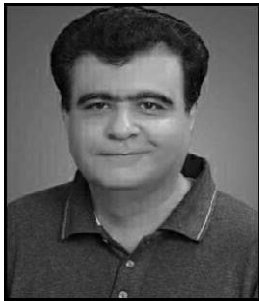
One, the Act prohibits its working of a child below the age of 15 years in a household. Two, the Act allows children under the age of 18 years to do light work in a household, which entails domestic work that is part time in nature and is not likely to harm the child's health, safety and education. Three, the Act further restricts bonded labour or partly forced labour.

Four, an employer cannot assign extra work to the domestic worker without his/her free will. Five, the Act extends benefits for a domestic worker, including medical care for not only the worker but also his/

her dependents. Six, other benefits include any contribution by the employer in respect of persons employed with him under any scheme of the Employees Social Security Ordinance 1965.

Seven, under the Act every time a domestic worker is hired, a letter of employment, should be drafted, which clearly states the terms and conditions of his/her employment, including the nature of work and the amount of wage. Eight, domestic workers are also restricted from working for more than eight hours a day unless they are paid overtime.

In conclusion, I want to share my earnest concern that the rules that were coordinated by the author and jointly drafted by the Ministry of Law and Justice, International Labour Organization and Unicef, are still lying unattended in government corridors. All the media hype, seminars and pledges are yet to transform into a strong political will to implement the Act that is already in place by immediate passage of the rules and their unmitigated implementation with full commitment. -- Courtesy TheNews

Political prisoner?**Dr Niaz Murtaza**

In 2019, I wrote, under the same title, a column on whether Nawaz Sharif was a political prisoner under the then PTI-establishment hybrid regime. Events since then have shown the weak basis of his convictions. But such is the merry-go-round of politics that I must now write to see whether Imran Khan today is a political prisoner under the PDM-establishment-caretaker hybrid regime. Ironically, PTM leaders may be perpetual political prisoners under all hybrid regimes given their unwillingness to compromise on their principles and strike a deal.

The Council of Europe defines political prisoners as those jailed by rulers via unfair trials due to political enmity, eg, M.K. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. It may seem odd to call our flawed politicians so. However, credible sources labelled lesser mortals like Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim so too. Stature and perceived dishonesty matter not under global definitions, but only whether a person is being punished due to political reasons via dubious means. Many say Nawaz Sharif had disputes with the security establishment on ties with India and jihadis, which is cited as a reason behind his dubious disqualification. Many say Imran Khan, too, irked the establishment on appointments and governance, which resulted in

the end of its political support for him, leading to his fall. Some say the frictions between Sharif and the establishment related to foreign and security blunders, while those with Khan related to his mercurial actions. But even such pundits feel that Khan's legal woes relate more to his fallout with the establishment than the weight of his alleged crimes.

Like Sharif, he, too, has been disqualified for mis-declaring his assets. With Sharif, the guilty verdict was deemed dubious as it related to receivable assets which are treated as such only under accrual accounting but not under the equally legal cash accounting system. With Khan, the verdict may be correct as he did mis-declare some gift assets. Still, many find the punishment (disqualification and incarceration) very harsh, as the mis-declaration hid no major crime; they feel that a fine would have been enough punishment.

Many also highlight process issues during the trial even though they may not change the final verdict. Oddly, online research suggests that Pakistan and Thailand are perhaps the only states that disqualify and jail politicians for an asset mis-declaration even if it hides no major crime. It is hoped that these issues will be considered at appeal stage.

Some other cases against Khan seem weak too. The cipher case charges him with leaking official secrets. Diplomatic ciphers are all categorised as secret documents but many, perhaps most, don't necessarily carry major secrets whose deliberate leakage can harm Pakistan and benefit its enemies.

One may argue, in fact, that its reported contents show the haughty ways in which US treats us. The question arises in rational minds whether a

person can be tried for leaking state secrets when actually no secret was leaked and there was no harm done. To many, it seems like a politically motivated trial. True, just as rational minds question the strength of the state's cipher case against Khan, they question the strength of his cipher US conspiracy story too. But even so, that is a political rather than legal issue.

Accusations that the May 9 mayhem aimed to cause a mutiny seem far-fetched too to many. How could admittedly condemned street protests cause a rebellion within, even in Lahore, let alone nationally? Many say it was a law and order issue and those engaging in serious crimes like arson and assault must be tried through civilian courts for those specific crimes, while those guilty of lesser crimes like trespassing can be fined. But there seems little justification for cases in military courts. Thus, today, the leaders of both the largest political parties stand dubiously disqualified from politics for irking the establishment. Scores of PTI workers are languishing unfairly in jail.

While the fortunes of these larger parties fluctuate depending on whether they are the establishment's ladla or pet child, or not at any given time, other leftist activists like Ali Wazir and Imaan Mazari remain permanent sautelas (stepchildren). The only temporary and partial respite they get is when the powers that be are distracted enough to clamp down on the increasingly frequent rebellion by a former right-wing favourite.

Thus, it appears to many that Pakistan's justice system is being manoeuvred to commit injustices against political opponents rather than delivering justice to the people. -- Courtesy Dawn

Darkness to light**Mohammad Ali Babakel**

Growing violence on educational campuses has debunked the myth that extremism is somehow confined to religious seminars. It is true that, along with other factors, a lack of education is a potential driver for radicalisation. However, education is also one of the most effective mediums for extremists to penetrate youthful minds. Repeated incidents in our educational spaces reflect the disquieting fact that they are now confronted with both physical and psychological insecurity.

After the Brussels attacks of 2016, radicalisation in schools has become a priority area for policymakers and educators. Tackling violent extremism (VE) through interventions in education is part of a broader shift towards countering extremism with efforts that address environments favourable for the spread of hateful ideologies. Through such interventions, schools are expected to create a secure environment for their students, promote tolerance and social inclusion, discourage discrimination, and prevent violence.

Building the faculty's capacity to resolve conflicts and understand the push and pull factors leading to VE is equally important. At school, young people should be taught how to tackle polarisation and respect diversity. Children should be introduced to logic, critical thinking, problem-solving and nego-

tiation skills. Empowering students to think critically, teaching them to challenge ideas, construct rational thoughts, and engage in meaningful debate proves helpful in preventing violent extremism (PVE).

A few societies have focused their activities on the psycho-social theory of Fathali M. Moghaddam in The Staircase to Terrorism. This explores psychological factors that lead an individual to commit a terrorist act. Among the factors are the psychological injustice of material conditions, perceived options to fight unfair treatment, displacement and aggression, moral engagement and polarisation. To apprehend any adverse situation, training teachers to detect early signs of radicalisation is critical. However, for their best interests, teachers should not be viewed as informants, which can undermine their relations with students' families and their community. Community engagement in children's education and building trust between schools and communities should be clear aims of counter violent extremism (CVE) programmes.

Teachers should be on the front line of teaching students how to save themselves from extremists' influence. Discussion meetings between parents, teachers, psychologists, and social workers on the role of psychosocial services for students and breaking of taboos in the individual-psychologist relationship are important. Reintegration of children from conflict areas through special educational programmes delivered via public schools is another neglected area that requires the policymakers' attention. While dealing with P/CVE, teachers should be equipped to raise students' awareness of the risks of extremism and encourage critical thinking. They should educate students about democratic values, and political, religious and ethnic tolerance. They

must create a safe environment for dialogue about controversial topics in class. Ideally, teachers should also provide alternative narratives to extremist propaganda, and teach students how to build a safe online culture.

Social media provides a fertile ground for extremists to recruit new talent. Teachers should be aware of online platforms used by young people and their potential dangers. They should have knowledge about the threats on the internet, especially when it comes to the recruitment of young people by extremists and how extremists disseminate propaganda online. They should educate students about the dynamics of hate speech and fake news, as students may be unaware of the messages behind provocative content that is being disseminated in virtual spaces.

If a student disseminates extremist ideologies and distributes hate material among classmates, educational institutions should be trained on how to deal with such situations. They should be trained on how to work with parents, social services, and police. Responding to the threat of extremism warrants the creation of an appropriate classroom atmosphere and a democratic school culture. Students should be trained on how to identify bias, and teachers should provide a safe space where students feel comfortable expressing their opinions.

Our teachers can perform an immense national service if they help students enhance their awareness and build resilience against radicalisation. Knowing how to identify and respond to signs of radicalisation, engaging constructively in conflict resolution, and facilitating communication can help many vulnerable souls make the journey from darkness to light. -- Courtesy Dawn



September 6: A day of national pride in Pakistan's military history



On September 6, 1965, Pakistan faced a grave challenge to the sovereignty and integrity, which the nation and its valiant armed forces met with great courage and determination, defeating the sinister designs of much-larger enemy – India.

Since then, the nation has been observing the Defence Day every year with great zeal, seeking Allah Almighty's blessing and support for the country's integrity, prosperity and independence.

The day is commemorated to revive the national spirit and renew the pledge of defending the country against all sorts of threats, paying homage to the sons and daughters of the soil who laid down their lives and endured the vagaries of war in defending the motherland.

Fifty-five years back, it was the first full-fledged war with India after a clash in 1947-48 on the core issue of Kashmir, which unfortunately still remained unresolved even after the passage of more than 70 years, besides becoming a nuclear war flashpoint. Later, the two armies also fought in 1971 and 1999 and remained eyeball-to-eyeball several times.

The latest episode took place in February, 2019 when Indian aircraft intruded Pakistani airspace after the Pulwama incident, whom the Pakistan Air Force gave a befitting reply by gunning down its two fighter jets and arresting a pilot.

Initially, the Indian forces intruded Pakistani area in the Rann of Kutch in April 1965, whom was ejected in a sharp and short conflict. Both the armies had fully mobilized, with eyeball-to-eyeball contact. Pakistan proposed cease-fire, India accepted, following which an agreement was signed and the forces were disengaged.

Past midnight on September 5-6, without a formal declaration of war, Indian army crossed the international border and attacked Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan Army and Air Force halted the attack in its tracks, inflicting heavy casualties on the aggressor. On September 7, a single Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Pilot, Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, Sitara-i-Juraat, in his F-86 Sabre, shot down five Indian Air Force (IAF) attacking Hunter aircraft in a single sortie, an unbeaten world record till date.

On September 6-7

night, three teams of Pakistan's Special Services Groups were parachuted on the IAF bases at Pathankot, Adampur and Halwara to neutralize them.

To relieve pressure on Lahore front, on September 7-8 night, after crossing two major water obstacles in a bold thrust, Pakistan's armoured and mechanized formations supported by artillery and PAF overran area Khem Karn, six to eight miles inside Indian territory. Vital Indian positions at Sulemanki and across Rajasthan and Sindh were also captured in bold and swift attacks.

On the same night, one Corps of Indian Army launched its main effort east of Sialkot with one armoured and three infantry divisions on Pakistan's extended 15 Division front, screened only by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support). The 24 Infantry Brigade, led by Brigadier A.A. Malik, Hilal-i-Juraat, which was on the move in area Pasrur, rushed 25 Cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Nisar Ahmad, Sitara-i-Juraat, on 8 September to delay and disrupt enemy thrusts.

As soon as the pres-

ence of India's one Armoured Division was confirmed, Pakistan Army rushed forward to stop the onslaught on a 30-mile front. The biggest tank battle since World War-II was fought on the Chawinda front by 6 Armoured Division, under command 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and valiantly supported by 4 Corps Artillery led by Brigadier A.A.K. Choudhry, Hilal-i-Juraat.

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) support helped turn the tide of the battle. Before a counter-offensive by 6 Armoured Division on 22 September could be launched, India asked for cease-fire in the United Nations. India's aggression against Pakistan's international borders without a formal declaration of war, had cost it, apart from heavy personnel, material and

extraordinary role in defending the Lahore Bedian area in 1965.

Where the country's armed forces proved their mettle, despite being short in number and having limited resources, the whole nation stood by them shoulder-to-shoulder in thwarting the attack.

otic songs to defend the motherland. Some of the evergreen heart-warming national songs include "Aye Watan Key Sajel Jayawano, Ae Mard e Mujahid Jaag Zara, A Putter Hatan Tey Nai Wekday, Ae Rahe Haq Key Shaheedo", "Mere Dhool Sipahyeya", Rang Laye Ga Shaheedon Ka

Pakistan armed forces were fighting a war to defend the territorial integrity of the country against a formidable enemy. They did defend the country in a befitting manner. When the war ended Lahore and Sialkot were far away from the reach of the enemy. The enemy suffered heavy losses in terms of military hardware.



economic losses, 1617 square miles of territory as compared to 446 square miles of Pakistan's open and undefended territory. Many of our martyred national heroes were given awards for their gallantry and bravery. The highest military award of Nishan-i-Haider was awarded to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, for his

Pakistan's artists including Mehdi Hassan, Alam Lohar, Noor Jehan, Saleem Raza and others also played their part and made the whole nation realized that Pakistanis as a nation would not be ill-willed by the designs of adversary. They warmed the hearts and souls of armed forces personnel and civilians with patri-

Laho, Yeh Hawaon Key Musafir, Umeed-e-Fatah Rakho, Apni Jaan Nazar Karoon, Ab Fatah-e-Mubeen Hai, Khitta-e-Lahore Tere Jaan Nisaaron Ko Salaam, Hum Haidery Hain, Toheed Key Matwalon and Jung Khed Nahi Hundi Zaniyaan Di."— APP feature

Defence Day: For honour and inspiration



By Arif Iftikhar

Very often we take for granted our freedoms as citizens of an independent country and the peaceful surroundings of our city and other places in Pakistan that we visit. This freedom and peace is ensured by the military and security agencies that work round the clock to protect our country from foreign and other kinds of domestic threats. Their role is to work for the defence and security of the country under the guidance of the civilian government; and their personnel make great sacrifices, if necessary, in the course of their duty.

The contributions of the defence services provided by our military forces are marked by the annual celebration of the national Defence Day in our country.

Defence and security of the country under the guidance of the civilian government; and their personnel make great sacrifices, if necessary, in the course of their duty.

The contributions of the defence services provided by our military forces are marked by the annual celebration of the national Defence Day in our country. Defence Day, as the name suggests, commemorates the day when our national armed forces successfully defended the attack of Indian forces on our country in the 1965 war. It is a tribute to our armed forces and all the martyrs of the war. It is celebrated on September 6 each year. The enemy attacked

our borders on September 6, 1965, with a view to invade the attacked areas. It was a reaction to stop the advance of Pakistani military in India Occupied Kashmir. They mainly attacked the regions of Lahore, Sialkot and the desert areas of Sindh. The battle lasted till September 22, 1965, when both sides accepted the United Nations-administered ceasefire.

Our military was successful in defending not only the areas attacked but also in protecting the lives of thousands of civilians and their homes. As such, we owe a duty to honour and respect all the military personnel of our country who gave up their lives so that we, our relatives and our fellow countrymen could live peacefully. This respect and honour should also extend to all those military personnel who supported our martyrs, risked their lives and lived to tell the tale.

Many of our martyred national heroes were given awards for their gallantry and bravery. The highest military award of Nishan-i-Haider was awarded to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, for his extraordinary role in defending the Lahore Bedian area in 1965.

He is among a handful of other gallant and brave military personnel who were martyred and awarded the same award in other battles and wars. They gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in the defence of Pakistan.

Reminiscing the 1965 War

By Taj MKhattak

President Ayub Khan's brief address to the nation on 6th September 1965 was a moment when history of Pakistan took a turn. It was a moment we remember for exactly what we were doing and where we were when it



happened. On that day, a few minutes past eleven in the morning, and barely seventeen years old, I found myself entering office of the President Inter Services Selection Board Kohat as an officer candidate. Just then Ayub's authoritative words "Mere aziz hum watano" (my dear countrymen) from a small transistor boomed across the room – words which electrified an entire nation for defense of their motherland.

President Ayub spoke of how Indian army had attacked Lahore that morning at three different places with an infantry division, three armor regiments and that Pakistan was at war with India. But the Indian attack

was blunted and attackers were stopped dead in their tracks by a much smaller force.

At sea Pakistan Navy was about to write history of its own as every ships in its flotilla - PNS Babur (with Captain MAK Lodhi in command), Khaibar (Captain

accomplishment which will be hard to match today. From the operations branch, if there is one person who deserves a mention, it would be Commodore Saleemi, who as the previous Commodore Commanding Pakistan Navy Flotilla during Rann of

Kutch emergency, had worked out the ships to the pinnacle of operational readiness, which is why their response was so swift and speedy.

Pakistan Navy's only submarine PNS/M Ghazi (with Commander K R Niazi in command) had sailed from Karachi three days earlier on 3rd September and on 4th September, she was ordered to shift her patrol to within a radius of 50 miles off Bombay (Mumbai). Pakistan

Navy was the first to field a submarine in Indian Ocean in 1965 just as it was the first in the world in 1973 to induct Exocet missiles on its helicopters in its nascent naval aviation which dramatically altered battlefield disposi-

tion. This speaks volumes about vision of naval leadership as prudent deployment of Ghazi radiated strategic effects and kept Indian Navy bottled up in various ports and naval bases for entire duration of the war.

Just as war clouds were gathering in August 1965, intelligence reports suggested presence of Indian Navy heavy cruiser INS Mysore, frigates Beas and Brahmaputra at Calcutta. Soon they were ordered to proceed to west coast to join other destroyers and frigates and were tracked by PN through HF/DF all the way till Cochin. The aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and another heavy cruiser INS Delhi were refitting at Bombay while carrier borne aircraft had all been shifted to Jammagar by 5th September.

Around noon on 7th September, all PN ships at sea were alerted about an attack on Dwarka that night, which was about 200 nautical miles from Karachi. They were ordered to assembly point by sunset from where they were to proceed towards Dwarka and on completion of shore bombardment, withdraw to their arc of patrol off Karachi. The force was cautioned about possible presence of some enemy surface combatants and air threat.

There has been some debate as to why Dwarka was chosen for the strike. The intended objectives in the preva-

lent environments of 1965 were, a) to draw enemy units out into barrier laid by PNS/M Ghazi, b) destroy the IAF's only bomber guidance beamer in the area for directing strikes from Jammagar against Karachi, c) to cause alarm and confusion along the Indian coast since Dwarka was the centre business in the region, d) possible diversion of air effort from land operations towards seaward defense of Indian coast and lastly to gain psychological advantage by striking deep into Indian territorial waters. This was a perfectly logical rationale as within 36 hours after the war broke out, Pakistan Navy struck deep into Indian territorial waters, wrested the initiative as well as psychological advantage and put an end to all further air attacks on Karachi by destroying radar and beamer installations at Dwarka.

To achieve this, it was essential to retain an element of surprise. By using a combination of restrictions and relaxations in Electronic Emission Policy on various communication circuits and radars, the forces succeeded in keeping its location disguised as it steamed towards target on a south easterly heading at best possible speed. There was no luxury of GPS in those days and war records mentions circling clouds scudding across the sky making it impossible to do an evening star shoot. With darkened ships,



navigational lights switched off, restrictions on navigational radar, difficulties were experienced in station keeping but ships crews did an excellent job in getting to the firing line in a timely manner.

The Bombardment Orders required units to be in position south west of Dwarka Light at a distance of six miles and steer north westerly course. Due to restrictions on communication circuits, Bombardment orders were passed to ships either by heaving line or visual signaling. The ships were to be seven cables apart in what was called formation 'Whisky 81' – one of the sequences worked out by Commodore Saleemi for quickly assuming a formation best suited to PN for surface action instead of relying on NATO's tactical publications in use in the Flotilla. Similarly there was a formation

worked out for air defense based on ships weaponry and gun ranges.

The task force finally approached firing position a few minutes past midnight and after sorting out ranging issues one last time, 'Operation Somnath' was executed which authorized each ship to fire fifty rounds of high explosive ammunition. Those who participated in the operation remember the firing as disciplined which on an average, took three minutes to complete. There were some flashes from shore which were initially assumed as coming from Indian shore battery but later evaluated as own HEDA fall of shots.

The Indian Navy official version acknowledged the damage caused as a result of this action. The report stated that around midnight on

8th September some shells fell directly on Naval Radar Facility destroying most of the infrastructure. About fifty persons were officially reported dead with many more injured. The Naval Air Station at Dwarka used for test flights for INS Vikrant also received shells on the runway and was rendered ineffective for the next two months.

After the war, questions were asked in Indian parliament as to why Indian Navy didn't respond to this daring attack by Pakistan Navy, especially after President's Ayub's speech left no doubt that Pakistan was at war with India. The Indian Defense ministry maintained that defense of Andaman and Nicobar Islands against an attack from Indonesia was more important than engaging Pakistan Navy.

Pak-China year of tourism 2023 to promote country's tourism industry: Wasi Shah

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Syed Wasi Shah Tuesday said that Pakistan and China Year of Tourism celebrations 2023 would pave the way to further enhance the journey to promote the country's tourism industry. Addressing a ceremony

stronger than mountains, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey, whereas Pakistan welcomed its Chinese friends to invest with open arms in the country. Shah said that China, a land of ancient traditions and modern marvels has long been a fascination for

global pandemic, China's outbound tourists spent more than 255 billion dollars on tourism. It showed the enthusiasm of the Chinese people for exploring the world. The Minister informed that in 2019, more than 155 million Chinese tourists travelled overseas, contrib-

religious sites, breathtaking natural beauty, glorious history and massive Buddhist heritage, adding that Takhti-Bhai has unique and well-preserved glimpse into history while Mohen-jo-Daro associated with the Indus Valley and its museum reflecting the diver testament to humanity's journey. He said that throughout the region, one can find exquisite examples of Gandhara art, which blend Hellenistic and Buddhist styles. "Many museums in Pakistan, including the Lahore Museum, house impressive collections of Gandhara artifacts," he said. In connection to Pak China Year of Tourism, PTDC had organized several webinars to connect the tour operators of China and Pakistan to enhance B2B linkages.

A training seminar on Tourism promotion for developing countries was also being held in Beijing China from 22nd August to 11th September, 2023 in which two officers from PTDC and one from Tourism Department of Gilgit Baltistan were participating, he added. He said, "We have also developed our publications on Pakistan and Buddhist Heritage Trail in Chinese language for the promotion of bilateral tourism.



of Pakistan and China Year of Tourism-2023 organized by Pakistan-China friendship association of Khyber in collaboration with Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the minister said the friendship of Pakistan with the brotherly nation of China was

travelers around the world. "With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, in recent years, Chinese citizens have demonstrated an increasing appetite for travel, both domestically and abroad," he added. He apprised the participants that before the

utilizing significantly to the economies of host countries. "We have an opportunity to tap into this global wanderlust and make Pakistan a must-visit destination on their travel itineraries." Wasi Shah said that Pakistan has rich cultural and



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Pakistan International Airlines.

FM sends to IMF new plan regarding relief in electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Ministry has sent new plan regarding relief in electricity bills to IMF through which IMF has been assured that no relief out of budget will be provided.

According to government sources the additional amount allocated for IPPs can be adjusted for extending relief to electricity consumers.

Through efforts US and Pakistan brought their ties back on 'even keel': Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan and the United States have succeeded in developing and retaining their cooperation in the realm of security and expansion of economic ties following intense efforts over the past two years, Ambassador Masood Khan said. Speaking at Global Santa Fe, a think-tank of the US state of New Mexico, he said although the Biden administration has withdrawn its troops from Afghanistan and decreased its footprint in that region, the threat of terrorism is still potent, as TTP terrorists were killing Pakistanis.

"But," he said, "the United States and Pakistan have resolved to eliminate this menace together through cooperation in counter-terrorism." Pakistan and United States, Masood Khan said have a shared responsibility to steer Afghanistan towards stabilization because the stability that entire region depends on the stability in Afghanistan. "So it is a common objective."

The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan was a traumatic experience for the United States as well as for the region, he said. "There was uncertainty following that good Pakistan-United States relations," the ambassador said, declaring that that uncertainty has been removed. "The US and Pakistan are now fully engaged," he said. "The doubters and skeptics at that time said that Pakistan-US relations

have no future. The Biden Administration and Pakistan Government have proved the doubters wrong. We have re-engaged and recalibrated our relationship. We have brought this relationship back to an even keel." Recounting \$450 million Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to Pakistan for F-16 sustainment and related equipment, the biggest donation of COVID vaccines during the pandemic and generous assistance during last year's devastating floods, Masood Khan said, "We need to reinvest in the relationship with immense energy so that it is beneficial for our peoples."

PM directs for early conclusion of PIA restructuring plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed to present the detailed plan with regard to the restructuring of PIA to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) as soon as possible.

Sensitizing Pakistani youth crucial to cope climate change: British Envoy

VSO celebrates Intl Youth Day to Mark Youth's Contributions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott Tuesday stressed the need to empower Pakistan's youth to lead the response against the contemporary challenges particularly climate change. She made the remarks during an event organized by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in connection 'International Youth Day' here in Islamabad.

Today's celebration by the VSO celebrated all that Pakistan's dynamic youth have achieved, and was also a reminder of the importance of ensuring every child gets a good education." The envoy added. Highlighting the organization's objectives to formalize and improve existing Volunteer Policy, the Country Representative of VSO, Seher Afsheen underscored the invaluable support provided by the UK.

He said the flight timings of PIA should be fixed according to the convenience of the passengers. PIA is an important national institution that has provided splendid air services in the past and earned a positive image across the globe, he said adding that PIA was considered one of the best airlines in the world. He asked the aviation division and the PIA management to work day and night to regain the past glory of the airline.

The meeting was told that the recent amendment in the PIA Act 2016 had paved the way for the restructuring of PIA. nificant progress in the bilateral relationship, emphasizing the elevation of cooperation to a strategic partnership. The achievement, he noted, was a result of confident political dialogue, the strengthening of trade and industrial ties, technological projects, and active military cooperation between the armed forces of both nations. In the last year, he added, "our brotherly cooperation has been elevated to a level of the strategically partnership due to confident political dialogue, strengthening the trade and industrial, technological projects as well as the active military cooperation between our armed forces. "Only this year after successful high-level summits of this President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, both countries had conducted the 8th Joint ministerial commission in Tashkent.

Ms. Seher Afsheen, the Country Representative of VSO, spoke about the organization's objectives to formalize and improve existing Volunteer Policy. VSO is the world's leading international development charity that works through volunteers to create a fair world for everyone. VSO has been working in Pakistan since 1987 - during these three decades VSO has engaged the skills and expertise of 300 international volunteers and 3000+ national and community volunteers to support livelihood, education, participation, governance, resilience, and youth initiatives. The event marked the role of youth in addressing challenges faced by Pakistan today through their involvement. Government representatives, international donors, and civil society members attend the event.

Nation stands united with defence forces to thwart anti-Pakistan designs: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that amidst Pakistan facing multiple security challenges of extremism, terrorism and external aggression, the entire nation stood united alongside the Pakistan Defence Forces to thwart evil designs against the integrity and prosperity of the country.

"The world also acknowledges the role our armed forces played in maintaining peace in various countries under the United Nations peacekeeping missions. We are committed to following the policy of peace as a hallmark of our foreign policy," the prime minister said in

his message to the nation on the Defence Day, annually observed on September 6. He said the Defence Day was remembered as the day of vigor, bravery, courage and resilience. It stood out in history as a symbol of national pride, integrity and sovereignty, he added. PM Kakar said that 58 years ago on September 6, Pakistan's valiant armed forces proved that they were ever vigilant and ready to safeguard the territorial integrity and geographical boundaries of their beloved homeland at all costs.

He said the glorious day, where the entire Pakistani nation stood side by side with its armed forces, called upon the nation to make a pledge to renew the spirit of loyalty and service to Pakistan and pay tribute to the valiant sons of the soil who embraced 'Shahadat' while ensuring the security of the nation. "On this day, the brave Pakistani nation displayed unprecedented strength with faith, unity and discipline that galvanized the armed forces - Army, Air Force and Navy," the prime minister remarked.

He said the defence of the country was not limited to September 6 alone, rather stretched upon an entire lifetime and encompassed all dimensions of physical and ideological frontiers, which needed to be guarded.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture of Pakistan Jamal Shah, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy Pang Chunxue and others are posing for a group photo after the event in connection with the celebrations of the "Ten Years of China -Pakistan Economic Corridor, at local hotels in Federal Capital

Elections will be held in January or February, claims Tarar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Azam Nazir Tarar said that courts are independent in country. All works is being done according to constitution and law. Elections will be held in January or February.

Uzbekistan Embassy in Pakistan celebrates independence day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Uzbekistan Embassy in Pakistan celebrated its Independence Day with a gathering of distinguished guests and diplomats. Among the attendees were Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries and Productions Dr Gohar Ijaz, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Ambassador Otajin Mavlomov, senators, MPAs, former federal ministers and secretaries, ambassadors, high commissioners, heads of international organizations, prominent experts, and journalists. During the celebration, Ambassador Aybek Arif Usmanov expressed gratitude to President Dr Arif Alvi, the Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force for their cooperation in strengthening connectivity between the two countries. He highlighted the sig-

Pakistan's request to Iran to overcome the shortage of medicines

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Mughdam met Federal Minister of Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the Iranian Ambassador and expressed his determination to further strengthen the relationship. The Iranian envoy said that he wishes the supervisor good wishes and success in assuming the portfolio of health. The appointment of a world-renowned health expert like you will significantly improve the health sector.

Iran wants to invest from Pakistan in the field of medicines. Nadeem Jan, the Federal Minister of Health, said that Pakistan and Iran have deep ceremonies and strong relations spanning centuries. Pakistan and Iran will benefit from each other's experiences to improve the health sector. In the field of health, Iran and Pakistan have also agreed to work together for the benefit of the people. The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan and Iran should create a coordinated strategy in this regard. The aim is to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life-saving drugs on an emergency basis. The fields of medical education will continue to cooperate with each other. Health security is our top agenda. We will ensure effective and coordinated measures to deal with cross-border epidemics. It has also been agreed to further increase cooperation in research and technical assistance in the health sector. Iran's primary health care system is very strong. Pakistan will benefit from Iran's primary health system. We are very grateful for the donation of dialysis machines for the people of Pakistan by Iran.

sent reply I had no document in respect of 190 million pounds and I was outside the country. Second notice was received by me from NAB. NAB should tell if chairman PTI had got some money. If he had committed some corruption then tell. Babar Awan said NAB should see how many students were studying in Al-Qadir university at present. People run away after devaluing Rs 1100 billion. We are being accused of devaluing money. I gave statement in NAB office. I gave reply. NAB saying this if there is no warrant then this is no reply. If it is so then please confirm my bail. NAB too knows what reply I have given I gave correct reply.

AC wraps up Babar Awan bail petition in 190 m pounds scandal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court (AC) has disposed of PTI leader and lawyer Babar Awan bail petition in 190 million pounds scandal in the light of investigation officer statement.

Babar Awan appeared before judge Muhammad Bashir of AC Islamabad on the matter of extension in his bail in 190 million pounds scandal case. NAB prosecutor told the court arrest warrants of Babar Awan have not been issued. Judge Muhammad Bashir said according to NAB your arrest is not required. Therefore, warrants have not been issued.

Babar Awan argued I received notice whereby NAB had summoned me. I



KARACHI: Italian Navy Ship FRANCESCO MOROSINI arrive at KPT for participating bilateral exercise with Pakistan Navy, in Karachi.

Iraq to consider recognizing AIOU degrees: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Third Secretary of Iraq Embassy, Dr. Abdullah, on Tuesday met with the Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and discussed the recognition of its degrees in the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education, as well as potential collaborations between the AIOU and universities in Iraq. Dr. Abdullah said the

degrees from 31 universities in Pakistan were recognized in Iraq, and they were interested in recognizing the degrees from AIOU as well. After observing the infrastructure, international student enrollment, and the use of both open distance learning and face-to-face learning modes at the AIOU, the secretary expressed hope that Iraqi students would also enroll in it.

Investigative agencies launched investigation against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bureaucracy

By M. Ilyas

PESHAWAR: Investigative agencies have started investigations against the activities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bureaucracy and alleged corruption.

According to government official sources, in the first phase, investigations were started against administrative secretaries, additional secretaries, special secretaries, while in the second phase, the bureaucrats appointed to the posts of commissioners, deputy commissioners and director generals was referred. In which evidence is also being collected regarding their performance, activities and alleged corruption. Before appointing any officer, the investigation report on their performance will be reviewed. Investigations have been started against the secretaries, additional secretaries, and apart from them, investigations have also been started against the directors general and officers appointed on important positions of government and semi-government institutions. According to agency's sources, investigations and information gathering have been initiated against several bureaucrats, including their family data, tenure and location, private activities and alleged corruption.

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