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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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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 Anwaarul Haq 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 Shakarparian, 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".

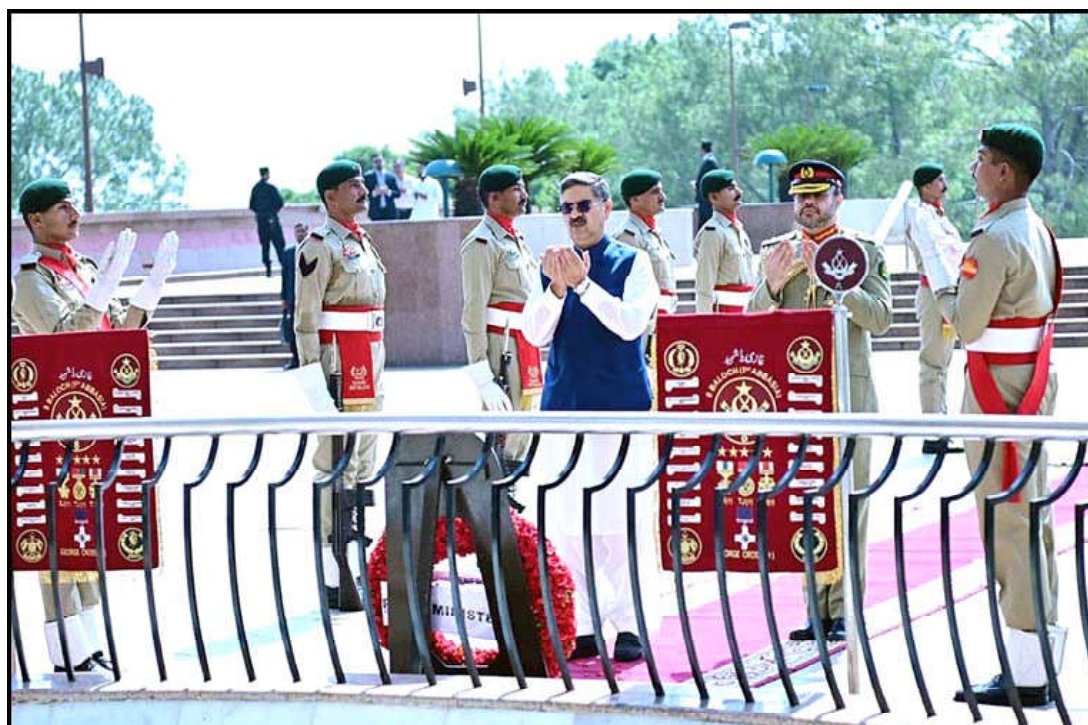
He said "our martyrs who embraced martyrdom for the sake of their people and the country can never be forgotten and will always remain in our hearts".

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.



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.



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

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 Sarwar Muhammad Shaheed in Gujar Khan on the occasion of Defence Day.

The speaker said that the people of Gujar Khan, 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."

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 the hospital.

His demise occurred in Lahore while he was being transferred to the hospital due to deteriorating health conditions, and he passed away during the journey.

He was one of the most competent and humble officers of the Pakistan Civil Service.

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 Chaudhry 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.

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.

Pakistan Defense, Martyrs Day celebrated with great enthusiasm across country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Defense and Martyrs Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country.

President of Pakistan, Caretaker Prime Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chief and Pakistan Armed Forces paid tribute to martyrs and their families on Defense Day.

Regarding the Day of Defense and Martyrs, President Arif Alvi said in his message that we salute the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country.

Brave sons of the country fought fearlessly against the enemy and created a bright chapter in history.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar said in his message on Defense and Martyrs Day that today Pakistan is facing security challenges like extremism, terrorism and external aggression.

He said that the nation is standing with its brave forces to thwart the evil in-

terventions against the country's integrity and development, they will protect Pakistan from all kinds of security and economic challenges with hard work and dedication.

The Caretaker Prime Minister said that the long-standing conflict of Jammu and Kashmir is the biggest challenge for the peace and security of the region, and the international community should go ahead and play its role in solving this problem.

ISPR said that the battle of September 6, 1965 proved that the bravest nation is always ready to protect its borders. The whole nation salutes their sacrifices.

According to ISPR, we as a nation are indebted to the sacrifices of all the martyrs who laid down their lives.

On the occasion of Defense and Martyrs Day, Pakistan Air Force cadets took over the duties of the guards at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan.

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 Batash 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.

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.

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.

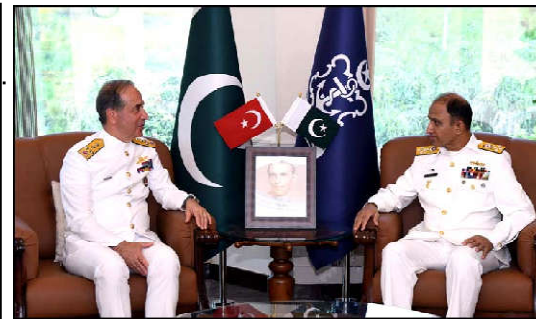
Ch Shujaat has sent me to PTI: Pervaiz Elahi

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 an 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 Saik.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Admiral Erucment 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 Erucment 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.

Later, Admiral Erucment TATLIOGLU

called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office, where professional matters of mutual interests, regional maritime security environment and bilateral naval collaboration were discussed. Various avenues of cooperation including training, exchange of visits and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were also focused.

Admiral Amjad Niazi highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting Admiral acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region.

Rejection of PTI chairman petitions in 9 cases: IHC issues notice to respondents, seeks reply

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while issuing notices to the respondents during the hearing of petition against rejection of PTI chairman petitions in 9 cases related to May 9 incidents being not persuaded has sought reply.

The case came up for hearing before division bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri Wednesday.

Suleman Safdar counsel for chairman PTI said bail was granted to Imran Khan in 5 cases having al-

legations of this nature. In other 3 cases judge of anti terrorism court was changed before decision.

The counsel said chairman PTI appeared in court during all hearings. Then he was convicted in Toshakhana case and he went to jail. It was our request that Chairman PTI be presented in the court.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri inquired has chairman PTI been arrested in these cases.

The counsel replied that as per his information chairman PTI has not been arrested in these cases.

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.



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

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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 li-

ten, it may cause a complete breakdown of the judiciary in society. The judiciary must have the authority to use contempt of court 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, to 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 landmark 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 not 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 coordination 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 judiciary as no link between the two exists. Buildings never 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.

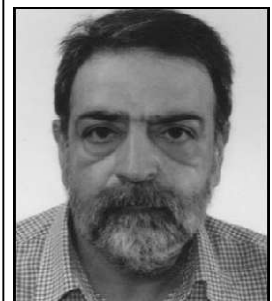
The media for the last few years has been talking mainly about constitutional issues in a vocabulary which even 'educated' individuals in the country do not understand.

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 monolithic 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 after 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 Prof. Dr. Iqbal 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.

Begum Samina Arif Alvi urged women to learn about self-examination and conduct 5-minute self-ex-

aminations 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 few 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".

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".

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 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. Raghieb Naimi and Ghazis and families of martyrs of 1965 War were present in the ceremony.



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 Defence 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.

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

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.

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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.

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

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 briefed that the last case of polio was reported in Rawalpindi district in 2010, while a case response campaign was underway following poor environmental samples.

Coordinator to Health Minister Punjab Dr Ansar Ishaq, CEO of District Health Authority Rawalpindi Dr Ijaz Ahmed, DHO Dr Ehsan Ghani, Coordinator of WHO District Rawalpindi Dr Shumaila and others were also present.

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 Resources Khalil 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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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 Neelum 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.

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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 Haidari 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 District Muhammad and others.

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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.

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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.

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.

President pays tribute to martyrs, Ghazis of Pakistan armed forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday paying tribute to the martyrs and Ghazis of Pakistan armed forces, said the 1965 War stood out in the history as a symbol of unwavering national resolve, preparedness, professionalism, patriotism and sacrifice. In his message in connection with the Defence and Martyrs Day, the president said the sons of soil fearlessly fought against the enemy and wrote a shining chapter in history.

"We observe 6th of September as Defence & Martyrs Day to pay tribute to our martyrs and their families who sacrificed their lives for the motherland. On this day, 58 years ago, our Armed Forces and the entire Pakistani nation displayed extraordinary courage and indomitable spirit, and thwarted the evil designs of the enemy," he added. President Alvi saluted the martyrs who laid down their lives for the homeland, and also honour their families for setting examples of sacrificing their loved ones for country's

defence. "Our Ghazis deserve respect for giving a tit-for-tat response to enemy's attacks on Lahore, Sialkot and other sectors. Our soldiers and the nation fought with passion in 1965 and they continue to display the same courage, commitment and professional excellence in all testing times."

He said they had displayed the same spirit during the two-decade-long war against terrorism and extremism. "Our successes in this asymmetrical war are testimony to our Armed Forces' capacity to evolve into a unique force having the ability to match the modern-day combat requirements." The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and its policy of peaceful coexistence. "We are aware of our national as well as international obligations and are playing our part towards world peace under the banner of the United Nations. Our own region is awaiting the resolution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which

needs international community's immediate attention," he added.

He highlighted that this dispute had to be resolved as per the UN Security Council Resolutions for ensuring peace, security, and development in the region. The president also recalled the sacrifices of Kashmiri people, women and children, which they had rendered during the decades-long struggle for their right to self-determination. Pakistan will continue to extend its moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for their right to choose their own destiny, he remarked. He said this day also called for keeping always first the sovereignty of state and integrity and honour of the motherland.

"Pakistan is the centre of our hopes. On this Defence & Martyrs Day, we continue to honour and respect the sons and daughters of soil, who never hesitate in giving their own life for the defence of motherland, its development and prosperity."



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting to review progress over 4RF policy framework at the Ministry.

Sami directs stakeholders to expedite projects under 4RF framework

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed, directed relevant stakeholders on Wednesday to expedite the development projects for flood-affected areas under the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (4RF) framework, which was launched after the 2022 flood.

The Minister issued these directives while chairing a meeting to review progress on the implementation status of the 4RF framework. The meeting was attended by the

vener of the Rehabilitation Recovery Unity (RRU), Chief Economist, Joint Chief Economist, Member Infrastructure, Member Environment, and other relevant stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Minister received a detailed briefing on the implementation status of the 4RF framework, which encompasses various projects aimed at assisting flood-affected areas across the country. It is noteworthy that last year, Pakistan faced unprecedented devastation due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, affecting 33 million people and result-

ing in economic losses worth \$30 billion. In response, the government devised the 4RF framework, which proposed effective coordination and participation arrangements among federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs, and academic and private sectors. In October of the same year, the Post-Damage Needs Assessment (PDNA), conducted jointly by the Government of Pakistan and its international development partners, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union,

Aneeq assures fair rental rates for vacant ETPB properties

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday announced that the rental rates for vacant ETPB properties would be set in line with market demand.

During his visit to the Head Office of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), he said the Board would take immediate action to reclaim properties from illegal occupants and stressed the need for dialogue at all levels to resolve ongoing issues within the Board. Minister Aneeq emphasized the importance of addressing the increasing number of Hindu and Sikh pilgrims coming from India. He stated that discussions would be held with rel-

evant authorities to facilitate their visit. He said in a bid to improve scholarships opportunities for non-Muslim students, the Board would undertake swift measures.

The minister also

highlighted the importance of promoting religious tourism and ensuring comfortable facilities for non-Muslim pilgrims visiting Pakistan. He emphasized that Pakistan should have a positive international image.

"I am the minister for all religions in Pakistan. Some elements are trying to tarnish Pakistan's image, but their efforts will not succeed," he remarked.

Earlier, ETPB Chairman Syed Atiqur Rehman briefed the minister about the Board's objectives and activities. He mentioned that the department was responsible for the management and collection of revenue of over 109,000 acres of agricultural and non-agricultural lands



throughout the country. He mentioned that under its administration, there were 11,495 residential and commercial units and 19 plazas adding that geo-tagging was complete for 99% of properties.

UNDP holds media sensitization workshop on HIV/AIDS

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Program Management Unit at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has conducted a two-day interactive workshop and consultation session to sensitize media professionals about HIV/AIDS. The participants from over 30 media organizations attended the event.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural address by National Program Specialist at UNDP, Dr. Nashmia Mahmood. Dr. Nashmia Mahmood stressed the crucial role that the media played in shaping societal perspectives on HIV/AIDS. "Media is not just a mirror reflecting reality, but a powerful tool capable of shaping it. Ethical and sensitive reporting on HIV/AIDS is not just an option, it's a responsibility," she said.

She emphasized that the workshop was more than just a training session.

"It is an opportunity to redefine the media's role in disseminating accurate, compassionate information about a topic that has long been marred by stigma and misunderstanding," she added. Breaking down the subject's complexities, the first session, "Understanding HIV/AIDS and Overcoming Stigma," was skillfully guided by Mubashir Akram. He tackled preconceived notions and stigmas about HIV/AIDS head-on, making it a point to elucidate the facts. "We cannot let ignorance dictate the narrative. Knowledge is the first step to breaking down barriers of stigma," Akram asserted during the session.

The moral compass for media reporting on the subject was established in the second session, spearheaded by Absar Alam, a senior journalist and former Chairman of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA).



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins calls on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Senator Fawzia convenes senate standing committee on Info & broadcasting

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, chaired by Senator Fawzia Arshad, convened a meeting to address a range of vital issues concerning the nation's media landscape.

During the meeting, Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi presented the report of the Senate Sub-committee, specially constituted to investigate the utilization of Land and Assets of Radio Pakistan and its privatization.

The report, adopted by the Standing Committee, encompasses comprehensive recommendations and government responses on the matter.

During the meeting, DG PBC (Pakistan Broadcaster Association) provided a compliance report, shedding light on the matter of pension and commutation for retired PBC employees. The Committee was informed that pensions for the months of April, May, June, and July have been disbursed, but a

substantial sum of Rs 1.25 billion for commutation remains pending.

DG Radio and Secretary Information and Broadcasting briefed the Committee on the ongoing discussions regarding leasing Radio Pakistan's land across the country. Talks with the SBP are underway, and rates are yet to be finalized. The Committee stressed the importance of sharing the terms and conditions of the forthcoming agreement, location details of the land to be leased, and rates in an upcoming meeting. It was emphasized that this would be a Government-to-Government agreement. The officials also outlined various avenues they are exploring to meet Radio Pakistan's financial requirements. The Committee was presented with detailed insights into the federal government's advertising expenditures, covering electronic, print, digital, and outdoor spending from March 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi in a group photograph with students performing tableau during ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan Defence Day at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-6/2.

IHC stops DC Islamabad from exercising powers of 3-MPO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restrained Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad from exercising powers of 3-MPO.

The petition of PTI leader Shehryar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar against their arrest under 3-MPO came up for hearing in IHC Wednesday.

Justice Babar Sattar took up the case for hearing. IHC stopped DC Islamabad to use the powers under 3-MPO. The court while addressing DC remarked he will not pass any order under 3-MPO till next hearing. Justice Babar Sattar inquired tell us you are exercising this power from where in law.

The court sought legal assistance about the powers related to 3-MPO.

Justice Babar Sattar

remarked DC Sahb you are understanding it.

The court declared the reply of assistance counsel unsatisfactory.

The court extended its order for not arresting Shahr yar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar till next hearing. It is pertinent to mention here that court had issued orders for not arresting Shehryar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar in any case.

The petition of Shehryar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar earlier too had come up for hearing in IHC. Justice Babar Sattar heard the petition.

The court extended its order till September 6 regarding suspension of MPO besides ordering not to arrest both of these leaders till September 6 in any case.

He acknowledged that Pakistan currently faces multifaceted challenges, including the pressing issues of extremism and terrorism.

He conveyed his unshakable faith in Pakistan's armed forces, emphasizing their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the nation from both internal and external threats.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for State for Tourism, Syed Wasi Ahmad Fatimi (Wasi Shah) addressing during the celebration 2023 as the Pakistan China Year of Tourism Exchanges organized by the Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter at KP House.

Traders of F-6 Markaz met CPO Safe City to discuss security improvements

ISLAMABAD (APP): The traders of F-6 Markaz met with the Capital Police Officer (CPO) Safe City/Traffic on Wednesday to discuss ways to improve security in the market.

The meeting was held at the Safe City Islamabad headquarters and was attended by a delegation of traders led by President F-6 Markaz Traders Association, Malik Iftikhar Ahmed.

Following special instructions from Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), a meeting was convened at Safe City Islamabad, led by CPO Safe City/Traffic and SSP Safe City, engaging local traders from F-6 Markaz, as reported by a public relations officer.

During this meeting, the F-6 Markaz traders ar-

ticulated their desire for the enhancement of existing surveillance cameras in the market, in collaboration with the technical team of Islamabad Capital Police.

They also sought recommendations for improved parking facilities and traffic management, seeking cooperation from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Capital Police.

CPO Safe City/Traffic assured the traders of Islamabad Capital Police's technical team's collaboration for maintaining the current security infrastructure, with a commitment to enhance camera surveillance.

In addition to these discussions, the traders had the opportunity to tour various police facilities, including the Police Operation Center, Data Hub Unit.

British Council decides to reduce examination fee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British Council has decided to reduce the examination fee to redress the concerns of parents and students that arose after the release of AS and A Level examination results.

The Ministry of Education and Professional Training played a significant role that underscores its unwavering commitment to the well-being and concerns of students and parents across the country.

Caretaker Federal Minister of Education, Madad Ali Sindhvi, recently demonstrated exceptional leadership by taking proactive measures to address the distressing situation that arose following the release of the AS and A Level examination results on August 10, said a press release.

The unexpected confusion and dismay that enveloped students and parents nationwide prompted the minister to take immediate action. He convened a meeting with parents and students and initiated appropriate actions. Recognizing the magnitude of the concerns and the impact on student's future prospects, the minister penned a letter to address the matter directly with the British Council. In his letter, Sindhvi expressed deep concern for the students and their families who were left in a state of uncertainty due to the AS and A Level examination results. His unwavering commitment to fostering a positive learning environment and ensuring that students were provided with the support they deserved.

During the meeting, the governor Sindh briefed the prime minister in detail about the administration matters and the overall law and order situation of the province.

The governor also presented the recommendation about the power tariff prepared by Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the city's traders.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Gohar Ijaz, former DG ISI Lt. Gen Ihsan ul Haq Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Osmanov, and others cutting a cake to celebrate the 32nd Independence Day of Uzbekistan.

Mushaal says: Nation united alongside armed force to thwart 'evil designs' against Pak

RAWALPINDI (INP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick here on Wednesday said that nation stands united alongside armed forces to thwart 'evil designs' against Pakistan.

While paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the armed forces, she said that the entire nation stood united alongside the country's armed forces to thwart 'evil designs' against Pakistan's prosperity and integrity.

Addressing the participants after hockey match played at Shahbaz Sheikh Hockey Stadium Saidpur road, she said that the nation marked its 58th Defence Day to commemorate the sacrifices of the martyrs of 1965 war.

She further said that the martyrs who embraced shahadat for the sake of the country could never be forgotten and would always remain in the hearts of the

people. Pakistan Defense Day (September 6) is celebrated every year to pay homage to the martyrs, she said adding, the martyrs of 1965 war rendered supreme sacrifices for the defence of the country and the people.

The advisor said that the Defence Day was a day to remember the sacrifices of the armed force which renewed the pledge to the sacrifices our lives for the defense of the motherland.

She said, "On September 6, 1965, our brave armed forces along with the entire nation crushed the evil intentions of the enemy and made a history by showcasing real patriotism, national unity and courage."

"September 6 is a historic day for the nation when our armed forces made it clear to the enemy that the Pakistani nation and its armed forces are always ready to protect its motherland," she added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A one-day seminar was organized by the Faculty of Sciences at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to raise awareness on "Significance of Bilateral Relations: Forging Sustainable Partnerships for Climate Action between Africa and Pakistan".

The speakers highlighted the urgent need to tackle climate change at the international level as Africa and Pakistan were among the region's most severely affected by it, a news release said on Wednesday.

They also emphasized that Pakistan and Africa had had a long-standing relationship since the independence movement.

Police arrest 3 snatchers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following a directive from Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan to intensify efforts in eliminating crime, Margalla police arrested three members of a notorious snatching gang on Wednesday.

The arrested individuals, identified as Nadeem Hussain, Ansar, and Ali Raza, are part of a snatching gang implicated in numerous criminal activities across various areas of the city. During the operation, the police team successfully recovered four stolen motorbikes, along with spare parts, a mobile phone, and weapons with ammunition commonly used in their criminal activities.

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah cutting ribbon at the concluding ceremony of three-day exhibition organized in connection with Pakistan Defence Day at Lok Virsa Heritage Museum.