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PM Kakar sees elections in 3 to 4 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that he was "certain" about the general elections being held in the country within the next three to four months. The prime minister, asked in an interview with a private television channel, about his strategy if any future scenario demanded an extension in the caretaker setup, he said as per the legal arrangement they would move to the electoral process within three to four months.

"I think within few months... few months can be translated into three, three-and-half or four... that needs to be seen... this will conclude and we will go to the electoral process," he commented. Asked again whether he expected the general elections to be held within four months, he replied, "I am not (just) hope-

ful (rather) I am certain." He said considering the limited time, his government was mulling to prioritize certain policy issues to at least lay a foundation for any future government to enable that to carry forward the journey.

To a question, the prime minister explained that even after the expiry of the term, the President of Pakistan could continue in his office till the election of his replacement. However, the Senate chairman would fill the slot, in case he voluntarily gives up the office. Coming to the issue of electricity bills, the prime minister said the government was coming up with short and mid-term solutions including the planning to convert the oil-based power plants to run on local coal.

Besides, the process for the privatization of one or two power Discos will also be finalised soon which would help curb power theft

through the introduction of new technology, and would also attract investment. Regarding the sugar price hike, Kakar said the government had asked the provinces to activate the price control committees and that the hoarders would be cracked down. The prime minister said through the legislation, the previous government had empowered the caretaker setup which necessitated them to act differently from the normal caretaker setup.

The prime minister told the interviewer that the Special Investment Facilitation Council had been formed as a forum to address the concerns impeding the investment projects. He said Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain had sent proposals and due diligence was being done which would follow the signing of formal agreements by November or December.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held in Islamabad.

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.

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

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



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

We owe martyrs, their families a great deal: PM

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.

PDM govt spent billions on media ads amid economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government has spent billions on media advertisements in the midst of an economic crisis.

As per details, the secretary information briefed the senate standing committee on information on the amount spent by the 13 parties coalition in a 16-month tenure.

It was revealed that Rs 10 billion was spent on media advertisement in the PDM coalition government tenure. The secretary told the senate committee that Rs 9.60 billion was spent on the advertisement.

The previous government released Rs 3.50 billion in funds for print media, Rs 4.79 billion was spent on electronic media advertisement and Rs 1.23 billion on digital media advertisements. Furthermore, the senate committee summoned the details of advertisement rates for all channels. On April 14, the federal government approved the release of funds for parliamentarians' schemes. The PDM coalition government spent Rs 50 billion on parliamentarian schemes till March 2023. The funds for the parliamentarian schemes were approved and Rs 90 billion was allocated for these schemes in the fiscal year 2022-23.



KARACHI: Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs, Senator Rubina Khalid presiding over a meeting of standing committee on Maritime Affairs at the office of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC).

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 Hydar and Mauripur.

ECP to invite foreign observers, media for General Elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to invite foreign observers and media for the upcoming general elections.

"All preparations for invitation to foreign election observers and media, have been completed and a code of conduct has been finalized," election commission sources said.

According to ECP sources, the foreign observers will be issued invitations as and when the election schedule will be announced.

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 non-payment of electricity bills are the major causes of this huge loss.

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.

He said reshuffling of the officials involved in electricity theft will be made and lists of such officials have already been finalized and dispatched to the Election Commission of Pakistan for implementation.

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



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

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".



KARACHI: Pakistan Air Force cadets performing march past during change of guards ceremony to pay homage to the Ghazis and Shuhada of 06 September 1965 Indo-Pak War on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, at Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi.

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

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 has said in his message on Defence 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 intentions 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 brave nation is always ready to protect its borders.

Solangi says Caretaker govt won't introduce any law beyond its mandate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Information Minister Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that the present government would not introduce any law or rule which was beyond its mandate.

Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali and Secretary Energy Rashid Mehmood Langrial he said the caretaker regime would not take any step which was above its constitutional mandate as caretaker dispensation.

Murtaza Solangi said

that electricity theft was the most important factor among the factors of increased electricity tariff in Pakistan. He said that electricity theft worth Rs 589 billion was recorded in Pakistan every year. He said that far reaching reforms in energy sector were needed at the moment.

The minister for information said that today's press conference was about the power theft related issue and more media briefings would be held about other factors behind inflated power sector bills.

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 dignity 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 Na-

val 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.



KARACHI: Members of National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony are holding celebration demonstration to pay homage to the Ghazis and Shuhada of 06 September 1965 Indo-Pak War on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, at Karachi press club.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

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.

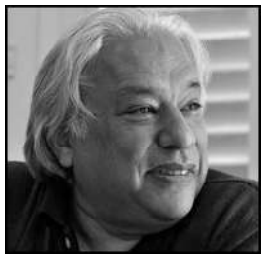
The international community, including our traditional allies, expects us to address the fundamentals of our sputtering economy, as well as political instability, before they put more money into Pakistan. Mr Kakar had also alluded to this, when he mentioned that reforms were needed in taxation and the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

Questions also arise about the caretakers' intentions — their long-term plans are puzzling in view of their constitutionally limited stay. The interim setup 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.

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 respon-

sible 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 collapse since they have never been checked for structural quality, and so do walls, killing a large number of people all over Pakistan. Almost daily children disappear into manholes, which have no covers, and die.

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

This absence of coordination and internal strife promotes corruption, negligence and delays, and a lack of accountability and trans-

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

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

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

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

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

Courtesy Dawn

Killing democracy



Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Governor House.

President for 30-35 percent women's participation in business sector

LAHORE (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and called for increasing their participation in business sector by 30-35 percent for economic revival. He urged the business community to create a conducive and harassment-free environment for women professionals, highlighting the government's efforts in this area and encouraging both the public and private sectors to collaborate.

During a meeting with the Lahore Chamber of

Commerce & Industry (LCCI) delegation here at Governor House, President Dr. Arif Alvi accompanied by First Lady Samina Alvi discussed the need for tangible surveys, seminars, awareness sessions and other initiatives to promote women's active involvement in various business sectors. He also encouraged the LCCI delegation to take measures for economic revival and social welfare projects, stressing that business community cooperation could attract foreign investment, particularly in

the IT sector. Talking about the issue of education, President Alvi said, more than 25 million Pakistani children still not attending schools despite extraordinary efforts which was a deplorable. He stressed the need for using thousands of schools and Mosques for classes, and extra shifts in schools to address the challenge.

Furthermore, President Alvi emphasized the importance of individual efforts in educating domestic workers, and called on the business community to

support people with disabilities, mental illnesses, and breast cancer patients. He commended the Lahore Chamber for achieving its target of providing 25 percent jobs to women. LCCI President Kashif Anwar informed the President Alvi about LABARD (Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled), a non-profit organization works under the patronage of Lahore Chamber's management, which had provided artificial organs to 100,000 people for rehabilitation.

PM directs framing of industrial policy to spur economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday directed that a national industrial policy should be formulated as soon as possible to spur economic growth and increase industrial production.

He issued the directive during a briefing on the performance and targets of Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Industries and Production.

The prime minister asked the relevant officers to increase the con-

tribution of industries in the gross domestic product of Pakistan from the present 12 percent to optimum capacity through formulation of an effective strategy.

He said Pakistan should be made a hub of trade, transportation and transshipment by taking advantage of its unique geographical location.

He instructed that a training programme should be held for the business community and the logistics companies to make them aware about the inter-

national road transport system. The PM said the process of privatisation of the loss making state-owned enterprises should be expedited. He was told about the performance of the officers posted abroad for enhancing trade and investment of Pakistan.

It was informed that economic partnership with the Central Asian states would be part of the strategy to increase exports. Consultations were continuing with the stakeholders for the establishment of Land Port Authority.

SIFC urges businessmen to act as its ambassadors to attract investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), in an important meeting with the business community and economic experts of Lahore, urged the businessmen to act as its ambassador to attract investment for the country.

After Karachi, the SIFC had held a special meeting with the business community and economic experts of Lahore on Wednesday, an official source said.

The SIFC team gave a comprehensive briefing on

a positive outlook on investment.

The meeting identified the best opportunities for investors in Pakistan's key sectors of agriculture, livestock, IT, minerals and energy.

Apart from this, efforts at the policy level through the SIFC Forum to improve the overall investment climate were also highlighted. The business community was taken into confidence and were assured of all support and facilitation to fulfill such efforts from private investors.

PCJCCI suggests promoting tissue-culture labs to increase potatoes export

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Wednesday suggested that Pakistan should enhance export of potatoes by establishing and promoting Tissue-Culture Laboratories, as the country is one of the major exporters of potato and also self-sufficient in its domestic use.

The joint chamber's President Moazzam Ghurki, while giving his input in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, men-

tioned that floods had devastated many kinds of crops in Pakistan, while potato production soared to 7.937 million tonnes in fiscal year 2022-23 from 5.873 million tonnes in the FY 2021-22, up by 35 percent as floods did not hit Punjab which is a hub of potato production.

By contrast, he continued, Pakistan imports 20,000 tons of potato seeds every year and most of the potato seeds in Pakistan highly depend on imports and the initial cost of potato production.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a briefing by Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Industries and Production.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 316.09 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Wednesday as it gained 316.09 points and closed at 45,807.57 points against 45,491.48 of the previous trading day, showing an increase of 0.69 percent.

A total of 74,236,686 shares were traded during the day as compared to the last day's 55,028,384, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs3,943 billion against Rs3,047 billion on the last trading day. As many as 304 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, out of which 181 gained and 99 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged.

FDI witnesses increase of 17.3% in August

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country during first month of current financial year (2023-24) was increased by 17.3 percent as compared to the investment of the corresponding month of last year.

During July 2023, the FDI reached \$87.7 million against the investment of \$74.8 million in same period of the last year, which was up by 17.3 percent, according to the 'Monthly Economic Update & Outlook August 2023', said in the report released by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on Wednesday.

The FDI received from China during the period under review was recorded at \$18.0 million,

Hong Kong \$16.9 million and FDI received from Netherlands at \$12.1 million and Switzerland \$10.1 million, it added.

According to the report, power sector attracted highest FDI of \$45.1 million (51.4 percent of total FDI), Oil & Gas Explorations \$ 15.2 million (17.3 percent), and communication \$ 8.0 million (9.1 percent).

Meanwhile, the foreign private portfolio investment has registered a net inflow of \$16.3 million during the month of July. The Foreign Public Portfolio Investment recorded a net inflow of \$6.0 million.

The total foreign portfolio investment recorded an inflow of \$22.3 million during July FY2024 as against an outflow of 13.9 million last.

SBP introduces fundamental reforms in the sector of exchange companies

KARACHI (Online): State Bank of Pakistan has decided to introduce fundamental reforms in the sector of exchange companies. These reforms include that leading banks dealing in foreign exchange will be able to set up proprietary exchange companies to meet the legitimate foreign exchange needs of the public.

Also, the various types of existing exchange companies and their franchise branches will be merged into a single category of exchange companies with a defined scope. Further, the mini-

mum capital requirement for exchange companies has been increased from Rs 200 million to Rs 500 million. The following are offered for conversion of 'B' category exchange companies (EC-B) and franchise branches of exchange companies into full-fledged exchange companies.

Category 'B' exchange companies can acquire the status of exchange company after fulfilling all regulatory requirements within three months; Otherwise their licenses will be cancelled.

SECP issues Shariah compliance certificate to NBFC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a Shariah compliance certificate to a licensed non-banking finance company (NBFC) offering Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) services on the Shariah principle of Musawamah, whereby profit margin is included in the sale price of the commodity. The certificate has been granted to Qist Bazaar (Private) Limited under the Shariah Governance Regulations, 2018.

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

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

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

He said that our brave armed forces defeated an enemy many times bigger than them by the power of faith and courage. The enemy was big in number and resources, but the courage

of our nation and army was great, he added. Governor Punjab said that on September 6, 1965, valiant armed forces and nation foiled the nefarious designs of the army. He said we should renew the pledge on this historic day to remain united and defend the motherland against all odds.

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

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



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

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 Auqaf, Local Government, Agriculture and Population Welfare

Decisions reserved on bail applications of 97 accused including Khadija Shah

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

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

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

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."



LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights 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, therefore, the accused should approach the trial court for bail after investigations in connection with new offences.

The division bench, headed by Justice Aalia Neelam, heard the post-arrest bail petitions of the PTI workers.

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.



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.

Army makes Pakistan invincible: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): here on Wednesday.

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

Armed Forces defending borders are our heroes: Gilani

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

The former Prime Minister informed that the Armed Forces, with the backing of the nation, repulsed the attack on Lahore, Sialkot, and desert areas of Sindh on September 6, 1965, with full force. Senior leader PPP stated that the Armed Forces set unprecedented examples of gallantry by lying their lives in the war adding that his party had always taken extraordinary steps for the forces in its regimes.

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

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 Belaajat 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.

International News

China warns against 'new Cold War' at Asean summit

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Wednesday it is important to avoid a "new Cold War" when dealing with conflicts between countries as world leaders gathered in Indonesia amid sharpening geopolitical rivalries across the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking at an annual summit involving members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China, Japan and South Korea, Li said countries needed to "appropriately handle differences and disputes."

"At present, it is very important to oppose taking sides, block confrontation and a new Cold War," Li told the meeting.

Asean, which has warned of the danger of getting dragged into major powers' disputes, is also holding wider talks with Li, US Vice President Kamala Harris, and leaders of various partner countries including Japan, South Korea, Australia, and India.

Neither US President Joe Biden nor his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, is attending the summit.

High on the agenda at the gatherings in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, is concern about China's increasingly assertive activity in the South China Sea, an important trade corridor in which several Asean members have claims that conflict with China's.

Asean this week discussed with China accelerating negotiations on a long-discussed code of conduct for the waterway, said Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi of the Asean chair, Indonesia. The issue also came up during an Asean-Japan summit where leaders "expressed the importance of keeping situations in the region conducive, especially in the Korean Peninsula and also the South China Sea", she said.

The United States and its allies have echoed Asean's calls for freedom of navigation and overflight and to refrain from building a physical presence in disputed waters. China has built various facilities, including runways, on tiny outposts in the sea.



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, accompanied by Indonesia's Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin, walk upon her arrival at the Soekarno Hatta International airport, amid the 43rd ASEAN Summit, in Tangerang near Jakarta, Indonesia.

Putin, Saudi's prince: oil supply cuts ensure stable energy market - Kremlin

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Wednesday said that Russian President Vladimir Putin had spoken by phone with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and that recent agreements on supply cuts had ensured stability on global energy markets.

The global leaders in oil production, Saudi Arabia and Russia, on Tuesday announced the extension of voluntary oil supply cuts to the end of the year, despite a rally in the oil market and analyst expectations of tight supply in the fourth quarter.

Russia will roll over its decision to reduce oil exports by 300,000 barrels per day, while Saudi Arabia will extend its voluntary oil output cut of 1 million bpd.

Kremlin said the leaders had been highly satisfied with cooperation between their countries within the framework of the OPEC+ group of leading oil producers.

"It was noted that the agreements reached on reducing oil production, combined with voluntary commitments to limit the supply of the commodity, make it possible to ensure the stability of the global energy market," the Kremlin said in a readout of the call.

South Korea's Yoon says any military cooperation with North Korea must stop

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Wednesday any attempt to cooperate with North Korea on military affairs in a way that damages international peace must immediately halt.

Yoon made the comment at a summit meeting with Southeast Asia's ASEAN bloc countries in Jakarta, Indonesia, his office said.

The office did not elaborate but his comment comes amid reports that arms negotiations between North Korea and Russia are actively advancing and that the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, plans to visit Russia soon to meet President Vladimir Putin.

"Attempt at military cooperation with North Korea that harms international peace must immediately halt," Yoon's office



Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba greets US Secretary of State Antony Blinken before a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kyiv, Ukraine.

US targets deputy leader of Sudan's RSF over rights abuses

Monitoring Desk
N'DJAMENA: The United States is imposing sanctions on the deputy leader of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) over human rights abuses, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations announced during a trip to Chad's border with Sudan on Wednesday.

The move to target Abdelrahim Dagalo - brother of RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti - is the highest profile use of sanctions since conflict between the RSF and Sudan's army broke out in mid-April and an apparent response to the dramatic violence seen in West Darfur, which the RSF is accused of perpetrating along with allied militias. The RSF has denied the accusations by conflict monitors, rights groups and witnesses that it is behind the violence.

Japan, China bigwigs talk about radioactive water release

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Wednesday he explained Japan's stance on the release of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear plant to Chinese Premier Li Qiang on the sidelines of a regional meeting in Indonesia.

Japan started releasing the water from the wrecked plant into the ocean last month, drawing strong criticism from China. In retaliation, China has imposed a blanket ban on all aquatic imports from Japan.

A massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 triggered a nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl 25 years earlier.

Kishida told reporters he spoke briefly with Li ahead of a session at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta.

World losing race to meet climate goals, says COP28 president

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: The world is losing the race to meet its climate change goals, the president of the upcoming COP28 summit said on Tuesday, as African leaders called for changes to what they say is an unfair international climate finance system.

The grim assessment by Sultan Al Jaber, who will preside over the summit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in late November, came three days before the United Nations publishes its first "global stocktake", an assessment of how nations are doing in their efforts to tackle climate change.

"We are not delivering the results that we need in the time that we need them," Jaber, who also heads the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, told delegates at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. The summit, which opened on Monday, is focused on mobilising financing for Africa's response to climate change.

While Africa is suffering from some of the most severe impacts of climate change, the continent only receives about 12 per cent of the financing it needs to cope, according to researchers.

Hundreds of millions of dollars of investments in sustainable development projects were announced on Monday, and on Tuesday Jaber announced the UAE was pledging \$4.5 billion dollars to develop 15 GW of clean power in Africa by 2030. Africa currently has about 60 GW of installed renewables capacity.

Thai king swears in PM and cabinet

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn swore in Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and cabinet ministers in a coalition government made up of 11 parties on Tuesday.

Srettha, whose Pheu Thai party leads the coalition, and 33 cabinet ministers pledged their loyalty to the monarchy during the ceremony at the Dusit Palace in Bangkok. The government will deliver its policy statement to parliament on Monday.

Srettha, a 61-year-old U.S.-educated billionaire

French ex-spy chief to face trial for influence peddling

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's former domestic spy chief Bernard Squarcini will face trial in Paris on suspicion of influence peddling, largely for luxury giant LVMH, sources close to the case said on Tuesday. As well as the charge that he used his connections to benefit private interests, Squarcini will be tried for misuse of public funds and compromising national security secrets, judges decided according to a court document.

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

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

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

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

He instructed the authorities concerned to fulfil the legal obligations to accelerate the privatisation of loss-making state-owned enterprises and asked all the federal ministries to cooperate with the Privatisation Division.

In the briefing, the prime minister was told that the FBR was determined to achieve the tax collection target of Rs 9,415

billion. The Board had collected Rs 538 billion in July this year against the target of Rs 534 billion, and Rs 669 billion in August against the target of Rs 648 billion.

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

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

other departments. The FBR was also striving to achieve the target of including another one million taxpayers in the tax net as 182,000 new taxpayers had already been added this year.

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

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



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



ISLAMABAD: The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in a meeting with High-Level Japanese Delegation at PM Secretariat.

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

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), 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 sac-

rifices 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. Hostile efforts to spoil the hard-earned peace will be met with the full might of the armed forces, backed with the support and resolve of the people of Pakistan, Insha Allah," it added.

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.

Sumbal, who had been ailing for some time, had taken charge as the interior secretary on August 20.

People, Armed Forces intertwined in unbreakable bond: NA Speaker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Body on info discusses problems faced by national media

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, Senator Fawzi Arshad chaired the meeting of the committee held here on Wednesday 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.

Director General Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) presented a compliance report, shedding light on the matter of pension and commutation for retired PBC employees on the occasion.

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

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

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

method, the subject of Tuesday's debate.

Since 2009, India, along with Brazil, Germany and Japan—known as G-4—has been pushing for a permanent seat on the U.N.'s high table, a bid strongly opposed by the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group which opposes any additional permanent members.

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

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members—Britain, China, France,

Russia and the United States—and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year term.

In June, when the General Assembly rolled over the Security Council reform to the 78th session, India lashed out at the move, calling it a "wasted opportunity." Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj went on to warn that India was "looking beyond the IGN... as the only viable pathway to a future UN Security Council that would better reflect the world of today". At the same June meeting, Ambassador Akram, the Pakistani envoy, defended the IGN process.

Minister says: Nation holds its martyrs, ghazis in high esteem; profoundly indebted for ultimate sacrifices

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Defence, Lieutenant General Anwar Ali Hyder, on the eve of Defence and Martyrs' Day Wednesday, said: "We hold our Shuhadas and Ghazis in high esteem and are profoundly indebted to them for offering the ultimate sacrifice and thwarting the nefarious designs of the enemy."

In his message on the occasion of National Defence and Martyrs' Day, the Defence Minister termed September 6 as a milestone in the annals of national history.

Hyder said it reminded the entire nation of the indomitable courage

and unparalleled sacrifices rendered by our Armed Forces for the defence of our motherland.

"Pakistan is a responsible state with an impregnable defence. Over the years, Pakistan's defence capability has evolved substantially and Alhamdulillah, the country has made significant strides toward self-reliance in the field of defence. The entire nation and government of Pakistan commend the sacrifices, professionalism, and grit of our Armed Forces," he added.

The minister further said Pakistan would continue to promote peace in the world.

Three women among four shot dead over property in Jhelum

JHELUM (INP): Four people including three women were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Jhelum on Wednesday, police said.

A heavy contingent of police led by district police officer (DPO) rushed to the spot and launched an investigation into the multiple murders.

The unknown attackers sprayed bullets on a sleeping couple and the women's two sisters.

CTD detains four suspects in search operation

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

According to spokesman for CTD Sindh, the CTD along with the concerned police station conducted a search operation in Malir area during which 93 suspected persons were checked and their data was verified through Talash App. Four of the suspects were handed over to Malir City police station for further verifications. The operation was conducted under the supervision of experienced and expert officers of CTD. The phase-wise search operations were initiated on September 1st, in sensitive areas of the megalopolis to nab the suspects involved in terrorism.



GUJAN KHAN: National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervez Ashraf offering Fatеха at the grave of Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, in Mandara.

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

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

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

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

The former chief minister Punjab was presented before the ATC a day after he was re-arrested hours after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had suspended his detention under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) ordinance and directed his release.

The Islamabad police, in an X (formerly Twitter) post, had announced Elahi's release and his subsequent re-arrest in another case.

The police said Elahi was detained in a case registered at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police station.

Advocate Sadder Abdur Razzaq and defence counsel Ali Bukhari appeared as Elahi's counsel while Prosecutor Tahir Kazim was also present.

During the hearing, police sought a 14-day physical remand of the former Punjab chief minister while his lawyers opposed it. They urged the court to discharge Elahi from the case. The court then reserved its verdict on the matter.

As the hearing began, Elahi's lawyers submitted their Power of Attorney to court. Police urged the court to grant them a 14-day physical remand of the PTI leader.

PM, CNS visit family of martyred Naval officer for condolence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday visited the family of Lt. Commander Hamza Abid of the Pakistan Navy who was martyred in a helicopter crash in Gwadar.

Accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, the prime minister expressed condolences to the parents and family members of the martyred naval officer.

The father of the martyred officer had also served in the Pakistan Navy.

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

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in the paradise.



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

IK's lawyer deplores pathetic conditions at Attock Jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): Assistant Advocate General (AAG) Punjab told the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday that the issues former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan was confronting in District Jail, Attock had been resolved.

During the hearing of Imran's petition for shifting him from Attock to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, the AAG said that the PTI chairman had been given 'Better Class' in the jail since there was no B Class in it. He told that walls of the washroom of the cell in which PTI chairman was spending his prison term had been raised. "He has also been provided a bed, a chair, a 21-inch television set, and five newspapers in the jail."

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 allegations 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.

Justice Tariq Jahangiri inquired how it is possible that bail has been rejected and arrest has not been made.

He remarked we call other respondent and ask what he arrested or otherwise. If arrest has been made then bail after arrest plea will have to be filed. If arrest has not been made then you will give argument on your petition.

The court adjourned hearing of the case till next hearing.



KARACHI: Patients are being examine by doctors during the free medical camp organized by Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, at Surjani Town in Karachi.



KARACHI: Containers has been placed at Saddar area to blocked the roads in connection of the Shiite religious mourning processions in memories of Chehlum-e-Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), in Karachi

IHC serves notices on respondents in PTI chief's pleas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday served notices to respondents in an appeal against cancellation of interim bails of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman due to non-pursuance in nine cases.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the plea filed by the former prime minister challenging cancellation of his bails in six cases.

The petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar Advocate argued that the PTI chairman had been appearing before the courts concerned. However, his bails were later terminated on technical reasons as he could not appear in the courts for being in jail in the Toshakhana case, he added.

The chief justice noted

that three identical cases of PTI chief were also fixed before the IHC's division bench. Meanwhile, a bench comprising the chief justice and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the appeals of PTI chief.

The petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar said his client had already been given bails in five cases of similar nature but the respective Anti-Terrorism Court judges were transferred before judgments in three cases. The lawyer said that they had been requesting the courts to issue directives for the production of PTI chairman as he was unable to arrive himself from jail. He claimed that as per his information his client had not been arrested so far in the said cases.



SUKKUR: District Council Chairman, Syed Kumail Haider Shah is hoisting National Flag to pay homage to the Ghazis and Shuhada of 06 September 1965 Indo-Pak War on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, in Sukkur.