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Seven soldiers embraced martyrdom, 23 terrorists killed in three separate IBOs: ISPR

PM pays tribute to Pak Army's officers, soldiers for successful operations against terrorists

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Captain among seven soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting against terrorists in three separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) that resulted in eliminating 23 terrorists by the security forces.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the security forces conducted three separate operations from May 26-27 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

On May 26, an intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutralized by the security forces and multiple hideouts were busted.

Captain Hussain

Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah also embraced Shahadat on May 26, while fighting gallantly.

On May 27, in another operation conducted in Tank District, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were killed. The third engagement occurred in general area Bagh, Khyber District, wherein, the security forces killed seven terrorists, while two terrorists were injured.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers; Naik Muhammad Ashfaq Butt (age 32 years; resident of district Kahuta), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar (age 30 years; resident of district Poonch), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 years; resident of district

Layyah), Sepoy Nadir Sajeer (age 22 years; resident of district Bagh) and Sepoy Muahmmad Yasin (age 23 years; resident of district Khushab), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. A large quantity of Weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as the innocent civilians.

"Sanitization operations are being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

PM announces public holiday on Youm-e-Takbeer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday declared a public holiday on May 28 to mark Youm-e-Takbeer, the day when Pakistan's defence became impregnable after nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai, Balochistan in the year 1998.

"Youm-e-Takbeer reminds how the entire Pakistani nation got united on that day to make the country's defence invincible," the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM House.

On the day in 1998, he said, the nation decided that there would be no compromise on the country's integrity and defence by not yielding to any external pressure.

Both the political and defence forces got united on the day under the National Flag to strengthen the country's defence, he added.

CM grieves over martyrdom of five Pak Army soldiers in KPK

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday expressed his grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of 5 soldiers of the Pakistan Army in an operation against terrorists in Khyber District of KPK.

The Chief Minister Sindh paid tribute to the determination of the martyrs, a CM's Spokesman said. He said that the martyrs were crown of our heads and their sacrifices will never go in vain.

The CM Murad said that the forces destroyed the hideouts of the terrorists with great courage. He prayed for martyrs high ranks and expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

US Ambassador calls on Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday.

On the occasion, the finance minister underscored the long-term mutual relations between Pakistan and the USA.

He informed the Ambassador about successful completion of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) and that the Government of Pakistan was engaged with the fund to build upon the reforms under the SBA. He highlighted the priority reform areas of the government including increasing tax-to-GDP ratio through end-to-end digitization, bringing the under-taxed sectors into the tax net, and tax administrative reforms.



PESHAWAR: Funeral prayer of Sepoy Taimoor Shaheed, Sepoy Nadir Sajeer Shaheed, Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen Shaheed, Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar Shaheed and Naik Ashfaq Butt Shaheed, who embraced Shahadat during an intense exchange of fire with terrorists at general area Bagh, Khyber district, was offered in Peshawar Garrison.

Parliamentarians complain to CM of continuous power load-shedding

KARACHI (APP): The Parliamentarians on Monday complained to the Sindh Chief Minister of continuous load-shedding of electricity during the conditions of prevailing heat wave and scorching heat across the province.

They expressed their reservations pertaining to different issues during their one-on-one meeting with the chief minister at his chamber here on Monday.

Those, who called the CM were one Member of National Assembly (MNA) Jam Abdul Kareem and eight Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) of Sindh including Dr. Sikandar Shoro, Adeel Altaf Unar, Arbab Lutufullah, Taj Mohammed Mallah, Arbab Amir Abdullah, Malik Asad Sikandar Khan,

Seema Khurram and Ejaz Sawat.

All the parliamentarians informed Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah of the problems of their constituencies and their solutions.

They discussed issues of load-shedding, health, education, drainage of sewerage water and development projects in detail.

He said that the provincial government was making all-out efforts to resolve the issues of the people.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Laghari in a meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur.

Govt focusing on infrastructure, social development: Nasir

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Monday, said that government was focusing on infrastructure and social development projects that not only meet immediate needs but also contribute to long term national development. He while chairing a meeting of Sindh Planning and Development Board, directed to gear up process for upgrading public health facilities to ensure the provision of better services to the people.

The minister said that it was vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhattu Zardari that facilities should be provided to the public at their doorstep.

Syed Nasir Shah said that visits to the ongoing schemes would be conducted to monitor the progress and ensure their alignment with the set targets and standards. The meeting was briefed in detail about ongoing and new schemes and was informed that the focus was on key

projects to enhance infrastructure and public services to accelerate the provincial development agenda. The meeting was informed that new projects had been proposed under the planning and development framework, focusing on targeted poverty alleviation strategies and improved social safety net.

The board emphasized the importance of a strong urban policy to effectively manage the challenges and opportunities of urbanization. Notable infrastructure projects like SWAT and MSDP projects were discussed with emphasis on ensuring that these projects are aligned with broader development objectives. Reforms and improvements in the prisons department to ensure better management and rehabilitation services were discussed in the meeting while the board also reviewed various schemes of the road sector to ensure smooth development and better connectivity.

COAS offers funeral prayer of martyrs of Khyber operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday, along with a large of military and civil officials, attended the funeral prayer of martyrs who had embraced martyrdom during an intense exchange of fire with the terrorists in Bagh area of Khyber district, offered in Peshawar Garrison.

Those whose funeral prayer was offered included Sepoy Taimoor Shaheed (age 32, resident of Layyah district), Sepoy Nadir Sajeer Shaheed (age 22, resident of Bagh district), Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen Shaheed (age 23, resident of Khushab district), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar Shaheed (age 30, resident of Poonch district) and Naik Ashfaq Butt Shaheed (age 32, resident of Kahuta district) was offered.

According to a news release, the Minister distributed cash awards and certificates of appreciation to students and teachers of KPT Schools in recognition of their outstanding performance in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh praised the KPT for its dedication to train officers in line with international standards. He lauded the organization's proactive approach in preparing its personnel to meet the requirements in the maritime industry.

The Minister emphasized that KPT serves as Pakistan's gateway and has consistently delivered outstanding performances. He further said that KPT has the potential for improvement and expressed confidence in achieving maximum benefits through collaborative efforts.

During his address, Chairman KPT, Syedain Raza Zaidi, expressed contentment with the renovation of the KPT Staff College and performance of KPT schools. Chairman KPT underscored KPT's historical commitment for serving the nation and the people of Karachi through various CSR initiatives. These include funding 6 schools for underprivileged students, operating a hospital for workers and nearby residents, maintaining a Fire Station with modern equipment available round the clock for Karachi, and supporting literary and social events. In recognition of the exemplary academic performance, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh distributed cash prizes and certificates among students who achieved A1 and A grades, along with their dedicated teachers.

SHC allows reporters to cover court proceedings

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday allowed court reporters to cover judicial proceedings.

As per details, the court issued a stay on the notification issued by Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) that imposed restrictions on court reporting. The Sindh High Court has also issued notices to Pemra, the Ministry of Information, and others, seeking a response by June 6. Advocate Abdul Moiz Jafari argued that Pemra has no authority to issue such directives, and it is the judiciary's prerogative to decide what can be reported and what not.

Nawaz Sharif likely to elect unopposed in PML-N President election

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz election commission will issue nomination papers for election of the party's new president today.

The five-member election commission of the party being headed by Rana Sanaulah, Iqbal Jhagra, Ishrat Ashraf, Jamal Shah Kakar and Khealad Kohistani are other members of the commission.

Candidates can get nomination papers upto 5:00 in the evening, a party spokesperson said.

Omani delegation calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of food security from Oman met Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Monday.

Consul General of Oman Eng. Sami Abdullah Khanjari and Vice Consul General were also present on this occasion, said a statement.

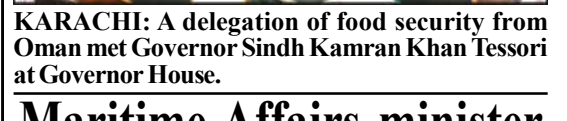
In the meeting, mutual cooperation in the field of food security, Pakistan-Oman economic relations, investment opportunities in the province and other matters of mutual interest were discussed.

The Governor Sindh said that closer cooperation in the field of food security is in the interest of both countries. Pakistan always values its cordial relations with Oman, he said.

He added that this is the right time for the business community of Pakistan and Oman to work together. He said that SIFC will prove to be more supportive and helpful for investors.

The Omani Consul General said that Oman attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan.

The Sindh Governor also presented the Sindhi cap, shield and Ajarak to the distinguished guests.



KARACHI: A delegation of food security from Oman met Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Maritime Affairs minister inaugurates renovated KPT Staff College

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh along with Chairman Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Syedain Raza Zaidi on Monday inaugurated the renovated KPT Staff College, which was established in 1979 and had not undergone proper renovations until now.

According to a news release, the Minister distributed cash awards and certificates of appreciation to students and teachers of KPT Schools in recognition of their outstanding performance in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh praised the KPT for its dedication to train officers in line with international standards. He lauded the organization's proactive approach in preparing its personnel to meet the requirements in the maritime industry.

The Minister emphasized that KPT serves as Pakistan's gateway and has consistently delivered outstanding performances. He further said that KPT has



LAHORE: Former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Mayor Karachi termed children protection as priority

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said that children are our future and their protection is our responsibility. Whatever measures are necessary to save our future generations from exploitation will be taken and non-governmental organizations working in this regard deserve appreciation.

He said this while talking to a delegation of the Roshni Helpline, which met with him at his office on the occasion of International Missing Children's Day, led by Dr. Muhammad Ali.

He said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation will work with Roshni Helpline to recover missing children and prevent their exploitation, and will also arrange awareness programs

and display awareness messages at public places so that people know how missing children are being used for their purposes and how they are being treated.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Roshni Helpline's emergency service 1138 will be linked with the KMC's helpline so that we can work together in this regard.

He said that the KMC will raise awareness among the public about missing children so that innocent children are not used for begging.

The Mayor Karachi said that wherever there are no manhole covers in the city, the work of installing them is underway and will be expedited so that children do not fall into them and get injured or killed.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with MPA Seema Khurram during meeting held at Provincial Assembly CM Chamber in Karachi.

A convicted person can't acknowledge Govt's diplomatic achievements, initiatives for developments: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said that a convicted person in prison could not dignify and acknowledge multiple achievements of current government on diplomatic front and initiatives for the development of the country.

"Definitely, there is a sinister plan to compare the current situation with that of 1971 but these tactics are doomed to fail; InshaAllah, Pakistan will remain on the map of the world and make march towards progress and prosperity", he said while addressing a press conference.



Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

Education to be promoted through national, regional languages: Anthony Naveed

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Assembly Deputy Speaker Anthony Naveed on Monday said that education can be promoted in the country only through imparting education in national and the local languages. Addressing a Roundtable session themed "Supporting Girls Education: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP's) Taleemi Wazaif as a Social Protection Intervention" at local hotel and organized by the Society for the Advancement of Education (SAHE).

Anthony Naveed suggested that Sindh government was considering to set up skill development institution at Union Council level so that children could be provided technical education. In order to promote education at every level, there is a need to impart education in national as well as local languages instead of foreign languages.

Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly said, adding that people must ask from political representatives before and after elections about what steps they had taken for the uplift of education and health in their respective constituencies.

He also proposed that Local Body Chairmen/Mayors must be made responsible for education and health sectors as they could deliver more efficiently than the Ministers. Opposing the duties of teachers in conducting the election process, Anthony Naveed said that through teachers, election process is being manipulated. Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Assembly Member Sadia Javed suggested that drastic reforms needed to contain drop out ratio and stakeholders should come forward to play their part in that regard.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Mercury rising

Should we expect a political heatwave this summer? The climate seems to be rather conducive to it. The two largest parties are once again on the warpath, with a slew of troubling developments precluding any hopes for the long-awaited normalisation of political temperatures.

In Lahore, the chief minister of Punjab has approved the registration of fresh cases against the PTI leadership, this time for "building a hateful narrative against state institutions". It appears that the PML-N government will rely on the odious defamation bill it recently passed in the Punjab Assembly to go after its chief rival. The provincial information minister, speaking on the matter, explained to the media that the Punjab home department had provided information establishing that PTI leaders were "spreading mischief inside and outside jail". She claimed that the party was "spreading hate as part of organised propaganda" to incite the people, destabilise the country and inculcate hatred against its institutions.

Was this anticipated? Unfortunately, yes. Meanwhile, in Islamabad, the PTI has been engaged in a bitter confrontation with the Capital Development Authority, which this week razed part of the party's central secretariat and later sealed the building under an anti-encroachment drive after issuing several warnings. Twenty-six individuals, including a PTI leader, were subsequently booked by Islamabad Police on various charges, including terrorism, allegedly for violently resisting the CDA operation.

Understandably, the party is incensed by its relentless victimisation; disappointingly, it has yet to show any remorse for its own culpability in similar targeting of its opponents in the past. It has also seemed unwilling to mend fences with its opponents, having set strict preconditions for any negotiations that are unlikely to be accepted in the current situation. It seems in no hurry to see matters resolved and appears to be hoping that the crises engulfing the government will eventually bring about its downfall.

These are all worrying reminders that political stability, a prerequisite for the economic stability desperately sought by the inflation-weary citizenry, remains as elusive as ever. With the budget almost upon us and the IMF making it clear it will not consider extending more loans till its painful requisites are met, the months ahead are likely to see civil discontent explode once again as summer electricity bills and new taxation measures land on the largely unsuspecting public. The country seems to be at the end of its tether. At some point, its leaders need to ask themselves: what is the point of fighting if ashes are all that will be left to rule over after they are done? Each of them is equally responsible for the deep pit Pakistan seems to have fallen into. It is time they stopped digging deeper and started thinking about how to get it out.

Moving bombs

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

In the post-9/11 scenario, suicide bombing emerged as the deadliest and most popular terrorist strategy adopted by various groups around the world. After 9/11, there was an intensification in both the frequency and innovation of suicide bombings. Among these, the suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) quickly became one of the most lethal weapons deployed. This sophisticated weapon requires significant technical proficiency, which leading militant organisations developed and employed effectively.

The Islamic State's frequent use of SVBIEDs in Iraq and Syria helped the militant group attract global media attention. SVBIEDs served as a powerful force multiplier, enabling numerically inferior militants to deliver tons of explosives to designated targets and overrun larger enemy contingents. IS used SVBIEDs to punch holes in static defences, with follow-up attacks inflicting further damage on defenders.

IS tried to gain an edge over its enemies by tailoring SVBIED designs to specific threats, targets, and environments, with the aim of increasing the likelihood of the vehicle reaching its intended detonation point. For example, the covert SVBIED, the most commonly used type, features a vehicle with an unmodified exterior fitted with an interior explosive payload, driven and detonated at a specific target. The unmodified exterior allows it to blend in with other vehicles, deceiving the police and making it difficult to detect.

An up-armoured SVBIED typically has steel plates welded on

the front exterior, shielding the engine block, windscreen, and tyres. These were used during conflicts in Iraq and Syria. The improvised shielding protected the vehicle, the attacker, and the fitted explosives from incoming fire until the intended point of detonation. After capturing Mosul in 2014, IS seized many military-armoured vehicles, modified them, and used them as SVBIEDs.

A two-man SVBIED is operated by two attackers: one driver and one rooftop gunman. The gunman provides suppressing fire until the vehicle reaches its detonation point. This type of SVBIED was used in attacks against hardened military targets in Iraq and Syria. To target fortified positions, IS designed specific SVBIEDs capable of removing concrete blast barriers to clear the passage.

The militants also use parked SVBIEDs, which resemble SVBIEDs but are parked at a location and detonated remotely. Parked SVBIEDs lack drivers and function as larger, disguised stationary IEDs. Different vehicles provide varying storage capacities to place explosives as needed, effectively targeting and ensuring maximum damage. Usually, SVBIEDs are employed by terrorists against large targets to facilitate forced entry and create significant impact.

To increase the explosion's impact, a few SVBIEDs were designed and used on some occasions by IS with rooftop rocket pods and a firing mechanism that enabled the drivers to suppress fire from the SVBIED's target. In some instances, explosives are mounted on the doors and windshields' interiors to direct as much of the explosive power of the blast forward and to

the sides. The payload arrangement also included crude oil to increase the primary blast effect upon detonation of the main payload and ensure that the remnants at the site were burned, causing more losses.

From 2014 to 2024, a total of 85 suicide attacks, including 26 SVBIEDs, resulted in the deaths of 557 civilians and 143 policemen in KP. The highest number of SVBIED attacks was eight in 2014, followed by four in 2023. Between 2014 and 2024, Peshawar faced the highest number of attacks, with 26 suicide and 11 SVBIED attacks, followed by 14 suicide attacks in North Waziristan and six SVBIED attacks in Bannu. Ground realities suggest that suicide bombing, including SVBIEDs, is primarily an urban or bordering district phenomenon.

To prevent such incidents, Pakistan needs to revise the legal, administrative, and procedural dynamics of vehicle registration, purchase, activation and change of ownership of SIM cards, renting accommodation, and explosives businesses, and record-keeping of travellers. Strict enforcement is required for the regulation of auto workshops. Transparency in vehicle transactions and the prevention of vehicular theft, as well as addressing gaps in the transaction of explosives, will reduce the chances of using vehicles as moving bombs.

Employing sniffer dogs, high-tech explosive detectors, public safety education, target hardening, and redesigning the security architecture of high-profile hotels and commercial buildings, along with adherence to improved security protocols for public transport and trains, will reduce the space for terrorist groups. -- Courtesy Dawn

Boiling point

Huma Yusuf

Another heatwave, another slew of alarming headlines. We are better prepared than we were in 2015, when over 2,500 people lost their lives to soaring temperatures. Public awareness has improved, and emergency measures such as relief camps have been mobilised in urban areas. But Pakistan is still a long way from building the resilience — in all respects, sociopolitical — to infrastructural — that it will need to endure the ravages of climate change, particularly extreme heat.

Concern about extreme heat has largely been driven by economic considerations. The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research has estimated that global warming will reduce global income by 19 per cent by 2049. The ADB has found that extreme heat results in 650 billion hours of annual labour losses globally (equivalent to 148 million full-time jobs). Of immediate relevance to Pakistan, 2022 research from Dartmouth University found that an annual increase in the temperature of the five hottest days of the year can reduce economic growth by a percentage point.

This economic fallout is driven by decreases in labour productivity and supply as the working poor become unwell, supply chain disruption, and agricultural loss. A recent policy report by LSE's Grantham Institute on the impact of high temperatures on Bangladesh's workforce found that labour productivity and supply would decrease by 46.2pc by 2080 in a world with a three-degree temperature rise.

But extreme heat is not about GDP alone. Evidence is mounting that heatwaves amplify inequality. Women, the rural and urban poor,

marginalised groups and those with less education are more likely to die in heatwaves. These are typically groups with fewer resources, informal housing, erratic energy access and poor healthcare. And we cannot easily ignore this demographic: 1.2bn urban and rural poor will be coping without cooling solutions by 2030.

Women are especially hard hit by extreme heat. According to an FAO report published in March, female-headed households lose 8pc of their income due to heat stress; in the case of female farm labour — a key working constituency in Pakistan — each day of extreme high temperatures reduces the value of crops produced by women by 3pc as compared to men. This is because when the mercury rises, women focus more on unpaid domestic work — sourcing water, caring for heat-affected dependents, and cooking under prohibitive conditions. The physical toll of extreme heat on women, particularly pregnant ones, is also more adverse.

Worse, high temperatures also correlate with an increase in gender-based violence. A 2023 study by JAMA Psychiatry based on research in Pakistan, India and Nepal found that a one degree Celsius increase in the average annual temperature linked to a 6.3pc increase in incidents of physical and sexual abuse. Again, this is no surprise: when temperatures rise, crops fail, daily wage earners struggle to work, health suffers, and the financial pressures resulting from these realities kick in just as families are trapped indoors to escape the sun.

Extreme heat means extreme stress, driving not only domestic violence but also poor mental health. Research from the US, for example,

shows that higher temperatures coincide with an increase in hospital visits for anxiety, self-harm and substance abuse.

Children are also susceptible to extreme heat — and it's not just about dehydration. Frequent heatwaves can have a long-term effect on a child's educational attainment. Half of our country's school-going population has lost a week of learning to the current heatwave. Globally, according to the FAO, higher temperatures also result in 49 more minutes of child labour per week as children pick up chores that women cannot attend to while they manage the extra domestic burden of hot days.

Given this, heat cannot only be considered through an economic lens, with bottom line considerations of worker productivity driving climate-adaptation efforts. We have to see extreme heat as an amplifier of social inequality and marginalisation, and extreme heat on women, particularly pregnant ones, is also more adverse. We know the solutions (heat-resilient urban infrastructure, greenhouse gas reduction, holistic farm policies that acknowledge women's challenges in a climate-stressed world, etc). But what will make us implement them? Perhaps our policymakers should closely watch the election across the border, unfolding in extreme heat, with collapsing candidates and stalled campaigning.

Early evidence shows that heatwaves alter voter preferences, with ballots going to those with proactive plans for building agricultural resilience and planning irrigation. If money couldn't get us to plan better for extreme heat, maybe politics will? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ECC approves Rs 4272 million TSGs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Monday approved Technical Supplementary Grants (TSGs) of Rs 4,272.422 million for various divisions and ministries.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting.

The cabinet

committee approved Rs 2.363 million for the payment of troops costs / subsistence allowance for the Ministry of Interior and Rs 200 million for Intelligence Bureau Division.

Likewise, the ECC also approved Rs 19.373 million for the Ministry of Law & Justice and Rs 4,050.686 for Strategic Plans Division / SUPARCO to meet the requirements of the project titled "Pakistan Multi-

Mission Communication Satellite System".

Furthermore, the proposal of the Ministry of Industries & Production to allow SNGPL based plants to operate for a period of 6 months starting from March 31, 2024 till September 20, 2024 was approved by the committee, to ensure smooth supply of urea fertilizer for Kharif season.

According to the statement, the meeting was attended by the Minister

for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan; Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari; Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik; Minister for Industries & Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Khan Cheema; Minister of State for Finance & Revenue, Ali Pervez Malik; Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, Federal Secretaries, and other senior officials of the relevant ministries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presiding over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).



Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by the Ambassador of USA to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Donald Blome in Islamabad

Pak, Netherlands negotiate on economy, trade for eyeing new investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Netherlands on Monday discussed the opportunities for economic and trade ties and also eye new investment opportunities for increasing the bilateral economic ties.

Netherlands Ambassador to Pakistan, Henny Fokel De Vries called on Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan. Both discussed to deepen the trade relations, said a press release issued.

The Ambassador appreciated the role of Minister of Commerce in coordinating and support for resolving the issues of Dutch

companies. Minister Jam Kamal Khan requested to renew the technical programs like CBI and PUM for benefits of SMEs in Pakistan.

He also extended an invitation to the Dutch Minister for Trade to visit Pakistan along with a business delegation as many Dutch companies are operating in Pakistan.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's significant potential in various sectors, including renewable energy, services, agriculture, IT, human resources, fisheries, and textiles.

China's industrial profits swing back to growth in April

ANKARA (AA/APP): China's industrial profit posted an increase in April, reversing a decline in March, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

Profits at China's industrial companies rose 4% at an annualized pace in April, compared with March's 3.5% decrease which ended seven consecutive months of rises. April's uptick was led by the government's stimulus measures which came into effect to boost the economy and a recovery in exports.

In January-April, industrial profit went up by 4.3% from a year ago to 2.09 trillion yuan (\$289 billion).

Rs 300 bln interest free loans to be given to farmers: Saqib Ateel

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture south Punjab Saqib Ateel said that interest free loans worth Rs 300 billion would be given to farmers in order to enhance agricultural productivity.

He said this in the "Meet the Press" event of the local Press Club, here on Monday. The secretary agriculture south Punjab stated that overall Rs 400 billion would be spent under the Transforming Agriculture Punjab project.

The loans will be given with collaboration of Bank of the Punjab, he informed. About 0.5 million farmers will obtain these loans, he hinted. He also maintained that 7,000 tubewells would be energized through the solar system. Huge amounts will also be spent on brick-lining of the 7300 water courses. Similarly, services of the 500 agri-graduates will be hired for promotion of the agriculture sector, said Saqib.

Pak economic downfall, Indian development started in 1990s: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that the journey of Pakistan's economic downfall and Indian development started in the early 1990s.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said India went almost bankrupt in 1991 and borrowed against the entire country's gold to start a serious economic development effort.

Speakers for dedicated track, trace system to bring informal sector into tax net

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a pre-budget consultative session Monday urged the government to ensure a dedicated track and trace system to bring the retailers and businesses from the informal sectors into the tax net to generate revenue from untaxed sectors.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized the consultative discussion titled "Pre-Budget Seminar: Tax Reforms in

Agriculture, Retail and Real Estate Sectors".

Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI underlined that it was imperative to unearth the bottlenecks in paying taxes. He added that these sectors were willing to pay taxes and it was necessary to consider their suggestions in the policy-making processes.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawri, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, and Industry (ICCI) said the retail sector

was paying taxes in the country, but it was crucial to integrate the retailers who were not part of the system.

He urged the government to develop a proper track and trace system that could identify the non-tax paying retailers who were doing billions of rupees annual business but did not pay taxes.

He said that products should not be supplied to retailers who lack NTN or national tax numbers.

Gold rates up by Rs 800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 800 and was sold at Rs 240,800 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 240,000 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 686 to Rs 205,761 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 189,243 from Rs 188,615, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

CDNS collects Rs 1.5tln targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained a target of Rs1.515 trillion in fresh bonds and achieved 85 percent of the annual target in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to May 26th.

The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.742 trillion for the year 2023-24, in which it is encouraging that 85 percent of the target has been achieved, and it is hoped that

National Savings will surpass its annual target this FY 2023-24, the senior official of CDNS told APP on Monday.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, he said.

He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

Youm-e-Takbeer: A proud day for nation

Youm-e-Takbeer: the day PAEC made the nation proud



By **Muhammad Aftab Alam**

May 28 has a special significance in the life of every Pakistani. On this day, the scientists, engineers and technicians of PAEC achieved the unachievable and delivered what they had promised in the form of five nuclear blasts at Chaghi in Balochistan, making the nation's defense unconquerable. Besides some known names who contributed in this herculean task through unmatched contributions for the country's security, there were numerous unsung heroes who worked day and night towards achieving this unbelievable mission by a developing country.

PAEC has so far established nineteen (19) Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECHs) located in all provinces and major cities of the country while the 20th cancer hospital at Muzaffarabad, AJ&K, is under construction. These hospitals are helping the government in catering to the healthcare needs of cancer-affected patients in the country by providing diagnostic and therapeutic facilities. PAEC-managed cancer hospitals provide diagnostic and therapeutic facilities to patients at subsidized rates by dint of support from Patient Welfare Society (PWS) of the hospitals and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM).

In the field of international cooperation and promotion of the culture of sharing and learning from fellow scientists' research, PAEC started conducting annual meetings of researchers and scientists in Pakistan. A brainchild of the Nobel Laureate of Pakistani origin, Dr. Abdul Salam, the idea of holding the annual

at CERN and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Pakistan became Associate Member State of CERN on July 31, 2015, the only Asian country to attain this position at that time. Pakistan ratified the status agreement with CERN on August 26, 2015.

In the use of nuclear energy for generating electricity, PAEC is currently operating six nuclear power plants (NPPs), including Karachi Nuclear Power Plants Unit-2 & Unit-3 commonly known as K-2 and K-3 in Karachi; and C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 NPPs in Chashma, Mianwali. These plants are collectively producing over 3500 megawatts (MWs) of electricity.

Advantages of nuclear power generated electricity include low per unit cost of generation, all-year-round availability, and no emissions of greenhouse gases, besides being critically important from energy-security point of view.

As a responsible nuclear state, a founding member of the IAEA and

Four PAEC agriculture research centers have been established in the three provinces of Pakistan having a major share of the cultivatable land in the country. Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA) in Tando Jam, established in 1962 was the first such institute followed by Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), in Faisalabad; Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), in Peshawar and National Institute for Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering (NIBGE), in Faisalabad.

So far, these PAEC-run agriculture centers have developed and evolved more than one hundred and fifty (150) crop varieties for Pakistan. For utilization of marginal lands, PAEC has developed technology for the utilization of salt-affected lands and this technology is being provided not only to the local farmers but also at international level.

These centers also have a fair share in human resource development through training courses, workshops and internships. These courses equally benefit researchers, students and academia from various research organizations and universities. NIAB and NIBGE in Faisalabad are also affiliated with Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) - the leading university of the country, for award of MPhil and PhD degrees in Biology and Biotechnology.

Taking a big step towards agriculture industrialization and commercialization, PAEC recently organized a huddle of agricultural scientists, agriculturists and business leaders in the field of agriculture. The Agriculture symposium cum exhibition was organized at NIAB and NIBGE institutes in Faisalabad.

Titled "Cultivate Innovation to Harvest Business Growth", the two-day event was sponsored by Support Industries and Technologies (SITECH), in line with Government's Green Pakistan Initiative. Its ultimate aim was to commercialize and popularize the latest technical advancements in the field of agriculture and biotechnology.

Leading agricultural experts and researchers from seed companies, progressive farmers, corporate sectors, researchers, academia from agri and biotech fields and representatives from government, Fongrow Coy and FFC also participated. The participants appreciated the event and they hoped that organizers will provide more such opportunities of establishing linkages among agricultural researchers, farmers and allied departments as well as businesses, in future.

Although PAEC is striving to prove a catalyst in all key areas of national development, May 28 will always remain a feather in its cap as it made Pakistanis hold their heads high with pride. - The writer is a PR practitioner. He can be reached at joumalistinmaking@gmail.com



Nuclear Technologyan imperative for national defense and development

By **Saima Durrani**

The famous lines of US president John F Kennedy uttered half a century ago "Ask not what your country can do for you-ask what you can do for your country" may seem bit clichéd now but the devotional pledge and undercurrents of selfless service embodied in his statement can still inspire anyone anywhere in the world eager to serve one's motherland.

This notion of selfless service should resonate rather well with us who are still striving to achieve the cherished dream of seeing a prosperous Pakistan among the comity of nations.

Pakistan today faces formidable social, economic, and security challenges. Many nations have faced similar challenges in history and successfully turned them into opportunities through dedicated commitment of self less hard working individuals. Once effectively addressed, our challenges likewise offer unprecedented opportunities for transformational progress.

And if this dedication is coupled with capability in science and technology, the real engine for economic growth, we have the recipe for success at our hands. Science and technology (S&T) are fundamental for social and economic progress in developing countries as they have been central in the progress and development of virtually all the nations of the world. Nuclear technology, a top notch specialty in its own domain offers a wide array of applications leading to the development push we all aspire. Moreover, in today's geo-political scenario, the strategic and defense portfolio of any country is measured up against its potential economic viability. And it is the growth of this nexus of strong economy and defense which can guarantee a prosperous country.

It was no mere coincidence that despite initial problems, as early as 1956, an S&T set up the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission PAEC was established by the farsighted leaders to make use of the international trend of atoms for peace initiative of American president Eisenhower. This organization not only provided the scientific thrust intended for national development in agriculture, human health, energy & industry but also delivered when asked to make the motherland's defense impregnable.

The Commission now holds sway over utilization of nuclear technology for a wide array of national development initiatives. Incidentally these initiatives are also key tools used to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Out of the 17 SDGs of UN agenda, PAEC contributes to 11 of them

through its dedicated setup of laboratories and institutes.

As nuclear technology is the most innovative way to improve agriculture practices, PAEC never lagged behind in this arena and recruited its first biologist way back in 1958 which was followed by the establishment of Radiobiology Division in early 60's at Atomic Energy Centre, Lahore.

Subsequently, first full-fledged Atomic Energy Agriculture Research Center was established in 1962 at Tandojam which was followed by Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) in 1972 at Faisalabad, Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) at Peshawar in 1982 and National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) in 1994.

The Commission took lead in utilizing nuclear technology to improve productivity by developing new crop varieties, pest control technologies, plant nutri-

and genetically modified organisms.

Likewise, at Pakistan Radiation Services (PARAS), a subsidiary of PAEC, a 10 MeV, 20 kW E-Beam plant caters for sterilization of healthcare products manufacturing as well as fulfilling the requirements of export food items to Australia, America, New Zealand, and other European countries.

In the human health domain, PAEC has been providing services in cancer care through use of radiation since 1960s. PAEC's 60 years' experience of designing, executing and operating cancer hospitals has resulted in 19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECHs) throughout Pakistan. One more hospital is under construction at Muzaffarabad, AJK. Patients receive high quality diagnostic and treatment facilities here.

AECHs are equipped with latest SPECT-CT Gamma Cameras, PET-CT Scanners, Cyclotrons, Radioisotope therapy and

C-2, C-3, & C-4) of cumulative 1,330 Mwe capacity are located at the Chashma Nuclear Power Generating Station (CNPGS). Ground breaking for another similar plant named C-5 at Chashma has also taken place.

Two NPPs (i.e., K-2 & K-3) of the total 2,200 Mwe capacity are operating near paradise point of mega polis Karachi. K-2 is operating commercially since May, 2021 and K-3 since April, 2022. During the year 2023, these six nuclear power plants supplied 22,372 million kWh to NTDC system.

An elaborate and diversified engineering set up of PAEC successfully caters to design, manufacturing & testing of mechanical equipment for medium and heavy industries in accordance with the International Codes and Standards especially for Power Plants, Chemical and Petrochemical Plants and other Industrial Projects for itself and the national industry. These setups are well equipped with modern engineering manufacturing and fabrication facilities geared toward attaining excellence.

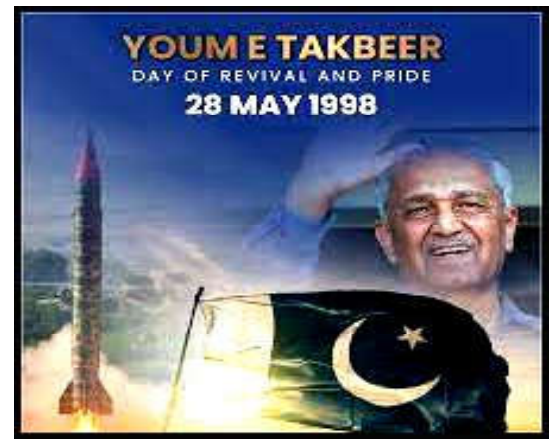
A set up of PAEC, viz Heavy mechanical complex-3, HMC-3 is one of the largest industrial projects in the heavy engineering sector of Pakistan. One of PAEC entity National Centre for Non-Destructive Testing (NCNDT) is providing, inspection, testing, training, calibration, qualification, certification, condition assessment and root cause analysis services to PAEC and national industry to meet the requirements in accordance with local and international standards.

International collaboration is highly valued by PAEC and this aspect is covered mainly through technical cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA, European Organization for Nuclear Research CERN and other such organizations and also the scientific discourses of International Nathiagali Summer College INSC which help its manpower both personnel as well as students of its Human Resource Development institutes to engage with the latest technologies and add to their technical acumen.

Even this cursory summary of the scope and achievements of the organization presented here makes it clear that PAEC is uniquely placed to cater to national needs of both socio-economic development and strategic edge. Whereas this special occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer calls for renewing the self less dedication of PAEC personnel to remain motivated and strive to excel in both domains of national development in future as well, it also reiterates the critical support needed from all relevant stakeholders if we pledge to serve our nation and see it prosper.

PAEC currently operates six nuclear power plants at two sites generating 10 percent of electricity through nuclear of the country's total and almost a quarter of its low-carbon electricity. Nuclear power generation is economically competitive in the power market of Pakistan. Among these six, four NPPs (C-1,

unable to convince them not to carry out the nuclear test (Daily Dawn, June 6, 2004, Sharif Government refused to receive USN-delegation). Seventeen days before the nuclear devices were detonated, were very difficult, for the PM, Ministers and Army Chief to sustain external pressure not to detonate especially from USA. On 27 May a day before tests US President called the PM about five times not to carry out tests and used carrot and stick (Sartaj Aziz, Between Dreams and Realities, p194). In the decision making process, the government also sought the views of retired defence and eco-



Apart from defense, PAEC is also the torchbearer in ensuring sustainable development for the country in all spheres of life by using nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in line with its 'Atoms for Peace and Development' mandate, supports countries in their efforts to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many countries use nuclear science and technology to contribute to and meet their development objectives in areas including energy, human health, food production, water management and environmental protection.

Being member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA, Pakistan has been utilizing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes since the inception of PAEC, which has contributed immensely in achieving the SDGs.

meeting of topnotch researchers and scientists of the world in Pakistan was adopted by the then Chairman Muneer Ahmed Khan and his successor Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad and all successive chairmen of PAEC.

International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs' has been organized every year since 1976, mostly at the scenic hill resort of Nathiagali. So far, 7 Nobel laureates and 41000 scientists, out of which 1000 were foreigners, from 72 countries have participated in the annual springs of scientists in Pakistan to exchange valuable knowledge with their local colleagues and science students.

Owing to the untiring efforts of PAEC scientists, engineers, technicians and researchers, Pakistan is proudly an Associate Member of European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and scientists from the country are actively participating in various research activities

an emerging player in the field of nuclear power generation, Pakistan takes pride in ensuring impeccable security arrangements at all of its nuclear power plants. Stringent entry protocols in the form of controlled access of personnel and retina identification for entry at the power plants are some of the measures that help ensure authorized access only.

As per international best practices in the field of nuclear power, Emergency Preparedness Measures are well in place for timely intervention at these power plants. The safety and security are the two highlights of nuclear power plants operating in the country.

PAEC has taken the lead in utilizing nuclear technology to improve productivity of agriculture sector through the introduction of new crop varieties, pest control technologies, plant nutrition, water management, animal health and productivity and food decontamination and preser-

ship or was it thrust upon it by the military. The DCC meeting was held on 13 May chaired by the PM, attended by Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Interior Minister, Chairman JCSC, and Services Chiefs. In addition Dr. A Q Khan and Dr. Samar Mubarakmand attended as reps of KRL and PAEC respectively. A lot of deliberations had taken place to decide appropriate response. The opportunity provided by India to become nuclear state and the economic challenges were pondered thoroughly. The meeting was like a war cabinet taking the decision in a crisis mode where the DCC members were evaluating all the implications of testing, under tremendous economic and international pressures. It was virtually an undeclared emergency situation. Armed forces were alerted for extra safe guards of the

Comprehensively deliberated decision for Youme-e-Takbeer

By **Dr Anjum Sarfraz**

India surprised the world on 11 May 1998 by conducting three nuclear underground explosions and two on 13 May. The PM of India very proudly announced that we have become sixth nuclear weapon state and should be treated by the world as such. At the same time, Indian stance towards Pakistan became aggressive. The senior Indian hierarchy started giving provocative statements. The Indian Home Minister L.K Advani made a statement of Indian intention to cross the LoC under the pretext of hot pursuit. The Corps Cdr in Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IOJK) held an unprecedented news conference and advocated his plans to attack Azad Kashmir across the LoC. As a declared nuclear state and almost negligible international reaction, India was

clearly placed in a better position than Pakistan.

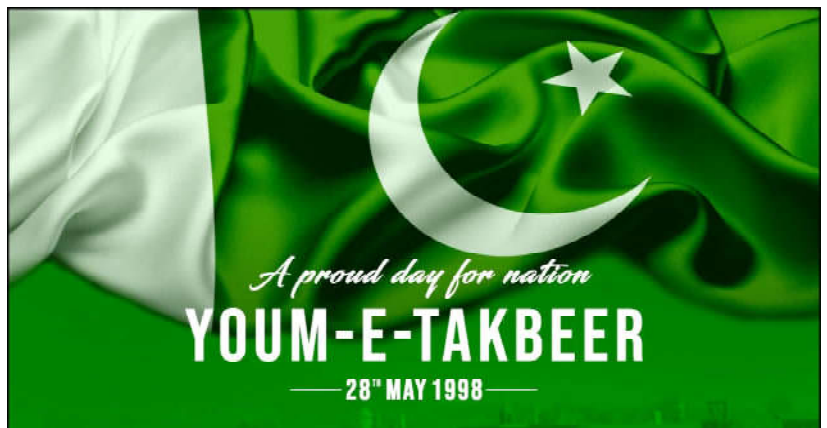
The PM, Nawaz Sharif, was on official visit to Kazakhstan. He talked to Gen Jehangir Karamat, Chairman JCSC and COAS, it was decided to hold a meeting of Defence Committee of Cabinet (DCC) upon his arrival. However, according to Naeem Salik, (The Genesis of South Asia Nuclear Deterrence: Pakistan's Perspective p141) Gen Karamat's account of the event is little different. The PM called General and told him to start preparations for the test. He suggested the PM to return to Pakistan as soon as possible, and then the decision would be taken after deliberation in DCC, the institution designed to deliberate and take such decisions. It is relevant to clarify speculation about whether the decision was taken by political leader-

ship or was it thrust upon it by the military. The DCC meeting was held on 13 May chaired by the PM, attended by Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Interior Minister, Chairman JCSC, and Services Chiefs. In addition Dr. A Q Khan and Dr. Samar Mubarakmand attended as reps of KRL and PAEC respectively. A lot of deliberations had taken place to decide appropriate response. The opportunity provided by India to become nuclear state and the economic challenges were pondered thoroughly. The meeting was like a war cabinet taking the decision in a crisis mode where the DCC members were evaluating all the implications of testing, under tremendous economic and international pressures. It was virtually an undeclared emergency situation. Armed forces were alerted for extra safe guards of the

ported the option of going for nuclear. Also Finance Minister was tasked to evaluate the effect of sanctions and for development of contingency plan in consultation with the concerned ministries and state bank. It was proposed conversion of foreign currency accounts into Rupee at official exchange rate (About \$ 7bn). Banks to offer attractive rates on these rupee accounts. The PM gave the 'final go ahead' on 18 May to Chairman PAEC to carry out tests. All parties conference was called on 24 May by PM to inform about the decision of detonation which was unanimously supported (CISS

Insight Special Issue on Youme e Takbeer p27-30). The President of USA Bill Clinton had telephoned the PM, a few times and offered lucrative economic packages. At the same time he elucidated the difficulties to be faced as economic sanctions. In addition President of USA, sent a delegation headed by Mr. Strobe Talbot, the then Deputy Secretary of State, and General Anthony Zinni, head of US Central Command to persuade Pakistan not to respond. The delegation was initially declined but later allowed to visit Pakistan. It met several times the PM, his Ministers, Gen Jehangir Karamat but was

unable to convince them not to carry out the nuclear test (Daily Dawn, June 6, 2004, Sharif Government refused to receive USN-delegation). Seventeen days before the nuclear devices were detonated, were very difficult, for the PM, Ministers and Army Chief to sustain external pressure not to detonate especially from USA. On 27 May a day before tests US President called the PM about five times not to carry out tests and used carrot and stick (Sartaj Aziz, Between Dreams and Realities, p194). In the decision making process, the government also sought the views of retired defence and eco-



Joint plan chalked out to sort out power pilferage, load-shedding, recovery issues in KP: Awais

KP, Federal gov't agree to cooperate for eliminating load shedding, reducing electricity line losses: Gandapur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Monday said a comprehensive plan has been devised in collaboration with Chief Minister Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to sort out issues related to power pilferage, load-shedding and recovery from the defaulters.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur here, Awais Leghari said the plan would be finalized by tomorrow, adding the model which was devised for KP would also be replicated in the other provinces.

He said line losses and power theft issues in the country would be addressed jointly.

Lauding the Interior Minister for playing a key role in this regard, he said the federal and provincial departments would jointly work to sort out issues per-

taining to load-shedding, power theft and recovery. The power load-shedding could be over-powered through elimination of power pilferage, he said.

The minister said PTI, PML-N and allied parties jointly took a step to revive the country's economy. Praising the CM KP, he said that today all political parties have recognized the Pakistan's agenda. Under the plan, parliamentarians and general public would be involved to create awareness among the masses about elimination of power theft and payment of outstanding dues. Meanwhile Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur Monday said that the federal and provincial governments have agreed to eliminate load shedding, recover electricity dues, and reduce line losses from the province aiming to provide relief to the people of the province.

Speaking to the media, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, accompanied by Minister for Energy Sarfaraz Awais Khan Leghari and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, he said that a formal agreement between the federal government and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be signed soon.

Gandapur mentioned that ongoing discussions with the Federation concerning load shedding in KP have led us to meet and resolve the issue. He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was not against the institutions. He has no differences with Governor KP. He stated that the people of KP have demanded that despite the province generating electricity for the entire country, they continue to face increased load shedding. He assured addressing electricity arrears and launching a community-based campaign to minimize line losses.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by Abdul Rehman Al Raheem Al Nooriyani, Chairman Eisalat Int'l Pakistan accompanied by Hatem Bamatraf, CEO & President PTCL/Ufone.

Pakistan calls for Gaza ceasefire, relief for besieged Palestinians at Islamic convention in a US city

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and a surge in urgently needed humanitarian assistance for the suffering Palestinians in the war-torn enclave who, he said, were being pushed from one location to another in search of safety.

Addressing the 49th Convention organized by Muslim bodies — ICNA and MAS—in Baltimore, Maryland, he urged the United States to demonstrate leadership in ensuring the implementation of two-state solution to resolve the deadly Middle East crisis. The annual three-day convention is be-

ing attended by thousands of Muslims from across the United States and other parts of the world.

Israel's deadly war in Gaza, now in its eighth month, has killed nearly 36,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. Around 80% of the population's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, severe hunger is widespread and U.N. officials say parts of the territory are experiencing famine.

Pretoria brought against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"You deserve admiration of entire international community. The comity of nations respects you as a standard-bearer for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination," he told the gathering where a special award was presented to a representative of South Africa for backing the Palestinian cause.

Earlier, Dr. Mohsin Ansari, President of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), said that South Africa "stood up, raised its voice for the Palestinians, went to ICJ and showed the world what courage, justice and truth means."

Chairman PRCS visits Pak Embassy in Kuwait

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari Monday visited the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait. He was warmly received by Malik Muhammad Feroq, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, along with the Deputy Head of Mission and senior embassy staff, said a press release.

During his meeting with Ambassador Feroq, Chairman Laghari acknowledged the significant support from Kuwait, which has been crucial for Pakistan's development and progress.

He highlighted the longstanding humanitarian partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), which has greatly aided the PRCS's efforts over the years.

First Hajj flight departs from Sukkur Airport

SUKKUR (APP): The first Hajj flight of PIA carrying pilgrims under the government Hajj scheme departed for Saudi Arabia via Karachi on Monday from Begum Nusurat Bhatto Airport Sukkur.

PPP senior leader, MNA, Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, officials of the Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Auqaf, airport staff and family members of pilgrims saw them off at the airport.

A flight transported 63 Hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia from Sukkur via Karachi flight.

DC visits schools of Tehsil Daur

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon visited the schools established in the backward areas of Tehsil Daur and reviewed the ongoing educational activities.

He said that teachers should pay special attention to the education and training of children.

Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon urged all the teachers to take steps to increase the enrollment of children.

Three injured among five robbers held with arms

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested five robbers including three injured during separate actions in Karachi and Kandiaro on Monday.

According to details, police approached three-member gang of robbers engaged in looting the citizens in North Nazimabad area of Karachi. An exchange of fire took place in which one robber was injured and all three robbers were arrested.

The detainees included Asif Ali, Rizwan Ali and another. Arms and looting valuables were recovered from their possession.

Umme Rabab visits residence of martyred journalist Nasrullah

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro
MIRPUR MATHELO: Condolences to the heirs of the martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani of Mirpur Mathelo continue, Umme Rabab Chandio, Sardar Nazir Ahmed Khan Lound Edhi's team reached the village of Qabool Gadani and condoled

Naqvi laid the foundation stone of housing project for police martyrs families

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Monday laid the foundation stone of Mubeen Cottages Project for the families of martyrs of Islamabad Police.

Mohsin Naqvi's good initiative for the families of police martyrs resolved the long-standing issue of accommodation for the families of 64 martyrs of Islamabad Police after 43 years.

5 marble houses will be constructed in Chak Segu Rawalpindi's NPF sego forms for families of 64

martyrs. Mohsin Naqvi distributed allotment letters of plots to the families of police martyrs.

He went to the seat of an elderly woman and gave her the allotment letter words of comfort.

It is our responsibility to take care of the families of martyrs, said Mohsin Naqvi adding this work is not a favor to the families of the martyrs. It was their right.

He said that this work cannot pay even a single drop of blood of martyrs.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with MNA Jam Abdul Karim Bijar during meeting held at Provincial Assembly CM Chamber in Karachi.

Masood commends S.Africa's support for Palestinians' rights

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Masood Khan said the world considers South Africa as a standard bearer of rights of Palestinians.

Addressing an event in Baltimore, he called for immediate and permanent ceasefire and relief for the people of Gaza.

He urged the United States to demonstrate leadership to ensure that two-state solution becomes a reality.

Masood Khan commended the Islamic Circle of North America for its role in promoting unity and harmony across the globe.

He said ICNA's influence extends beyond the US borders, with chapters present in North America and around the world.

Teachers provide professional training to students: DC Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa participated in the last day of the professional training ceremony for IBA teachers on Monday.

He said that this was a good practice and it was time that the teachers should give better education to the students and provide professional training to them.

He said that the students will be able to shape

their future by getting better and quality education and will play an important role in the development of the country, all the credit goes to the education and hard work given by the teachers.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Larkana also distributed certificates among the teachers taking the training. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Larkana Government Boys High School Kehar.

Umme Rabab visits residence of martyred journalist Nasrullah

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro
MIRPUR MATHELO: Condolences to the heirs of the martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani of Mirpur Mathelo continue, Umme Rabab Chandio, Sardar Nazir Ahmed Khan Lound Edhi's team reached the village of Qabool Gadani and condoled

with the heirs. According to the details, condolence is continuing with the heirs of martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani of Mirpur Mathelo. On reaching, he condoled with the heirs. On this occasion, Saad Edhi returned the air ambulance fare of Rs Nine lack.



MIRPUR MATHELO: Umme Rubab Chandio offers condolences with the heirs of Journalist Nasrullah Gadani at his residence in Mirpur Mathelo.

KP gov't should assist Centre for a successful IMF deal: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said that the efforts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to spoil the relationship between the IMF and Pakistan are condemnable. In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that during past some elements have tried their best to bankrupt Pakistan several times but they have failed and will fail again.

Mian Zahid Hussain said rulers should take strict action because the country's interests cannot be sacrificed for someone's political wishes.

He said that the government had improved the economic situation with great difficulty, for which the people had to make huge sacrifices. Still, some unscrupulous elements want to frustrate these efforts for cheap fame, he added. He further stated that conspiracies were being hatched in this regard; therefore, authorities should remain vigilant and cautious.

The business leader said that participation of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur in the SIFC meeting and assurance of cooperation on national issues are welcome. Still, it was inappropriate for the provincial government to present the budget before the federal government, he

noted. He said that to get the country out of its difficult economic situation, the IMF needs to provide a long-term package. The IMF wants to guarantee the implementation of its policies and ensure that the whole country is on the same page.

Implementing the IMF's preconditions fully was necessary to demonstrate goodwill and allow PTI to return to the national mainstream.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that further aggravating the situation would not yield any benefits, and added that the provincial government of KPK can secure facilities for PTI leadership by making positive contributions to national affairs.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain offering condolences with the Iranian ambassador on tragic demise of Iranian president, foreign minister and other officials.

Sindh Ombudsman announces new measures for public complaints management

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Ombudsman, Muhammad Sohail Rajput Monday announced that the Ombudsman's Office was dedicated to provide affordable justice to the public by addressing maladministration in provincial departments and civic institutions.

To enhance the efficiency of handling complaints, a new Complaint Management System (CMS) will be implemented within a few months and this system will allow citizens to file complaints online and track the status of their complaints, ensuring transparency and accountability.

During a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club, Sohail Rajput informed that a mobile application was also being prepared and would be

launched in two months, which would enable citizens to submit complaints via their mobile devices.

Describing the background of the institution, he explained that the Sindh Provincial Ombudsman Office was established in 1991, followed by similar institutions in other provinces across the country.

The Regional Office in Hyderabad has received approximately 6,000 applications to date, of which around 5,000 have been resolved.

He added that the Ombudsman's offices were operational throughout the province.

Sohail Rajput noted that about 70% of the Ombudsman's decisions had been implemented, though some decisions encountered delayed due to unavoidable complications.



HYDERABAD: Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, Muhammad Sohail Rajput addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

GC Alumnae decides to establish state-of-the-art hospital in Hyderabad

KARACHI (APP): The Alumnae Association Government College has decided to establish best quality state of the art hospital in Hyderabad to provide free of cost medical facilities to under served population of the second largest city of Sindh province.

This was stated in a press release issued by the Karachi chapter of the Alumnae Association Government College Hyderabad here on Monday.

The initiative was spearheaded during a meeting of the Karachi chapter of the Alumnae held here under the leadership of Iqbal Qureshi, the Executive Director of Indus Hospital for Global Resource Development while Pervaiz Ahmed played a pivotal role in deliberations, offering invaluable insights during comprehensive discussions concerning the pro-

posed healthcare facilities. Embracing a vision of progress and accessibility, the meeting endorsed plans ranging from the establishment of a primary health center to the development of a sprawling tertiary care hospital.

To expedite the implementation of this visionary endeavor, a dedicated committee has been convened, Amin Yousuf will be the coordinator, while the members include are Parvez Ahmed, Dr. Nafees, Faheem Qureshi, Ayoub Shaikh and Nadeem Mirza.

In a gesture of unwavering generosity, Iqbal Qureshi, the patron-in-Chief of the Alumnae Association, expressed a heartfelt willingness to donate a multimillion-rupee building to the cause, should esteemed institutions like Indus Hospital express interest.

PMSA seizes massive drug haul at sea

KARACHI (APP): In a significant intelligence-based operation, the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), in collaboration with the Directorate of Customs Intelligence, Karachi, has seized a substantial quantity of drugs on the high seas.

A spokesman for the PMSA reported on Monday that the joint operation resulted in the interception of a boat carrying 675 kilograms of methamphetamine, commonly known as "Ice," on May 23. The drugs were expertly concealed in various compartments of the vessel.

During the operation, seven crew members aboard the boat were arrested. Both the arrested individuals and the confiscated drugs have been handed over to the Directorate of Customs Intelligence in Karachi for further legal proceedings.

Woman killed of strayed bullet, hanged body found from house

KARACHI (INP): A woman was killed of strayed bullet and hanged body of man was found house while another person injured in firing incident in different localities of Karachi, police said on Monday.

According to details, a strayed bullet hit in head of a woman in Gulshan-e-Iqbal area which proved fatal. Hanged body of a man was recovered a house in Mehmoodabad area. It couldn't not be ascertained whether the man committed suicide or he was murdered.

Missing four year-old Ayesha recovered after months in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The four-year-old girl reportedly went missing on August 14, 2023, from the Numaish roundabout recovered after months from Karachi's Surjani Town area.

The police officials in a statement revealed that the missing child was residing with a family in the Surjani Town area of Karachi. Ayesha's mother, along with the family—taking care of the minor girl for the past 3-4 months—from Surjani [New Lyari area], reached the Azzabab Police Station to report her recovery.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presenting allotment letter of home to the mother of a martyr.

DIG stresses to formulate strategy to recover stolen & snatched bikes, vehicles from citizens

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Inspector General Sukkur Region, Pir Muhammad Shah on Monday chaired a meeting held at his office to review the law and order situation in the Sukkur city.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukkur, Amjad Shaikh briefed the DIGP about the law and order in the district specially Sukkur city. He informed the DIG about the steps taken to recover stolen and snatching of motorcycles and vehicles of the citizens as well maintain law and order since has has taken charge as SSP.

DIG Pir Muhammad Shah

stressed to formulate a comprehensive strategy regarding stolen of motorcycles and vehicles, adding that provision of free and fair justice to the people was his prime priority. He said that police officers could play vital role in bridging the gap between police and public by providing timely justice and ensuring the safety of lives and properties of citizens.

DIG Sukkur directed that comprehensive and actionable suggestions should be made to strengthen the IS Emergency, Complaint and Response System and to make it compatible with the requirements of public interest.



KARACHI: Traders, shopkeepers and residents of Saddar Town block road burn tyres and bushes as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding during the extreme hot weather of summer season, nearby Saddar Empress Market in Karachi.