

Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 208 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday September 07, 2024, Rabi-ul-Awwal 02, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Calls for national unity

Do not let political differences turn into hatred, says Army Chief

General Asim Munir says the people of KP and Balochistan rendered "unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terrorism; Martyrs are the nation's identity and their families are a source of pride for Pakistan



marks the victory of the Pakistani military during the 1965 war against India, a day of national pride and remembrance. General Munir stated that the September 6 holds a "prominent position" in both national and military history. He lauded the spirit of national unity and solidarity displayed by the Pakistani people and armed forces during the war, which

thwarted the enemy's ambitions and protected the homeland. The COAS emphasized that this same spirit of unity continues to drive the Pakistan Army in its defence of the nation's borders. In his message, General Munir paid homage to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the country. "We salute the brave officers and men of Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives for the motherland," he said, highlighting the Pakistan Army's commitment to ensuring the sanctity and protection of martyrs and their families. "Our martyrs are our top priority, and we will continue to safeguard their honour."

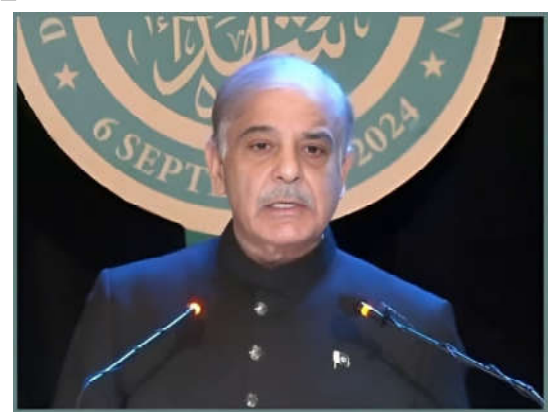
The army chief reiterated that the motto of the Pakistan Army—"Faith, Piety, and Jihad"—remains its greatest strength, enabling the military to counter any threats from enemies. He praised the unmatched bravery and professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces, not just in conventional warfare but also in countering the scourge of terrorism. General Munir spoke about the ongoing fight against terrorism, noting that Pakistan's forces have achieved remarkable success in controlling the threat, which has no parallel globally. "The army of any other country has not been able to achieve the success with which our forces have contained the menace of terrorism," he stated, adding that thanks to the efforts of the security forces and law enforcement agencies, today Pakistan stands safe from instability. However, the COAS also highlighted new and emerging challenges such as "digital terrorism" and the so-called 5th-generation warfare. He warned that these forms of terrorism, driven by the collaboration of foreign and anti-national elements, are more dangerous and complex than traditional terrorism.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with senior military officials and crew of Pakistan Navy Ship Hunain during its induction ceremony.

PM resolves to continue operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij till complete eradication

RAWALPINDI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, pledging to continue the ongoing operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij until their complete eradication. "All our armed forces and law enforcing agencies will continue their operation for which there is a national consensus," he said while addressing a ceremony held here at General Headquarters (GHQ) in connection with Defence Day. Paying rich tributes to the valiant sons of soil and brave heroes of Armed Forces who fearlessly fought, and defeated the enemy that attacked our motherland across the international border on 6 September 1965.



Despite their numerical advantage, the prime minister said the enemy designs were thwarted by the valiant Armed Forces and were handed an unforgettable defeat, on all fronts. He saluted the families of Shuhada, whose immense resilience and strength continued to inspire the nation. The prime minister emphasized that divisions within the nation posed threat to the country's integrity and any movement in the country aimed at weakening the state will not be tolerated at any cost. "Abuse or bullets are not solution to the issues," he said stressing the need of unity among the nation. The prime minister said all Pakistanis were responsible to ensure development, peace and stability in the country. "We might be in different fields but our goal is only one that is development, integrity and security of Pakistan."



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairs the first meeting of the Planning Commission's Policy Board.

Major relief for government as SC unanimously restores NAB Amendment Bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday restored the amendments in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law while accepting the intra court appeals of federal government. The court declared that the petitioner PTI founder couldn't prove that the amendments were against the Constitution. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pronounced the verdict which was reserved by a five member bench of the top court on June 6, after hearing arguments from the respondents. Justices including Amin Ud Din Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Athar Minallah and Hasan Azhar Rizvi were the part of the bench as well. In a 16-pages written order, the court said: "The Ordinance was enacted thirty-four days after Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf forcibly assumed power after he was sacked. He overthrew the constitutional-democratic order, and bestowed on himself legislative and executive powers, and removed the judges of the superior courts who did not endorse his takeover."

The court said that three amendments had been made in the Ordinance which include NAB (Amendment) Act, 2022, NAB (2nd Amendment) Act, 2022, and 3rd NAB (Amendment) Act, 2023. The 3rd Amendment was in the field when the Petition was heard (six hearings took place after its promulgation) yet the impugned judgment did not attend to it and created an anomalous situation. The judgment said: "We allow these appeals by setting aside the impugned judgment, and dismiss the Petition. However, there is no order as to costs."

The order read: "The Constitution has set out the respective roles of the Legislature and that of the Judiciary and every care should be taken to ensure that neither encroaches onto the domain of the other. Constitutional institutions better serve the people when they respect each other and perform the functions respectively granted to them by the Constitution. The Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court are not the gatekeepers of Parliament." It said: "The Supreme Court whenever possible must try to uphold legislation rather than rush to strike it down, and if there be two or more interpretations to adopt the interpretation which upholds it. The petition and the impugned judgment failed to establish that the Amendments were unconstitutional, nor have we been so persuaded in this regard."

President for stronger Navy to protect Pakistan's geo-economic interests

KARACHI (APP) - President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday called for making the Pakistan Navy further stronger in order to protect the geo-economic interests and defend maritime frontiers of the country. Welcoming the induction of MILGEM Class Corvette Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Babur and Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS Hunain into the Pakistan Navy (PN) fleet, he said that the ships would enable the Navy to perform its ever-growing operational responsibilities. The president expressed these views while addressing the induction ceremony of PNS Babur and Hunain into the Pakistan Navy fleet, here at the PN Dockyard.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister of National Defence Turkiye, Bilal Burdali, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, senior representatives of construction yards, high-ranking officials of the Armed Forces and the political leadership. PNS Babur is a multi-purpose ship built and commissioned at Istanbul Naval Shipyard on 23 September 2023. PNS Hunain, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was built and commissioned at DAMEN Shipyard, Romania on 25 July 2024. Addressing the ceremony, the President said that the induction of PNS Babur and Hunain into the fleet was a milestone achievement in fortifying Pakistan's maritime defence capabilities.

Naqvi calls for collective efforts to eliminate scourge of terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of scholars from all schools of thoughts and leaders of other religions, led by Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad Friday called on Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain. Speaking to the delegation, Mohsin Naqvi said consultations with scholars and leaders of other religions have been started to eliminate the menace of terrorism in the country. He said, "First and foremost, we all are Pakistanis, and Pakistan comes first." He emphasized that we need to get out of this menace of terrorism in which we are being pushed into, and with the help of scholars we can get rid of this menace. He stressed that we need to unite as a nation to eliminate terrorism. We need to stop the misuse of Islam and prevent people

from being misled into terrorism. Mohsin Naqvi clarified that anyone who takes up arms against the state is a terrorist, and our religion and constitution also clearly state that anyone who takes up arms against the state is a terrorist. He said that Islam and our country's law do not allow anyone to be killed without reason. We need to unite against the curse of terrorism for the sake of our country. He said, "We will visit every province, meet chief ministers and scholars, and convey the same message. We will also convey this message to the federal Government, which is working day and night for this purpose." Interior minister emphasized that we need to stop the misuse of Islam's name, and the true leaders of the religion are scholars and spiritual leaders, not those who take up arms against the state.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a group photo with a delegation of scholars and religious leaders.

Terror attack in Mohmand foiled, four terrorists killed

MOHMAND (INP): Security forces in Mohmand district successfully foiled a terrorist attack, killing four terrorists. According to sources, the terrorists attempted to infiltrate the Civil Administration Colony. Security forces engaged the terrorists, resulting in their elimination. Sources further indicate that a clearance operation is currently underway in the area.

Senate unanimously passed 'Defence Day' resolution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Resolution on Defence Day was unanimously passed by the Senate of Pakistan here on Friday paying rich tributes to the unparalleled role played by the Armed Forces in safeguarding the nation and the country on September 6, 1965. The resolution presented by Senator Poonjo Bheel stated that the House commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of the Armed forces and paid homage to all those who sacrificed for the motherland despite substantial challenges in the line of duty. The celebrations of Defence Day remind us that our soldiers are

the greatest assets who demonstrated against a large enemy with notable courage and strategic skills. The Senate of Pakistan and the nation united with the Armed forces with all faiths, the resolution said. Furthermore, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar the presiding officer of the 342nd Senate session today referred the Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri calling attention notice about the statistics report of the United Nations' fact-finding mission of August 2024 of the massive destruction and displacement caused by floods in Sindh and Baluchistan to the concerned committee.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering condolences to Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan on the demise of his sister.

PM Shehbaz visits Ch Nisar to condole his sister's demise

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of former federal minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan to condole the death of his sister. Expressing his deep grief, the prime minister prayed for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

CM Maryam pays tribute to martyrs on Defense Day



LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif reached Cantonment area on Pakistan's Defense Day to commemorate great sacrifices of country's heroic martyrs. She laid flowers on

martyrs' memorial and pay the martyrs my respects." She added, "I had a chance to meet their families too at this prestigious event." The chief minister said, "I want to assure my countrymen that our forces are doing a remarkable job in external defence." She added, "When we sleep peacefully at homes, they wake up to protect our borders." The CM said, "Internal defence of the country is collective responsibility of all of us." She added, "Martyrs offered their lives for us, protecting their dignity and respecting their sacrifices is our collective responsibility."

Islamabad beautification plan aims to transform city into a model metropolis

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level meeting chaired by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Friday unveiled the Islamabad Beautification Plan, a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the city. Senior officers from relevant departments attended the meeting, where they were briefed on the ongoing efforts to improve the city's beauty. The plan focuses on upgrading median strips, green belts, and green areas across Islamabad, with a focus on sustainability and modernity. Key features of the plan include the repair and maintenance of curb stones along main roads, restoration of

fountains, and development of structures at major roads and locations. The city's green belts will be adorned with beautiful flowers and fruit-bearing plants, while bus stands will be upgraded to modern standards, complete with digital screens. Chairman Randhawa emphasized the importance of beautifying all entry points into Islamabad, creating a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. He also announced plans to engage architects and landscaping professionals to enhance the city's beauty, with a focus on cohesive and attractive cityscapes. "The CDA is committed to transforming Islamabad into a model city through these ongoing beautification efforts," Chairman Randhawa remarked.

NA passes [The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024]

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Friday passed the amendment in the Elections Act, 2017 [The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024]. The bill was moved by the Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar. The bill had already been passed by the Senate. While briefing the lawmakers, he said, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had requested to amend Section 232 of the Elections Act, 2017, and to remove the acronym of FATA into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Positive overtures

Better late than never, as they say. The ongoing unrest in Balochistan was finally raised from a humanitarian perspective on Wednesday, with various opposition leaders pushing for political solutions to the deepening crisis that has engulfed the province in recent days. Separately, representatives from both the government and the opposition also approached Akhtar Mengal, leader of his faction of the Balochistan National Party, to convince the veteran politician to rescind his resignation from the National Assembly and continue his advocacy and struggle for the rights of the people of his province through parliament. It appears that the announcement of Mr Mengal's decision to quit the assembly a day earlier was what finally shook the country's political leadership awake. It is hoped that the concerns he has raised regarding the worsening situation in Balochistan and its causes have been registered and will now be considered with all the seriousness they deserve.

It was particularly encouraging to note the political leaders refusing to frame Balochistan's problems in black and white. Instead, they also highlighted the policies that the state has imposed on the people of the province while denying them their right to self-representation and self-governance.

It is hoped that this is taken as a positive overture from the civilian leadership by the people of Balochistan, at a time when distrust between the state and the latter seems to be deepening at an accelerating pace. It was also positive that the political leaders present at the meeting of the Tehreek-i-Tahafuz-i-Ayeeen-i-Pakistan opposition alliance agreed on the need for a special sitting of parliament to discuss the situation in Balochistan. If it materialises, it should be offered as a platform for the voices of that province's citizens. It could release some of their pent-up frustrations and give the state some more time to correct its course there.

There is no doubt that the deteriorating security situation in the province needs urgent responses from the state. However, as has been seen in the past, unless these responses are carefully calibrated, they can cause a much bigger conflagration. The policies that have allowed resentment and disaffection to grow entrenched among the people of Balochistan are well-known and well-discussed. They must be discarded now. The Baloch people should be given the space in the political sphere they have long demanded from the state.

It has been deeply alarming to hear a Baloch nationalist like Mr Mengal, who chose mainstream politics instead of separatism, worry about the youth of Balochistan "taking to the mountains" because they have lost faith in democracy. Pakistan cannot afford for any of its young populations to be angry and disengaged. No nation can progress while a segment of its citizenry is kept from realising its potential. There is an urgent need for the state to acknowledge this.

Resilient abodes

Naseer Memon

In rural areas a house in most cases means a thatched hut built over ancestrally owned land without any supporting documents. Most of these houses are built either on empty public land or on the farm of a landlord where the family provides peasantry services against a paltry share of the harvest. These rickety structures are often made of straw, reeds, leaves, branches and trunks of trees. A better version is made of unbaked bricks covered with mud plaster. Such rickety structures are frequently battered by strong winds and seasonal heavy showers every year.

The Development Statistics of Sindh-2022 report issued by the Sindh Bureau of Statistics reveals that approximately 70 per cent of houses in rural areas are katcha. Housing data of five worst flood-hit districts in 2022 depicts abject poverty in these areas. Percentage of katcha houses in rural areas of some of the districts are: Dadu (56pc), Jamshoro (65pc), Qambar-Shahdadkot (65pc), Khairpur Mirs (51pc) and Mirpurkhas (71pc). Moreover, the report also reveals that 72pc of rural houses are just one-room structures. The recent census data of 2023 also confirms that 71.35pc of rural houses in Sindh are one-room structures. An astounding number of 268,371 jhugis/caves/tents have also been reported in rural areas. An average household size of 5.65 in Sindh puts the estimated number of dwellers in these primitive abodes to 1.5 million.

This explains how rural Sindh lost over 2.1m houses in the 2022 floods, rendering more than 12m people shelterless in 24 districts. Forty-eight per cent of the

affecteds were women. Demographic profile of these hapless people reveals that most of them were living under extreme penury. According to the data of Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affecteds (SPHF) 94pc of the affecteds were earning hardly two dollars per day, including 31pc with income as meagre as one dollar per day.

Seldom has this scale of loss of housing stock of the poor occurred in a natural disaster. Rebuilding these structures on the principle of 'build back better' is an inevitable need and a gigantic task as well. Climate-proof housing is the cornerstone of creating resilient communities. Income levels of these affecteds are a testimony of their sheer abjection rendering them incapable of reconstructing their collapsed houses.

SPHF was established by the government of Sindh as an independent company to undertake this mammoth task of reconstructing over two million one-roomed flood-resilient pucca houses. In addition to engineering features, social augmentation of communities is the real transformative impact of such large-scale development projects. Half of the beneficiaries of this initiative are expected to get ownership titles of their houses. Half of them would be women, a stride forward towards empowerment of rural women.

So far, the project has mobilised over Rs550 billion through various funding agencies, including a contribution of Rs100bn equally shared by the federal and provincial governments.

Since financial transactions are made directly through the beneficiaries' bank accounts, the risk of con-

ventional kickbacks has also been circumvented. Technical backup and social handholding is being facilitated through non-governmental organisations. These measures ensure transparency which is often compromised under the contractor model of public sector projects. SPHF claims that over 600,000 houses are at different stages of construction, including 200,000 that are fully constructed. Since the number of affecteds is enormous and the process of compliance is string-e-n-t, a sizeable population still await construction of their shelters. Never-the-less, considering the complexity and scale of the project, this is noteworthy progress.

Whereas a large number of families are expected to own an improved house, external infrastructure of these settlements continues to be a weaker link. A resilient house situated in a vulnerable settlement will remain prone to climate shocks. The scope of this initiative ought to be extended to create resilient settlements. Salient features of a climate-proof settlement encompass provision of clean drinking water, toilets, sewage network, paved streets, metalised link roads, protective dykes, emergency shelters and access to primary health and education.

Converting a flood disaster into an opportunity, it would be pertinent if the provincial government can implement a long-term project of upgrading all settlements as climate-resilient. Rural areas need a new approach towards settlements that can improve the lives of the masses, and give them at least a basic standard of living. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sorry syndrome

Zubeida Mustafa

The present is so gripping for us that we prefer to put our past on the back burner. But what happened in East Pakistan in 1970-71 remains fresh in the memories of the 50-plus generations. Most of them were directly or indirectly affected.

Hence in any discourse on Bangladesh in any context, attention eventually focuses on the happenings of those fateful years, which ended in the break-up of the country. That is how it turned out to be at the symposium on the political crisis in Bangladesh that was organised recently by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, Karachi. Initially, the speakers focused on the current developments in that country — the cause of the unrest and the challenges the interim government faces. We were informed about the similarities, and more the dissimilarities, in the political cultures of Pakistan and its erstwhile eastern wing.

What was striking, and quite understandably so, was the engagement of the audience with Bangladesh's past, which happens to be our history as well. The fact is that if you want to get a deeper insight into that country, you have to revisit the political controversies of 1947-1971 from the Bengalis' perspective.

It was hardly surprising when a woman in the audience raised the issue of the Pakistan government apologising to the people of Bangladesh for the past wrongs. Dr Masuma Hasan, who was presiding, explained that in his visit to Dhaka in 2002, General Pervez Musharraf had written in the visitors' book at the National Martyrs Memorial that the "excesses committed during the

unfortunate period are regrettable". He also appealed to people to bury the past in a spirit of magnanimity.

I will not analyse the "I am sorry" syndrome here in the context of Bangladesh as the issue has been debated interminably. Besides, I am not certain if a candid analysis of its pros and cons in the current circumstances would even be appreciated by the powers that be.

Suffice it to say that the importance of etiquette and other social niceties in diplomatic and political dealings should always be considered on account of the advantages they offer in many situations. Thus, Am b a s s a d o r Rafiuzzaman Siddiqi, who was posted as Pakistan's high commissioner in Dhaka in 2016 and was one of the speakers at the PIIA event, described his personal experience of the impact of such gestures. In August 2017 he decided to lay a wreath at Mujibur Rahman's memorial in Dhamondi on the anniversary of his death in a coup that had occurred 42 years earlier. "My gesture was widely welcomed by the Bangladeshis, especially the Awami League leadership," Mr Siddiqi recalled.

Here I would like to write about the practice of offering a formal apology in public life. It is unfortunate that we are not generous in the use of polite words such as 'thank you' and 'sorry' even in our private conversations. Our TV talk shows and the inscriptions on social media confirm my observation. Hence, I cannot say how many would have heard about the governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand offering public apologies to the indigenous people living in their countries. The territories that ultimately

became the above-named Dominions of the Commonwealth were not vacant land waiting to be occupied by outsiders. Many tribal groups were already living there when the foreigners arrived and disrupted the culture and the way of life of their hosts. This was a creeping colonisation of sorts.

The settlers displaced and exploited the indigenous owners of these lands and robbed them of their treasures and resources. The indigenous people suffered many indignities at the hands of their occupiers. The most brutal and inhuman measure inflicted on the locals by the outsiders was that of forcibly taking away the children from their parents on the pretext of 'civilising' them and teaching them the English language in order to socially assimilate them. With education and democratisation came the realisation that this was a gross violation of human rights; justice and reconciliation called for an apology and compensation.

By the 1990s, the resentment of the indigenous people was quite evident and the need for an apology was felt if the bitterness of the past had to be wiped out. After negotiations between the two sides, the terms of the apology and the amount of financial compensation to be paid were agreed upon.

Since the last few years the three governments have been holding ceremonies to apologise to different groups. Some may still be nursing grudges, but the impression we have is that the two sides are no longer at daggers drawn. If any disputes arise, the legal mechanism is available for the resolution of a dispute. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ADB sharpens strategic focus, increases support for key priorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved an ambitious new road map to guide its evolution and scale up its support on key challenges facing Asia and the Pacific, including accelerated efforts to combat climate change and expand private sector development.

The ADB's Strategy 2030 Midterm Review — an update of its corporate strategy — outlines how the bank will transform in a rapidly changing

development landscape and respond to challenges that threaten its vision for a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable region. "Cascading shocks have derailed years of development progress in Asia and the Pacific. ADB is updating its vision, expanding its financial capacity, and modernizing its operational approach to help its members respond to these unprecedented challenges, including the accelerating climate crisis,

public health crises, and economic and fiscal vulnerability," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. "Our support is needed now more than ever. This new road map sets an unprecedented level of ambition and focus for ADB's work and will ensure we meet the moment through bold action and transformative impact," he added. The review sharpens ADB's strategic focus and sets new corporate targets



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Livestock and Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani presides over the meeting to review initiative taken for development of Livestock sector.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain presides over the meeting of Industrialists.

Returning Pak workers can claim unclaimed insurance benefits

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani workers who have completed their employment in South Korea are missing out on insurance benefits owed to them can claim insurance benefits. The Employment Permit System (EPS) Center is helping workers recover unclaimed funds, but many are unaware of how to claim these benefits. The Pakistan EPS Center, led by Director Kim Ki-wook, is offering guidance to workers who have returned to Pakistan after working in South Korea under the Employment Permit System (E9), information

shared by the Korean embassy. Many of these workers have completed their maximum stay of four years and ten months, but they have not claimed their insurance benefits. The benefits include 'departure guarantee insurance' and 'return cost insurance.' These benefits, referred to as "dormant insurance," remain unclaimed for several years. Dormant insurance occurs when the policyholder does not collect the insurance money within three years after the reason for payment arises.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, Zhong Gu Bo Hai, Wan Hai-316, PH Minh Giang, Diamond Globe, Kaley, Petrel Bulker and Marangas Asclepius scheduled to load/offload Container, River Sand, Canola, Coal and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Grain Terminal, Bulk Terminal, Port Electric Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile five more ships, DA Heng Shan, MSC Positano, Colombo Express, Amir Gas and Horizon-1 scheduled to load/offload Bitumen, Container and LPG are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

KP CM directs removal of hurdles in fast-track execution of BHPP

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has termed the 300 MW Balakot Hydro Power Project (BHPP) as of vital importance to achieving self-sufficiency in power production and directed the quarters concerned to take immediate steps on an urgent basis to remove impediments in its fast-track execution. Chairing a meeting of the Energy and Power Department here on Friday, he said that the provincial government would extend

all-out support for the fast-track completion of this mega project. The Chief Minister while stressing the need for on-ground progress on different activities of the project as per the stipulated time-lines directed the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) and concerned construction company to sit together and settle all issues once and for all so that further progress could be made on the project without any delay.

KP Traders pay tribute to martyrs of armed forces on defence day

PESHAWAR (APP): The traders of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday paid tributes to martyrs of armed forces on the defence day and said that September 6 is the day to renew the pledge to sacrifice one's life for the defense of the motherland. In a meeting held here under the chairmanship of President Tajir Insaif Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahid Khan and attended by presidents of various markets, general secretaries and businessmen, and the

general public, the participants remembered the martyrs of September 6, 1965, and noted that the brave soldiers of armed forces, together with the entire nation, crushed the malafile intentions of the enemy and made a history of patriotism, national unity, and courage. The president of Tajir Insaif KP said that September 6 was a historic day for the nation when the armed forces made it clear to the enemy that the Pakistani nation.

Short-term inflation eases further by 0.15%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed further decrease of 0.15 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on September 05, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was

recorded at 319.24 points as compared to 319.73 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 14.07 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure

groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed decrease of 0.14 per cent and went up to 310.35 points from last week's 310.80 points. The SPI for consumption group of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.17 percent, 0.15 percent, 0.16 percent and 15 percent respectively.

SBP injects Rs10,718.9b into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs10,718.9 billion in the market on Friday through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO). According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on September 6, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 34 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs10,613.9 billion. The central bank received 34 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs10,613.9 billion at the rate of return ranging between 19.56 to 19.65 percent.

'Efforts made to ensure development, prosperity of livestock farms'

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Livestock Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Friday said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had allocated Rs 17 billion for development of the livestock sector. He presided over a meeting which reviewed progress on initiatives aimed at strengthening the livestock sector, here. He said that implementation of various initiatives to uplift livestock sector would start new chapter of prosperity and progress for livestock farms. Syed Ashiq Hussain

Kirmani said that 11,000 cows and buffaloes would be distributed among poor widows and divorced women of 12 districts of South Punjab and all animals would be tagged and disease free. He underscored the need of forming groups and teams for physical verification of deserving women. He directed the Livestock department to set up special counters and desks at all district and tehsil centres for guidance of applicants. Advertisement campaign in this regard should be carried out effectively in South Punjab, he maintained.

Thai delegation, Governor Kundi discuss Buddhist, Gandahara civilization

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday emphasized ongoing efforts to promote religious tourism related to various civilizations in the province and noted the vast opportunities available in religious tourism.

The Governor said this in a meeting with an 8-member delegation from Thailand, led by Chaoyapon Suk-learn Director General of the Ministry of Culture, included Anil Sakya among other members, here at the Governor's House.

During the meeting, discussions focused on matters related to the Gandhara Buddhist exhibition in Bangkok and potential areas for bilateral cooperation.

They reviewed various aspects of including Gandhara civilization artifacts from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the Bangkok exhibition. The conversation also discussed on joint cultural and art projects.

Governor Kundi welcomed the Thai delegation to the Governor House and presented souvenirs. He highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is home to over 2,000 sites of Gandhara civilization.

He also mentioned plans to invite various ambassadors and religious figures to the Governor House soon to seek suggestions on promoting religious tourism.

Additionally, he announced that the

Gandhara Buddhist exhibition and symposium will be held in Peshawar and Swat. Governor Kundi advocated for art and culture exchanges between Thailand and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly focusing on Buddhist civilization.

The Thai delegation shared gifts and assured fully support for cultural exchange. They said that Pakistan is rich of Buddhism civilization. There is good diplomatic relations between the two countries and we want to develop it more.

Meanwhile, Farrukh Toirov, Deputy Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on the Governor.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with Thai delegation at Governor House.

Shaza Fatima urges national unity against terrorism

LAHORE (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja stressed the importance of national unity in the fight against terrorism, urging all citizens to play their part.

Her remarks came during a visit to the family of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi Shaheed in Walton, here on Friday, where she offered condolences and paid tribute to the fallen hero. Speaking to the media after the visit, Shaza Fatima highlighted the significance of the military's role in maintaining peace and security. She called for solidarity, particularly in countering campaigns against the armed forces.

"Due to the sacrifices of our martyrs, we can live safely in our homes today," she remarked, honoring the bravery of Captain Qureshi and expressing her sympathy for his grieving family.

The Minister of State lauded Captain Qureshi's dedication and commended his family for their patriotism and selflessness.

Family court judges get new vehicles

PESHAWAR (APP): In order to enhance the efficiency of the judiciary, the Peshawar High Court presented 18 brand new vehicles to Senior Civil Judges of the Family Courts on Friday. Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim handed over the keys to the judges in a ceremony attended by Senior Puisne Judge Justice Ijaz Anwar, Registrar, Additional Registrar (Administration), and other principal officers of the High Court. This generous gesture demonstrates the High Court's commitment to supporting its judicial officers and ensuring they have the necessary resources to carry out their duties effectively.

Best efforts being made for welfare of kids: Sara Ahmed

MULTAN (APP): Chairperson Child Protection Bureau Punjab Sara Ahmed said that all possible efforts were being made by the department for welfare of waif and stray kids residing at child protection bureaus across the province. During her visit to the Child Protection Bureau Multan here on Friday, she visited various sections of the bureau, including the Child Protection School, children's hostel, tailoring, handicraft classes and the kitchen. She also met children residing at the bureau and spent time with them, which uplifted the spirits of the children.

Sara Ahmed expressed satisfaction with the facilities being offered at the Multan Child Protection Bureau and emphasised that the protection of children was top priority of the bureau. She assured that comprehensive measures were being taken for welfare of children.

15 killed, 1237 injured in 1173 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least fifteen persons were killed and 1237 injured in 1173 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 547 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 690 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

KP CM visits Capt Kernal Sher Shaheed mausoleum, lays wreath

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday visited the mausoleum of martyred Captain Kernal Sher Khan in district Swabi and laid wreath at the martyr's shrine and recited Fatiha.

On this occasion, a special prayer was offered for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs of armed and security forces.

Former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, MNA Shahram Tarakai, Provincial Ministers Aqibullah and Faisal Tarakai were also with the Chief Minister.

Speaking on the occasion the CM said that the brave soldiers of the security forces who laid down their lives for the motherland are our real heroes.

"Today is a day to pay homage to the sacrifices of these heroes," he said.

He recalled the bravery of Captain Sher Khan and said that the martyr made a history of bravery by sacrificing his life to protect the motherland.

We are proud of the martyrs and veterans of Pakistan Army, said the Chief Minister.



PESHAWAR: Pakistan Markazi Muslim League workers held a rally in connection with Pakistan Defence Day in front of the Press Club.

300 victims of housing societies attend NAB Lahore's DG open court

LAHORE (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore Director General (DG) Amjad Majeed Aulakh Friday held a monthly open court at the NAB Lahore Bureau where more than 300 victims of Ponzi schemes and the housing sector participated.

According to the details, a monthly open court was held under the chairmanship of DG NAB Lahore in which victims of Khyaban-e-Amin Housing Society, Professional Cooperative Housing Society, Bin Alam Housing Society, Gold Homes, Palm Vista Housing, Omega Housing Projects, Imperial Smart City, Al-Haram City, Grand Avenue Housing, UBL Cooperative Housing and Theme Park View City participated. In addition, victims of Ponzi schemes including Solar Panel Scam, Prime Zone LPG Scam, ForU Real Traders and the housing Double Shah Scam participated. Addressing the victims of Khyaban-e-Amin Housing Society, the DG NAB Lahore stated that due to NAB's recent actions, the administration has adjusted the claims of 394 out of 600 victims, which is being verified by NAB, however, NAB is regularly monitoring the construction work of Khyaban-e-Amin Society.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain visited Army Graveyard to pay tribute to the unwavering bravery and ultimate sacrifices of armed forces in Racecourse.

Raja Pervaiz stresses national commitment on Defence Day

LAHORE (APP): Former prime minister and president of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, called for observing the Defence Day as a day of renewed commitment to the nation.

In a statement issued on Friday, he highlighted the significance of September 6, when Pakistan's armed forces inflicted major losses on an enemy far superior in size. He praised the enduring bond between the country's military and its people in their collective fight against terrorism and extremism, calling it an unforgettable chapter of national unity.

Ifrikhar pays tribute to martyrs, veterans on Defence Day

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Chairman Standing Committee on Civil Aviation, Nawabzada Ifrikhar Ahmed Khan paid tribute to the immense sacrifices and patriotism of the armed forces for protection of the motherland.

In a statement issued in connection with "Defence Day" on Friday, he said, "September 6 reminds us of the courageous soldiers who wrote a new history of bravery, courage, and determination during the 1965 war." He highlighted that these valiant soldiers thwarted the enemy's advances, ensuring Pakistan's integrity and strengthening national unity.

He further maintained, "The Defence Day serves as a reminder that the secret to Pakistan's development and stability lies in our national resolve and solidarity.

The nation salutes our brave soldiers and martyrs for their sacrifices.

International News

Japan's Kishida, South Korea's Yoon call to sustain momentum in improved ties

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called on Friday at a summit in Seoul to keep up the momentum behind an improvement in relations, which will be tested by imminent changes of leaders in Tokyo and Washington.

Kishida's final, whirlwind trip to his neighbour as prime minister came as the two leaders seek to seal their newfound partnership after orchestrating an about-face in ties, prodded by US President Joe Biden.

Relations between the two staunch US regional allies had sunk to their lowest level in decades amid acrimonious diplomatic and trade disputes over Japan's 1910-45 occupation of the Korean Peninsula.

Kishida emphasised the need to continue efforts to advance bilateral ties, once again expressing sympathy for Koreans who suffered during Japanese colonial rule.

"There is a lot of history ... but it is very important to inherit the efforts of our predecessors who overcame difficult times, and cooperate toward the future," Kishida told Yoon at the meeting.

"I've also said here in Seoul that I feel heartbroken that so many people have had such difficult, sad experiences in such difficult circumstances," he added, referring to his earlier comments during a visit last year.

Yoon also called for sustaining the positive momentum of cooperation built by the leaders, saying next year could provide "a turning point" for the relationship to take a leap forward marking its 60th anniversary. "There are still difficult issues remaining in Korea-Japan relations. I hope that both sides will continue to work together with a forward-looking attitude so that we can continue to take steps toward a brighter future."

The two welcomed the signing of an agreement to facilitate the evacuation of each others' citizens from an emergency in a third country, which Kishida called a symbol of growing trust.

They also agreed to work together to simplify immigration procedures for travellers, and ensure that North Korea cannot utilise Russia's backing to stage more provocations, according to Yoon's deputy national security adviser, Kim Tae-hyo.

Kishida has announced he will step down this month and Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party will hold elections on Sept 27 to choose his successor.

He is due to return to Tokyo on Saturday after dining with Yoon on Friday night, their offices said.

Yoon has made it a diplomatic priority to mend ties with Tokyo and improve security cooperation including with Washington to tackle North Korea's military threats, which led to a historic trilateral summit at Camp David last year.



GAZASTRIP: A child receives vaccination drops at a makeshift camp in a school at Khan Yunis for people displaced by the Israeli aggression.

Fire tears through Kenya boarding school dormitory, killing 17 boys

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: A fire killed 17 boys when it tore through the dormitory in which they were sleeping at a boarding school in central Kenya in the early hours of Friday, police said.

"We saw several children in there that had been burnt," Phillip Gathogo, a local resident, told reporters. "I was just lucky to save one of them, but I heard that he later died. It was a very troubling and sad tragedy."

The blaze occurred at the Hillside Endarasha Academy in Nyeri, a primary boarding school for young students about 150 km (93 miles) from the capital Nairobi.

Government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said the boys were in grades 4 to 8, putting their ages at about 9 to 13-years-old. He said in a statement the dormitory housed 156 students.

US secures release of 135 prisoners from Nicaragua

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States said Thursday it had secured the release of 135 political prisoners from Nicaragua, the latest mass transfer by President Daniel Ortega's increasingly authoritarian government. The White House said that the prisoners included members of faith organizations, students and others viewed by Ortega and his team as a "threat to their authoritarian rule." The freed prisoners arrived Thursday in nearby Guatemala, whose reformist President Bernardo Arévalo has worked closely with Washington.

Hunter Biden officially pleads guilty in tax evasion case, avoiding a trial

Monitoring Desk
DELAWARE: Hunter Biden pleaded guilty Thursday to federal tax charges, avoiding a potentially embarrassing trial for President Joe Biden's son. Sentencing is set for December 16. The surprise move ends months of legal uncertainty surrounding the case.

Joe Biden's son Hunter pleaded guilty in his tax evasion trial.

US-Iraq deal would see hundreds of troops withdraw in first year, sources say

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: The United States and Iraq have reached an understanding on plans for the withdrawal of U.S.-led coalition forces from Iraq, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter.

The plan, which has been broadly agreed but requires a final go-ahead from both capitals and an announcement date, would see hundreds of troops leave by September 2025, with the remainder departing by the end of 2026, the sources said.

"We have an agreement, it's now just a question of when to announce it," a senior U.S. official said.

The U.S. and Iraq are also seeking to establish a new advisory relationship that could see some U.S. troops remain in Iraq after the drawdown.

An official announcement was initially scheduled for weeks ago but was postponed due to regional escalation related to Israel's war in Gaza and to iron out some remaining details, the sources said.

The sources include five U.S. officials, two officials from other coalition nations, and three Iraqi officials, all speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Several sources said the deal could be announced this month.

Israeli forces pull out of Jenin leaving a trail of destruction

Monitoring Desk
JENIN: Israeli forces pulled out of the Palestinian city of Jenin on Friday, leaving a mass of damaged buildings and infrastructure, following one of the biggest security operations in the occupied West Bank in months. Road diggers began clearing piles of debris and rubble left by the operation, which involved hundreds of troops and police backed by helicopters and drones entering all areas of the city and the adjacent refugee camp as well as surrounding villages.

Thousands of residents were displaced from their homes during the nine-day operation, during which troops fought running gunbattles with Palestinian fighters from factions including Hamas and Islamic Jihad and Fatah.

"When they entered, they used bulldozers and began destroying everything. They left nothing," said Jenin resident Samaher Abu Nassa. Water and electricity services remain cut and around 20 km of roadway was dug up by Israeli bulldozers, a tactic the military said was aimed at neutralizing roadside bombs but which has ripped up much of the centre of the city.

The Palestinian foreign ministry accused the military of transferring the tactics used to level the Gaza Strip into the West Bank. Jenin, in the northern part of the West Bank, has long been a stronghold of Palestinian armed factions, and the Israeli military said the operation, which also targeted the city of Tulkarm, was aimed at thwarting Iranian-backed militant groups planning attacks on Israeli civilians.

It said troops had killed 14 militant fighters during the operation, including the local commander of Hamas in Jenin. Forces also arrested 30 suspects and confiscated weapons and dismantled infrastructure including an underground weapons storage depot underneath a mosque and an explosives workshop.

Second stage of polio campaign begins in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Crowds of Palestinians gathered at medical centres in the south of the embattled Gaza Strip on Thursday to have their children vaccinated against polio, the start of the second stage of a campaign that has so far seen 187,000 youngsters inoculated. The UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said the campaign, facilitated by Hamas and Israel agreeing on limited pauses in their fighting, was so far successful but complex. But the conflict continued elsewhere in the enclave, with Gaza health authorities reporting several people killed in Israeli airstrikes, including a hit on a hospital in central Gaza.

On Thursday, vaccinations began in Rafah and

Blinken urges Israel, Hamas to finalise truce, says '90 percent agreed'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday urged Israel and Hamas to finalise a Gaza truce, stating that 90% of a deal was ready. Blinken added that the US would offer further ideas via Egypt and Qatar. However, in an interview with Fox News, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied the claim, saying "it's not close."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday urged both Israel and Hamas to finalise a Gaza truce, standing by US assessments that 90 percent of a deal was ready.

Greek PM to unveil plan to boost pensions, spending power in major speech

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is expected to unveil plans on Saturday to increase pensions, reduce social security contributions and improve public services in an effort to win back voters angered by a lingering cost of living crisis. In his annual speech on the economy, Mitsotakis will focus on boosting purchasing power and increasing funding for education and healthcare, three government sources told Reuters, as he paints a picture of a country emerging from a decade-long debt crisis.

He is also expected to unveil measures to increase housing and halt a tumbling birthrate, which would be financed through the reduction of funds for unemployment benefits.

The government plans to spend 3 billion euros on the measures in 2025 alone, amounting to about 1.5% of GDP, a second government official said. "The PM will highlight the government's... determination to further increase public investment."

Chinese delegation calls on Romina, discusses green and efficient mobility solutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level Chinese delegation Friday called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and discussed multiple aspects of their ambitious plan to help Pakistan revolutionise its mass transit system for providing world-class transportation facilities to public while achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals.

The delegation, comprising senior-level officials of the Chongqing CRRC Hengton Vehicle Company and Chongqing Public Transport Group Company, PowerChina International and Daewoo Pakistan Express apprised the PM's climate aide of Pakistan Green Transport Project (PGTP), an ambitious initiative that aims at transforming the country's public transport system to become more environmental-friendly and sustainable, a news release said.

Basically set up under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, PGTP is a consortium of Pakistani and Chinese transport companies, working to bring zero-emission, green transport in the country, which would benefit the common man in country, reduce petroleum import bill, ensure optimal utilization of the power generation capacity and above all improve the environmental conditions across the country," said Faisal Ahmed Siddiqui, CEO Daewoo Pakistan Express group, who led the delegation.

China in June 2024 in the presence of Federal Minister for Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan; Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal. "Now, efforts are being expedited in support with the provincial governments to introduce electric buses, set up unified charging systems for the e-transport, and the bus stop mini shopping mall model initially in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi," a senior official of a Chinese transport company Zhou Zheng informed.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairs high-level meeting with a Chinese delegation to discuss cleaner, greener and sustainable mass transit system.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering condolences to IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on the demise of his mother.

Ahsan Iqbal says: Economic indicators turned positive due to consistent policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday said that the government's consistent and affirmative policies have led to positive economic indicators.

He highlighted the key role of the PML-N in maintaining a long-standing friendship with China and securing recent agreements with other friendly countries.

He criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), accusing them of behaving like a violent group rather than a political party. "They are responsible for the Parliament attack, the PTV attack, and the May 9 incidents," he added.

Talking to a private news channel, he stated that the stock market performed well and that inflation has returned to single digits for the first time in four years.

When the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) took over the government, the country was on the verge of an economic collapse," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal warned that starting negotiations without an apology from PTI would legitimize their undemocratic actions.

He also accused the PTI chief of attempting to create divisions within the army for personal and political purposes.

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Jam Kamal pays homage by visiting martyrs' families

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday Paid homage by visiting martyrs' families on defence day.

Kamal paid his respects to the family and praised Havaladar Munir's courage. He reassured the family that the government remains committed to their welfare, announcing that Havaladar Munir's son would be offered a job in line with his qualifications.

It is because of the sacrifices of these brave martyrs that Pakistan remains invincible today," said the minister.

In a solemn tribute to the nation's fallen heroes on Defence Day, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan visited the homes of two martyrs, honoring their sacrifices and reaffirming the government's commitment to supporting their families, said a press release issued here.

The second visit took the minister to the home of Sepoy Haroon William, who was recently martyred on June 21, 2024, in Miran Shah. At 29 years old, William had just been married before his untimely martyrdom.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1226.20 feet, which was 178.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 30,300 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively.

The first visit was to the home of Havaladar Muhammad Munir Abbasi, who was martyred in a helicopter crash at Darya B on August 6, 2015. Jam

The ceremony held to mark Pakistan's Defence Day, honoured soldiers Sepoy Raja Vilayat Khan, Sepoy Muhammad Bashir, Sepoy Alam Din, and Sepoy Abdul Majeed, who died defending the country.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presenting a bouquet to the family of Martyred Soldier Haroon William in tribute during a Defence Day visit to their home.

Aurangzeb meets family of Shaheed L/NK Waqar, pays tribute to martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday visited the residence of Shaheed Lance Naik (L/NK) Waqar Hussain Shah, who laid down his life in the line of duty, defending the nation with unparalleled bravery and dedication.

of those who have given their lives for Pakistan.

The decision comes in response to the rising water levels in the dam, which reached 1,752 feet, prompting the authorities to take this step to prevent potential flooding, according to an ICT administration spokesperson.

During the visit, the minister met with the martyr's widow Sania Nazir and their children, extending his deepest condolences and expressing the nation's immense pride in the valor and sacrifice of Shaheed Waqar, a news release said.

The minister remarked, "Our martyrs are the pride of the nation, and their sacrifices serve as a beacon of courage and patriotism for generations to come. The bravery of heroes like Shaheed Waqar Hussain Shah will forever be remembered, and the nation is indebted to their service." Sania Nazir expressed her gratitude for the minister's visit, reiterating her commitment to raising their children in the spirit of patriotism and service to the country. The children of Shaheed Waqar were assured of continued support and recognition by the government for their father's supreme sacrifice.

He said residents living near urban river channels have been advised to avoid these areas to ensure their safety.

Those residing in low-lying regions are urged to follow all safety protocols to protect themselves and their property, he said.

He said the entire nation stood in gratitude and solidarity with the families

of those who have given their lives for Pakistan.

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No one will be allowed to seal Islamabad placing containers, asserts Daniyal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Daniyal Chaudhry said that no one would be allowed to close Islamabad with containers. Talking to the media, the PML-N leader highlighted that Pakistan was facing tough times and various crises. There was no contribution of us in the world except chanting slogans of corruption for four years. "Foreign investors, businessmen and cricketers face challenges when a mob controls and seals Islamabad," Daniyal Chaudhry gave reasons for halting public gatherings in the capital.

Any party will not be allowed to seal the capital, he said. He also said that a public gathering in a certain locality but not in Islamabad. Bill had defined the mechanism to stage 10 sit-in in a place but Islamabad closure would not be allowed as safety and security of public was the biggest constitutional responsibility, Daniyal Chaudhry reiterated.

Pak Army rendered great sacrifices for country's defence; Rana Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday said that the Pakistan Army is the pride of the nation and contributed great sacrifices in defending the country against external threats.

Chaudhry supported a bill on permission of public gathering in Islamabad, he asked that wasn't this bill the need of the hour. He emphasised that only vision and narrative of Pakistan progress and development would be propagated.

In a message marking Pakistan's Defence and Martyrs' Day, he said that September 6 was the day of remarkable courage and strategic skill, Pakistan's

military demonstrated against the Indian troops. Rana paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers who thwarted the enemy's attempts to harm Pakistan, adding "The day reflects our nation's strong commitment to defending its sovereignty". Recognizing the patriotism, determination, and courage of the country's soldiers, he reaffirmed the nation's firm support for its armed forces in fulfilling their duty to protect Pakistan.



HAVELI KAHUTA: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr. Amir Muqam laying floral wreath at the graves of martyred on the occasion of Pakistan Defence Day.

Amir Muqam pays tribute to martyrs on Defence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the defense of the nation at Haveli Kahuta during a wreath-laying ceremony.

Speaking on Pakistan's Defence Day, he reaffirmed the country's support for the people of Kashmir in their decades-long struggle for freedom. Addressing the media, the minister expressed the nation's pride for martyred soldiers, acknowledging their sacrifice for the country's defense. "Our martyrs are our pride," he said. "These brave sons of the soil can never be forgotten. They gave their lives for the country, and their sacrifice will always be remembered."

Meena Khan inaugurates KMU E-Examination Centre and Sports Complex

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, underscored the importance of computer-based examinations, calling them essential for preparing students to meet the demands of the modern scientific era and to drive future educational development.

Khyber Medical University (KMU). Upon the arrival of provincial minister Mr. Meena Khan Afridi was warmly welcomed by Vice-Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, and Registrar Inam Ullah Khan Wazir.

He expressed these views at the inauguration ceremony of the KMU E-Examination Centre at

During the visit, VC KMU provided a comprehensive briefing on the university's e-examination system, highlighting its alignment with modern educational needs.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of Federal Education, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, launches the 'Save Schools Program' and Climate Change App by the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) at IMCG F-8/1 Federal Capital.

Tunisia, Pakistan mull over bilateral trade & economic cooperation

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: H.E. Dorsaf Maaroufi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Tunisia to Pakistan, highlighted the vast potential for increasing bilateral trade between Tunisia and Pakistan during her visit to ISE Towers REIT Management Company Limited and Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Ltd.

Ms. Maaroufi emphasized that Tunisia serves as a gateway to Africa, offering numerous business opportunities in both the Tunisian and broader African markets. She underscored the importance of direct interaction between the private sectors of both countries to explore all potential areas of mutual cooperation. She assured that the Tunisian Embassy is committed to facilitating business and tourism exchanges, aiming to create new avenues for collaboration.

She also predicted that trade between Tunisia and Pakistan is likely to double in the near future. Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of ISE REIT Management Company Limited and Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Ltd, warmly welcomed Ms. Maaroufi and briefed her on the company's operations. He explained that ISE REIT Management Company Limited launches and manages Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) under the REIT Regulations of 2015. The company owns the "ISE Towers," a multi-story building in Islamabad's Blue Area, and is in the process of launching its own Rental REIT Scheme. He also highlighted the company's commitment to embracing the latest technologies to provide a modern workspace, ensuring long-term

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Dr. Musadik visits Shaheed Major Usman's residence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, on Friday, visited the residence of Shaheed Major Usman Ullah to pay his respects and offer condolences on the sacrifice of his martyrdom.

Major Usman Ullah embraced martyrdom on August 6, 2015, during a rescue mission when his helicopter crashed in Mansehra. In recognition of his bravery and service to the nation, he was posthumously awarded the Tamgha-i-Basalat.

While honoring Major Usman Ullah's sacrifice, he said, "The country thrives on the sacrifices of its martyrs."

Aleem Khan visits family of martyred Khurshid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, along with members of the National Assembly, on Friday visited the residence of martyred Subedar Major Muhammad Khurshid to pay tribute to the brave soldier who sacrificed his life for the country.

He met with the family members of the martyred soldier, including his children and expressed his condolences.

He praised the sacrifices of Subedar Major Muhammad Khurshid, saying that his martyrdom was a great honor for the nation. The minister said that the security forces were always ready to sacrifice their lives for the protection of the country, and the martyrdom of Subedar Major Muhammad Khurshid was a testament to their bravery.

DC Islamabad warns PTI protesters against unlawful activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday cautioned PTI protesters travelling to Islamabad on September 8 to strictly adhere to established SOPs and remain within the designated protest zone as any breach of the law or deviation from the allocated area will result in prompt and decisive action.

In an exclusive talk on a private news channel, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) has ensured that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad on September 8 will be held peacefully, in line with court orders.

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ICT admin identifies 129 potential dengue hotspots, 419 larvae found

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon, on Friday chaired the weekly meeting to review the city's ongoing anti-dengue operations and the district administration's efforts for its control with rising cases in the city.

The spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said the meeting involved updates from all Assistant Commissioners about their progress in the campaign.

During the meeting, it was reported that 12 new dengue patients were identified in the last 24 hours. This brings the total number of cases in

Islamabad to 85 from January 1 to September 5. A worrying statistic shared was the discovery of 419 dengue-positive larvae found across various locations within the last week.

Meanwhile, between August 29 and September 4, 129 potential dengue hotspots were identified in Islamabad. The meeting also included a comparative analysis of dengue cases with other cities in the country.

In response to the rising cases, the DC Islamabad stressed the importance of enforcing anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Strict action was taken on several violations.