

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 199 Rabi-ul-Awwal 02, 1445 AH Saturday September 07, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

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 multipurpose 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.

He noted that these ships would enhance the operational readiness of the Navy to counter both conventional and asymmetric threats.



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



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Mustafa, addressing to media at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day.

Governor Sindh visits Al-Mustafa Medical Centre to witness cleft lip surgeries

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday visited Al-Mustafa Medical Centre and witnessed free surgeries for cleft lip and palate.

The Governor was briefed by the administration regarding the ongoing free surgeries. The briefing detailed that the free surgery camp will continue for a week, with 30 individuals already registered. A five-member medical team, including three surgeons from the United States, performed the operations.

Tessori lauded the efforts of Al-Mustafa Medical Centre, stating, "I commend the administration for providing free surgeries for cleft lip and palate. Offering such expensive medical

services for free is an invaluable example of humanitarian service." He further added that the spirit of selfless service to humanity in Pakistan is truly commendable.

Speaking to the media, the Governor Sindh expressed his pleasure while visiting Al-Mustafa Medical Centre, saying, "I am deeply impressed by the welfare work being carried out by this institution.

They are providing free treatment for individuals who, due to financial constraints, could not receive it in their childhood. I have been informed that experienced doctors from the United States are conducting the surgeries."



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh is arriving at Naval Cemetery to offer Fatcha.

Lanjhar directs Police for stringent security measures for Rabiul Awwal celebrations

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjhar directed the Sindh Police to implement stringent security measures for the Rabiul Awwal celebrations, particularly on the 8th to 12th of this Islamic month.

The directives include heightened security for Na'at gatherings, Zikr sessions, sermons, assemblies, and processions, including central processions and meeting points. Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar emphasized the need for an exceptional security plan at the range, district, and zone levels.

He instructed that technical sweeps and clearances of processional routes and assembly areas be

completed at least 24 hours in advance while bomb disposal units and uniformed police should be stationed at these locations.

The Home Minister also mandated that surveys of surrounding buildings be conducted and tenants' details at local police stations be recorded.

Continuous communication between police control centers and field units, along with advanced intelligence collection and sharing, is required.

Sindh Home Minister instructed that all police personnel and additional forces should be tasked with ensuring the protection of processions, gatherings, Masajids, imambargahs, and public spaces.

Warns NAB officials 'Once I am out, I won't spare you or the NAB chairman': Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Imran Khan, threatened a National Accountability Bureau (NAB) investigator during a Toshakhana case hearing, warning of legal action upon his release from custody. During a court proceeding held at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, related to a new Toshakhana reference, Imran approached the NAB investigation officer, Mohsin Haroon, and issued a stern warning. Express News reported, "Because of the cases you've made, my wife is in jail. Once I'm out, I won't spare you or the NAB chairman," Imran told Mohsin Haroon, adding that he would take them both to court as soon as he is freed.

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.

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 includ-

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.



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

Showing opposition to entire military institution is tantamount to supporting terrorists: Ghani

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said that showing opposition to the entire military institution is tantamount to supporting the terrorists who have been fighting with the Pakistani armed forces.

The Local Government Minister stated this in his speech at a programme conducted by the Sindh government's Information Department on Friday to mark the Defence Day of Pakistan. Ghani said that it was high time to get rid of the mentality in the country showing sentiments against the Pakistani armed forces.

Ghani told the audience at the programme that the role of Pakistani armed forces was mainly confined to safeguarding Pakistan's frontiers from enemies until

terrorism had been unleashed to threaten the internal security of Pakistan. He praised the role of Pakistani armed forces, rangers, and police in combating terrorism perpetrated by the enemies of Pakistan based in another country. The Local Government Minister said he personally believed that the army should not interfere in politics, but an entire institution couldn't be blamed for the bad conduct of any specific person. He said that hundreds of thousands of soldiers were ready to lay down their lives to protect Pakistani frontiers. He opined that the terrorists who had been fighting against army soldiers became the main beneficiaries of the criticism directed against the Pakistani armed forces.

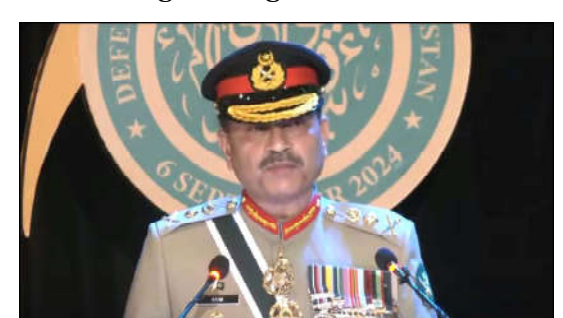
Do not let political differences turn into hatred: Army Chief

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; Pakistan desires peaceful relations with all neighboring countries"

RAWALPINDI (INP): On the 59th Defence Day of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir delivered a powerful message, paying tribute to the martyrs and reaffirming the unwavering resolve of Pakistan's armed forces to safeguard the nation's sovereignty.

Defence Day, observed annually on September 6, 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 am-

bitions 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.

Sindh Senior Minister Pays Tribute to Martyrs on Defense Day

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon paid tribute to the armed forces and martyrs on the occasion of Defence Day, praising their bravery, courage, and selfless sacrifices.

In his message, Memon said that September 6 is a day of national unity, and the nation should come together to face the challenges it faces. He emphasized that the day is not just a date, but a symbol of resistance against aggression, national unity, and unwavering resolve. Memon said that our martyrs not only protected the borders but also sacrificed their lives to maintain national sovereignty and dignity. He added that the sacrifices of the martyrs inspire the current and future generations to uphold the values of patriotism and unity. The Senior Minister also saluted the families of the martyrs, who showed unparalleled determination and courage. He said that the sacrifices of the martyrs are a guiding light for the entire nation.

Change of Guards ceremony held at Mazar-e-Quaid on Defence Day

KARACHI (APP): Change of Guards ceremony was held at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Nation on Defence Day, observed on September 6 (Friday). During the ceremony, Pakistan Air Force Academy - Asghar Khan's armed squad took over the guard duties at the Mazar-e-Quaid. Air Marshal Shehriyar Khan was the chief guest at the ceremony.

He inspected the parade and laid a floral wreath at the Quaid's shrine. A total of 74 cadets including 13 females of Pakistan Air Force were posted for professional duties at the Mazar. Representatives of all three armed forces, DG Rangers Sindh and Corps Commander Karachi attended the ceremony and laid floral wreaths at the Mazar-e-Quaid.

CM pays tributes to armed forces on Defence Day

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has paid tremendous tributes to the armed forces on the occasion of Defence Day, being marked across the country including Karachi on Friday.

He paid tribute to the great sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces and said that on this day, our forces not only fought the enemy bravely but also repulsed them. Pakistan's defense capability was formidable, he said adding that the day was marked every year with great devotion and enthusiasm. The Chief Minister said that Muhammad Mahmood Alam destroyed 5 enemy warships in one minute.



KARACHI: Corps Commander Karachi Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar and officers salute after laying wreaths on the mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, during a celebration to mark the anniversary of Defence Day, in, in the Provincial Capital.

Anti-polio campaign to begin in Karachi on Sept 9 to vaccinate over 2.7m children

KARACHI (APP): The anti-polio campaign is scheduled to start in Karachi from September 9 to administer anti-polio vaccine drops to over 2.7 million children. This was decided in a meeting chaired by Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi at his office here on Friday.

In the meeting, EOC Coordinator Irshad Sodhar, Deputy Commissioners, WHO, UNICEF and representatives of the Health Department participated through video link, while the Additional Commissioner were in attendance in the office. It was decided that special measures will be taken for vaccination of the remaining children.

The Commissioner directed that priority steps should be taken in the sensitive Union Councils to reach out to the people of the community to get their support.

The Commissioner directed the officials concerned to ensure that no child misses out on polio drops.

He directed to ensure that every child of the sensitive Union Council is vaccinated.

In the meeting, a briefing was given about making special arrangements for the sensitive Union Council Gujru and, it was told that special measures have been taken for the vaccination of children in Gujru.

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 Dhanmondi 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

in key areas. In line with its mandate to fight poverty and improve lives and livelihoods, ADB will deepen its focus on five of the region's most pressing development issues: climate action, private sector development, regional cooperation and public goods, digital transformation, and resilience and empowerment. This enhanced focus will guide the allocation of staff and resources for greatest impact.



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.

Pakistan 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 malafide 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.

Iftikhar pays tribute to martyrs, veterans on Defence Day

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Chairman Standing Committee on Civil Aviation, Nawabzada Iftikhar 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

A statement from the military said 30 explosives planted under the roads had been dismantled.

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.

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."

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.

Ahsan Iqbal says Policy board to bring progress, transparency in economic planning process of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the purpose of forming the policy board is to bring improvement and transparency in the economic planning process of the country with the help of the private sector.

The minister said the private sector's participation will significantly improve the Planning Commission's efficiency, and these measures will help stabilize Pakistan's economy.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chaired the first policy board meeting of Planning Commission today in Islamabad.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Planning, representatives of major private organizations, corporate leaders, and experts from various fields. On this occasion, Federal Minister said the board members will play a key role in preparing the strategic framework as well as making multi-term, mid-term and long-term plans and the government considers the formation of the policy board as an important milestone and through

the goals of sustainable development will be achieved.

Ahsan Iqbal added that the government has set up a policy board to ensure the implementation of the Five Year Framework, Thirteenth Five Year Plan, and Vision 2030. Key areas such as exports, digital development, environment, energy and equity have been prioritized under this framework.

He said that the experiences and suggestions of the members of the Policy Board will also help in the formulation of the national budget, and the process will be made more transparent and reliable.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that the board members should express their opinions openly to help improve the planning commission.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that the members of the policy board would assist the government in monitoring the financial affairs and audit of the Planning Commission.

The Federal Minister said that the inclusion of Policy Board members will make the Planning Commission a complete think tank which will further improve the development process of Pakistan.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the audience at the Induction Ceremony of PNS BABUR and PNS HUNAIN held at PN Dockyard, Karachi.

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 Khabeeb 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.

He said that today, we need to convey the message that we are united against terrorism, and the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Religious Affairs will provide all possible support in this regard.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that we need to save the new generation from guns and the Government, institutions,

and scholars need to work together to provide a safe future for the new generation.

He said that protection of every Pakistani's life and property is the responsibility of the state. He further said that the scholars and spiritual leaders should guide the people and raise their voices against those who take up arms against the state.

After the meeting, a joint declaration was approved. All the scholars and spiritual leaders rejected the narrative of extremists and terrorists in the country. The declaration stated that Islam is a religion of peace that teaches respect for humanity and strives for a society which is free from violence.

Nation will never forget sacrifices of martyrs like Ahmed Badr: Tarar

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the Pakistani nation was proud of martyrs like Captain Ahmed Badr who selflessly sacrificed their lives in line of duty.

The minister said this during his visit to the residence of Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed, where he met with his father Colonel (ret'd) Badruddin and other relatives.

He expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of martyred Captain Ahmed Badr and offered Fateha for his soul.

Terming Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed as the pride of Pakistan, the information minister Attaullah Tarar said that the nation will never forget the sacrifice of Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed. Tarar said that sacrifices of martyrs never go in vain and Fitnatul Khawarij will be rooted out from the soil of the motherland. He said that father of the martyred army officer Colonel (ret'd) Badruddin had demonstrated remarkable composure and courage after the martyrdom of his son, who fought bravely against terrorists.

He maintained that Pakistan came into being on the 27th of Ramadan which was proof that this country which was achieved after great sacrifices will exist till eternity.

He said that in human history, two migrations took place in the name of Islam, one migration from Makkah to Medina and one migration to Pakistan in 1947.

Tarar said that the nation was indebted to the martyrs who sacrificed their today for the tomorrow of the nation.

The minister saluted the parents of Shaheed Ahmed Badr for the courage shown by them after the martyrdom of their son. Colonel (ret'd) Badruddin said he was proud of the sacrifice of his son in the line of duty.



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.

Sacrifices of September 6 will not go in vain: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Pakistan's Defence Day is a significant chapter in history, and the sacrifices of September 6 will not go in vain. Every person must play their role for the development, prosperity, and peace of Pakistan. We will make every type of sacrifice for the development of the city and the country. Hockey is our national sport, and its patronage is essential. The participation of women in various sports is commendable. We are constructing a sports complex on 20 acres of land, which will be named after Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem, who won a gold medal at the Olympics. The Metropolitan Football Tournament is starting today. Participation in art activities will foster constructive abilities in our children, and these children will make the country proud in the future.

He expressed these views during the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) head office on the occasion of Defense Day Pakistan, and while speaking as the chief guest at the girls' hockey event and art competition organized by the Commissioner Karachi Division at the Olympian Ishaquddin Hockey Academy. Present at the occasion were Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Municipal Commissioner S.M Afzal Zaidi, the Mayor Karachi's spokesperson for political affairs Karumullah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the City Council Dil Muhammad, Junman Darwan, Olympian Ishaquddin, Director Sports Ghulam Muhammad, KMC departmental heads, and other officials.

Addressing the flag-hoisting ceremony, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that no sacrifice will be spared for the defense of the homeland.



LAHORE: Visitors looking Military Ammunition Weapons during celebrations to mark the country's Defence Day, in the Provincial Capital.

SECP issues consultation paper on areas of improvement in the public offering regime

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a Consultation Paper on areas of improvement in the public offering regime in order to foster capital formation.

The requisite regulatory amendments will be finalized after receiving public feedback and stakeholder consensus.

SECP firmly believes in and is a big advocate of making capital formation easier for businesses. Efficient and cost-effective capital formation is a game changer for growing businesses and the economy as a whole. Overtime, SECP has introduced various improvements in the public offering regime for capital formation. In this regard, the Consultation Paper covers potential areas of improvement which have been identified based on a holistic review of the regulatory regime, international practices, evolving technology and suggestions received from the market. It is envisaged that potential improvements will bring greater transparency, efficiency and vibrancy, thereby benefiting issuers, investors and the overall economy.

Broad areas identified for improvement include: IPO pricing, public offering and listing conditions, role of consultant to the issue, IPO approval timelines and documentation requirements, disclosure requirements, digital and IPO outreach, public offering regime for GEM companies and post IPO matters. Suggested improvements are focused on both, supply and demand side. The supply side improvements are focused on enabling a conducive regulatory environment for businesses/issuers to raise funds in a smooth and cost-effective manner.



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.

Sindh gov't's decision to purchase vehicles for ACs challenged

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government's decision to purchase 138 double-cabin vehicles for Assistant Commissioners (ACs) has been challenged in the Sindh High Court (SHC).

As per details, the petition, filed by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Muhammad Farooq, argued that the purchase is unnecessary and a waste of public funds.

The petition stated that the country's economy is under pressure, and the Sindh government's decision to buy luxury vehicles for its officers is unreasonable.

It further stated that taxpayers' money should be spent on public welfare, healthcare, and education instead. The petitioner has requested the court to sus-

pend the Sindh government's notification and order the authorities to spend the funds on welfare projects instead. The Sindh government, Chief Secretary, Secretary Finance, and Board of Revenue have been made parties in the petition.

Earlier on September 5, the Sindh government decided to buy new vehicles worth Rs2 billion for assistant commissioners.

As per details, Sindh's general administration department has penned a letter to the finance department for the release of Rs2 bln for buying new double cabin vehicles for 138 assistant commissioners.

The assistant commissioners will use the new vehicle for their day-to-day office work.



LARKANA: Members of Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society (PESS) are holding rally to pay homage to the Ghazis and Shuhada of 06 September 1965 Indo-Pak War on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

CEO KWSC says: Our brave soldiers prove in 1965 war readiness to protect every inch of homeland

KARACHI (APP): Chief Executive Officer of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) Engineer Syed Salahuddin Ahmed on Thursday said that our brave soldiers, pilots, officers, and sailors proved in the 1965 war, to the world that they are always ready to protect every inch of the homeland.

In a statement on Defence Day, the CEO of KWSC said that Defence day is a source of pride and like a national day for us, when the enemy tried to trample our freedom and survival, the Pakistani nation stood before strongly.

He said that on September 6, India imposed an undeclared war on Pakistan, when the entire nation stood up in support of our armed forces for the protection of the homeland.

The great day of September 6 every year

allows us to pay tribute to our national heroes, armed forces veterans, and especially those martyrs, he added.

Chief Operating Officer KwSP Engineer Asadullah Khan said that we salute the brave sons of the nation who sacrificed their precious lives for the safety and security of the country.

He also paid tribute to the families of martyrs who sacrificed their loved ones in the motherland. Our courageous nation and strong armed forces have repeatedly proved that we are not only capable of defending the country but are always ready to deal with any kind of aggression, he added.

On the occasion of Defence Day, we pledge that we will continue to protect the country's defense, security, and survival at any cost, he said.

Court bars Sindh govt to purchase 138 SUVs for ACs

KARACHI (INP): Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday barred the provincial government to purchase 138 double-cabin vehicles for Assistant Commissioners (ACs).

Following the petition, filed by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Muhammad Farooq, arguing that the purchase of SUVs is unnecessary and a waste of public funds.

After hearing the arguments from both sides, the court suspended the implementation of a Sindh government's notification regarding the purchase of 138 double cabin vehicles for ACs.

The court in its order asked the provincial government, the chief secretary, the finance secretary, and the board of revenue to submit their responses within four weeks.

National conference on elimination of forced labor held

KARACHI: A national conference on the elimination of forced labor was held on Friday at a local hotel in Karachi. The conference was chaired by the Minister for Labor and HR Department, Shahid Abdul Salam Tahim, who reaffirmed the government's commitment to tackling forced labor. "We all need to work together to ensure that every citizen has a safe and dignified environment," Minister Tahim stated. He also assured that effective policies and measures would be implemented to eliminate forced labor, and that legal reforms and monitoring systems would be further strengthened. At the conference, ILO Chief Technical Advisor Oluwemi Doherty highlighted ongoing global efforts and various projects aimed at eradicating forced labor.

He said that the primary focus of the meeting was to coordinate efforts across the flood-affected districts of Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Badin, Matiari, Khairpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Sajawal,

and others.

The floods have also displaced 141,601 people and led to the establishment of 163 relief camps and 40 medical camps. He said that 327 houses partials and 198 full houses were damaged in the rain.

Siddiqui chairs meeting with humanitarian stakeholders

Independent Report

KARACHI: Imdad Hussain Siddiqui, Director (Operations) Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh led a high-level meeting with humanitarian stakeholders to address the extensive damage caused by floods in Sindh. The meeting, held at the PDMA Sindh conference hall, was attended by UN agencies representatives and various international, national non-governmental organizations, including UNHCR, UNICEF, CESVI, ACTED, WFP, WHO, IRC, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat Pakistan, UN FAO, IMC, Hands, FRDP, IRADO, and others.

He said that the primary focus of the meeting was to coordinate efforts across the flood-affected districts of Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Badin, Matiari, Khairpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Sajawal,



JAMSHORO: Vise Chancellor LUMHS Prof. Ikram Uddin Ujjan giving away shield to a student during Speech Competition in connection with Pakistan Defence Day at LUMHS.

Chinese Ambassador, delegation visits KU

KARACHI (INP): A Chinese delegation led by the Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, and consisting of the acting Consul General in Karachi Zhang Hao along with the minister counselor, attachés, and counselors of the embassy and consuls of the consulate in Karachi visited the University of Karachi and met the KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, and the Pakistani Director of the Confucius Institute at KU Professor Dr Muhammad Nasiruddin Khan, and others on Friday.

The KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi informed the visitors that we feel proud that we have a solid friend, China, who always supported Pakistan at international forums. He hoped that the visit of the Chinese delegation and especially the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong would help strengthen our relationship at the institutional and global levels.

He shared that the KU has a very strong connection with the Sichuan Normal University of China and as a good partner, they have supported a lot in running the CI on the campus. He mentioned that the Chinese and Pakistani directors of the CI have played an important role in enhancing the facilities and standards at the KU's CI. He expressed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a way forward for the economic development and prosperity of the people of Pakistan as this project is one of the most important projects in terms of economic growth and economic development of Pakistan.

The KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi said that though we are facing problems in terms of internal law and order situation but commitment of both countries is there. Our government and military leadership have a full commitment that whatever comes, we will go for the CPEC. He observed that when we talk about the CPEC, he thinks that the old strategic position has created some hurdle. There are some proxy nations engaged in creating negative activity but, the political leadership and stakeholders in Pakistan, firmly believe that the CPEC is for the economic prosperity of Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Girls students presenting tableau on Defence Day at Govt Shah Latif Girls College.

We have to take care of dignity of martyrs: Alam

Independent Report

KARACHI: Provincial Advisor for Fisheries, Livestock and Human Settlement Syed Najmi Alam attended the grave of Shaheed Rashid Minhas on the occasion of Defense Day on September 6 and recited Fatiha and prayed for forgiveness. Focal Person for Provincial Advisor Agha Saeed was also present on this occasion. Later, while talking to the media, he said that the war due to which our soldiers were martyred is still going on; our soldiers who are fighting the war need our support. He said that wars are not fought only by the soldiers, but the people also have to fight and the people know very well that we are going through the conditions of terrorism.

PTI submits resolution in Sindh Assembly against land encroachments on forest dept's property

KARACHI (INP): PTI Sindh MPA Sajjad Ali Soomro has submitted a resolution in the Sindh Assembly, calling for action against land encroachments on the Forest Department's property in Sindh. The resolution was filed with the Secretary of the Sindh Assembly by MPA Soomro.

In the resolution, Soomro highlighted that vast areas of the Sindh Forest Department's land, spanning 2.8 million acres, are under illegal occupation. He stressed the importance of planting forests to mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Soomro criticized the Sindh government, stating that, "On one hand, the Sindh government announces plans to plant forests, while on the other hand, encroachments continue on forest lands.

Defence day observed in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP):

Like other parts of the country, Defence Day of Pakistan is celebrated with national enthusiasm in Shaheed Benazirabad district. In this regard, a rally was organized by the Divisional and District Administration of Shaheed Benazirabad, led by Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder, from the DC Office to the Nawabshah Press Club.

Speaking to the participants of the rally and media representatives after the rally, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder said that we pay tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the homeland. The brave sons of the nation fought fearlessly against their enemies and wrote a bright chapter in history. He added that on September 6, the Pakistani army inflicted a crushing defeat on the eternal enemy India, writing a new history of bravery and valor.