

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 V& XXVI No. 17, Rabi-ul-Awwal 02, 1446 AH Saturday September 07, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

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



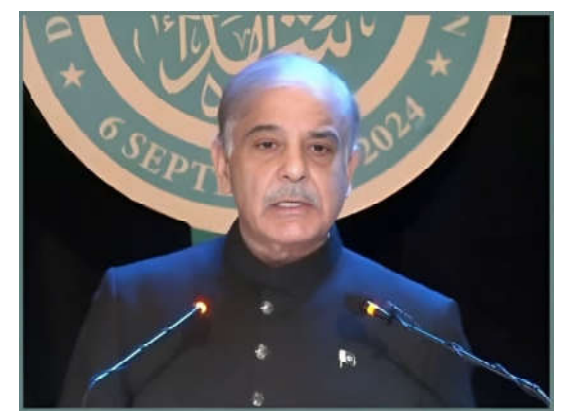
QUETTA: Federal Defense Minister Khawaja Asif and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding law and order

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



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

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

CM, Defence Minister co-chair meeting Measures taken for restoration of peace being made effective; action continues against terrorists, CM tells Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that one-sided narrative is being propagated about the province, which is sorrowful.

He said that measures taken for restoration of peace are being made effective and action is continued against the terrorists.

This war is not of the army and sarmachars, rather it is also of every individual of the society.

The Chief Minister said that this concept

should be made clear on every person fighting in this war that direction of the state is right against the miscreants and we are right.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting on law and order in the province along with the Federal Minister Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif here on Friday.

The Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah briefed the meeting about the overall law and order situation and



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

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 Hassan 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 take-over."

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,

Defence minister visits residence of martyred Major in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday visited the residence of martyred Major Jalaluddin in Quetta and met with his family.

He paid tribute to the family of martyred Major Jalaluddin that the sacred blood of martyrs will not go in vain.

"The Pakistani nation takes pride in its martyrs,"

he said adding that it is an honor for me to meet the family of a brave martyred soldier of the Pakistan Army. The minister said the martyrs have made Pakistan invincible by sacrificing their precious lives.

"We cannot repay the debt owed to these martyrs. We pray for their elevated ranks. The Pakistani nation is indebted to its martyrs," Khawaja Asif remarked.

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.

Chief Minister, Corps Commander visit monument of martyrs in Quetta cant., lays floral wreath

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti along with the Corps Commander, Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan visited the monument of martyrs located in the Quetta cantonment on Friday morning.

He laid floral wreath and prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs marking the Defence Day of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd)

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola, Provincial Ministers, members of the parliament, Inspector General of Frontier Corps (North), Major General Abid Mazhar, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansari and the families of martyrs also visited the monument and laid floral wreath there.

They also prayed for the departed souls of martyrs and made pledge to play their role for defence of the country.



QUETTA: Members of Defenders of Pakistan Movement 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 Quetta press club.

Need bridges to connect people Balochistan can't afford more differences, hatred and disputes, insists Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that it is requirement of the present time to shun our differences and build bridges of love and mutual understanding.

For this, everyone has to play one's role and fill that gap for coming out of the fear, distrust and distances, which increases distances between us.

The Governor made it clear that our province can't afford more distances, differences, hatred and disputes, therefore, we have to build such bridges which connect us.

In a statement issued here on Friday, the Governor said that diversity is our precious asset in perspective of Pakistan and Balochistan. It means that unity in diversity is not

mere a slogan rather it is very big need of all the nationalities and religions living in the province.

He said that it is matter of contentment that our differences are less.

He said that we can provide opportunities of service to every conscious person to contribute in the development of country and nation by strengthening the local bodies system.

The Governor said that we can utilize the potential and spirit of public service of youth by engaging them at the level of union councils. He said that at the moment, we don't need to be disappointed, just because we have the bright prospects of natural resources and minerals besides the geographic location on the basis of which, we can come at par of other provinces, he added.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan administering polio drop to a child to formally inaugurate anti-polio campaign

Stern action to be taken against those attempting to halt anti-polio drive in Balochistan, asserts CS

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has categorically stated that the upcoming anti-polio campaign is very important with regard to eradicate polio virus and save our children from the crippling disease and as such stern action would be taken against those who attempted to halt the campaign in the province.

The Chief Secretary said that Frontier Corps would be deployed in some districts to make the anti-polio campaign successful if needed so.

He expressed deep concern over the increased

number of polio cases in the province saying that it is a matter of concern that 12 out of total 17 cases have been registered in Balochistan.

He was chairing a high level meeting about the upcoming anti-polio campaign and arrangements made for it, here at his office on Friday.

The Chief Secretary said that the provincial government is mobilizing all resources to ensure eradication of polio virus from the province.

He said that it is unavoidable to stop spread of

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.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPs expressing their views on point of order during Balochistan Assembly session

Pakistanis unite to honor martyrs, armed forces on Social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan marks the 59th anniversary of the 1965 war, the nation comes together to honor the bravery and sacrifices of its heroes who laid down their lives for the country where digital platforms are seen flooded with gratitude to the valiant martyrs and armed forces who defended the motherland against all odds.



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.

Major relief for government...

Continued from page 1 The impugned judgment had referred to Article 9 (security of person) but did not even briefly explain how anyone's security was undermined or affected by the Amendments. Reference was also made to Article 14 (inviolability of dignity of man) but there was no explanation forthcoming on how any of the Amendments had affected anyone's dignity.



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

Stern action to be taken against...

Continued from page 1 the polio virus and save our children from the permanent disability. He on the occasion assured that fool proof security would be provided to all the teams participating in the anti-polio campaign in the province.

Do not let political...

Continued from page 1 elements, are more dangerous and complex than traditional terrorism. He assured the nation that the armed forces are actively combating these threats while remaining committed to national unity and peace.

Measures taken for restoration...

Continued from page 1 erments is unavoidable for elimination of the terrorism in the province. Addressing the meeting, the Federal Minister Defence said that the murder of innocent people on the basis of nationalism and linguistic grounds is condemnable.

President Agriculture Extension Dept. Union meets CM Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The President of Agriculture Extension Department, Bereaved Union, Syed Habibullah Agha called on the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti to discuss the issues faced by the bereaved families of the employees.

Stern action to be taken against...

Continued from page 1 He reiterated the government's resolve to make the anti-polio campaign successful and in this regard, no negligence would be tolerated at all.

Do not let political...

Continued from page 1 The meeting was also informed that a total of 12 cases of polio have been reported in Balochistan during eight months of current year.

Stern action to be taken against...

Continued from page 1 He said that if three of our campaigns remained successful then we would be able to eradicate the polio virus fully. The Chief Secretary directed to all the district health officers to ensure their attendance in the evening review meetings.

Do not let political...

Continued from page 1 General Munir also addressed the ongoing Kashmir conflict, calling for the peaceful resolution of the issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Stern action to be taken against...

Continued from page 1 He urged the people to cooperate with the administration to convince the parents who refuse to get their children administered during the campaign just because it is a combined issue of the society.

Do not let political...

Continued from page 1 He praised the resilience of the Kashmiri people in the face of Indian aggression, stating that their "determination and courage" continue to inspire Pakistan's commitment to their cause.

Stern action to be taken against...

Continued from page 1 He reiterated the government's resolve to make the anti-polio campaign successful and in this regard, no negligence would be tolerated at all.

Do not let political...

Continued from page 1 The meeting was also informed that a total of 12 cases of polio have been reported in Balochistan during eight months of current year.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed Percentage rate tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractor/firms for the works mentioned below:-

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of scheme, E/cost. Lists various construction and maintenance projects with their respective costs.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023, G.O.B. from interested contractor/firms for the work of items listed below under Grant in Aid (2023-24). Tender fee Rs. 1000/-

Table with columns: S.#, Name of Work, E/cost. Lists construction and repair work items with costs.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE-242509541133 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242509541123 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Table with columns: S.No, Name of Work/s, E/Cost. Lists procurement items for street lights and water supply.

Director Energy (North) Energy Department. Contact information for tenders.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242509541133 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Table with columns: S.No, Name of Work/s, E/Cost. Lists procurement items for street lights and water supply.

Director Energy (North) Energy Department. Contact information for tenders.

TENDER NOTICE

The CHIEF OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE WASHBOD District Panjgur invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023, G.O.B. from interested contractor/firms for the work of items listed below under Grant in Aid (2023-24). Tender fee Rs. 1000/-

Table with columns: S.#, Name of Work, E/cost. Lists construction and repair work items with costs.

Chief Officer Municipal Committee Washbod Panjgur. Contact information for tenders.

TENDER NOTICE

The Director General Levies invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242509541431 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required.

Table with columns: S.No, Class of Object, Bid Security. Lists procurement items for manufactured vehicles and accessories.

ADMIN OFFICER DIRECTORATE GENERAL BALOCHISTAN LEVIES FORCE. Contact information for tenders.

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.

Sharing further details during the meeting, Siddiqui said that MoU has already been signed among the consortium members at Pakistan Business Conference held in Shenzhen city of 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.

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.

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.

"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 endorsed the Prime Minister's bold efforts in restoring the International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal, which helped stabilize

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

We should celebrate September 6 as 'Day of Loyalty': Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday in his message regarding Defence Day said all of us should pledge to celebrate September 6 as the "Day of Loyalty".

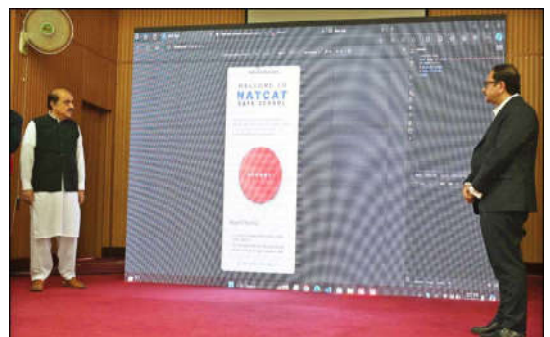
and country, they can never be forgotten," he said. "Martyrs will always remain in our hearts, Pakistan is still facing terrorism and the dirty tricks of the enemy," he said.

The minister said on September 6, 1965, the enemy was taught a lesson, stories of courage and bravery have been created.

This day warms the blood of all of us and inspires us to sacrifice everything for the motherland, he added. On this day, the entire nation salutes the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force. The enemy should not be under any misunderstanding because the entire nation is standing by its forces, the minister underlined.

"Today we all have to renew our pledge to stand by our youth and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their nation

and country, they can never be forgotten," he said. "Martyrs will always remain in our hearts, Pakistan is still facing terrorism and the dirty tricks of the enemy," he said.



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

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 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.

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.

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

PM visits IGP Islamabad to condole his mother's death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of Inspector General of Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi to condole the death of his mother.

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. Chaudhry supported

The prime minister prayed for peace for the departed soul and strength for bereaved family to bear the loss, according to a PM Office press release.

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

"The grief of the passing of a great blessing like mother, stays with the bereaved person forever," the prime minister remarked.

Any party will not be allowed to seal the capital, they could hold 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.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

Chaudhry supported

IRSA releases 250,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 250,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 273,200 cusecs.

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.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 155,700 cusecs and 155,200 cusecs respectively.

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

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.

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.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 183,800, 162,800, 199,300 and 152,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 32,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 25,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Speaking at the occasion, Chohan lauded the 20-year partnership between HEC and USAID.

ICT administration to open Rawal Dam spillways due to rising water levels

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration opened the spillways of Rawal Dam on Friday at 6 a.m. as a precautionary measure due to rising water levels.

He emphasized the profound impact of modern social media in transforming higher education communication.

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.

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

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

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.

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

The workshop concluded successfully yesterday and was organized by the USAID-funded 'Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program'.

The public is encouraged to contact the district administration by dialling 16 in case of emergencies, he added.

Education ministry appoints Zahid Munir as Scholar in Tehran University

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT) has completed the recruitment process for the Pakistan Chair Aboard regarding the Chair in Urdu and Pakistan Studies, University of Tehran, Iran. Mr. Zahid Munir Khan Amir, Director of Urdu Development & Translation Centre, Punjab University Oriental College, University of Punjab, Lahore has been appointed

as a Scholar at the University of Tehran, IRAN, according to a press release on Friday. The chair is an important instrument for enhancing the recognition of Pakistan in the field of academia around the world.

Moreover, it is meant to introduce the history, culture, and language of Pakistan to various globally renowned universities. After detailed deliberation, the Letter of Cooperation (LOC) was signed on 17 July 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Children enjoy playing during pleasant weather at Sukh Chayn Park, in the Federal Capital.

Senator Azam commends Meta's role in advancing 'Child Protection & Privacy'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law, Justice & Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, held a meeting with the delegation headed by Simon Milner, Vice President Public Policy APAC, Meta here on Friday.

between the Ministry of Human Rights and Meta (Facebook) to promote the right to privacy and child protection in digital spaces. The content is designed to educate the public about their digital rights and responsibilities, reflecting the Ministry's broader human rights agenda. A central aspect of this initiative is the promotion of the TakeDown platform, developed by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

The Minister commended Meta (Facebook) for its proactive role in ensuring safe digital spaces. He praised Meta (Facebook) for effectively utilizing its platform to support the Ministry's initiatives on child protection, privacy, and related human rights concerns.

The platform allows individuals to anonymously report explicit images or videos of minors shared online. Through this tool, families and young people can take proactive measures to remove harmful content from the internet, addressing online

harassment, exploitation, and cyberbullying. This collaboration underscores the Ministry's commitment to safeguarding children in the digital space. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration with Meta (Facebook) to tackle pressing issues such as online child protection and the preservation of individual privacy rights. He reiterated the Ministry's dedication to partnering with Meta and other key stakeholders to ensure that Pakistan leads in human rights advocacy and protection. The Ministry of Human Rights remains committed to expanding its partnership with Meta and other collaborators to enhance the awareness, protection.

The Minister also recognized the Public Service Video (PSM) developed by Meta (Facebook) as a significant contribution to advancing the Ministry's mission. This video highlights the collaborative efforts

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 to the family.

The Minister also recognized the Public Service Video (PSM) developed by Meta (Facebook) as a significant contribution to advancing the Ministry's mission. This video highlights the collaborative efforts

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.

The meetings were attended by DIG Law and Order Shakir Hussain Dawar, SSP Safe City Shoaib Khan, Safe City IT staff and all divisional police officers.

Speaking at the occasion, Chohan lauded the 20-year partnership between HEC and USAID.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

He emphasized the profound impact of modern social media in transforming higher education communication.

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

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.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

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.

The meetings were attended by DIG Law and Order Shakir Hussain Dawar, SSP Safe City Shoaib Khan, Safe City IT staff and all divisional police officers.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

IGP Islamabad reviewed the implementation report on the targets assigned to officers, including the performance of the branches of Safe City

IGP Islamabad also chaired an important meeting regarding crime control at the CPO, where he reviewed the performance of police officers in crime prevention. He instructed all divisional police officers to arrest the wanted suspects in cases of theft, robbery.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Saturday September 07, 2024

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-Ayeen-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.

Nadir Cheema

Pakistan's media is abuzz about Imran Khan's bid for the chancellorship of Oxford University. The conversations seem to discount his having been chancellor of the University of Bradford in 2005-2014.

It reminds me of a member of my English family asking why so many of my friends went to Oxford or Cambridge. To me it was self-evident that coming from former British colonies, we saw the ultimate goal of our lives as admission to either of these institutions. Oxford and Cambridge were after all key recruitment grounds for the colonial administrators, most notably through the Indian Civil Service (ICS).

That said, the influence of Oxford University extends well beyond Britain's former empire. And PTI has made the most of the opportunity that elections at a globally recognised university offer to highlight the predicament of its founder.

Critics of the former

PM's nomination raise concerns about his conviction on corruption charges. They draw attention to his stance on the Taliban, and to statements they see as opposed to Western liberal values — particularly on women's rights — values that these institutions presumably uphold.

While it is the case that the former PM is under trial for various charges, his convictions have either been suspended or overturned by higher courts. A candidate's ideological leanings may conflict with the ethos of an institution and provide grounds for arguments to dissuade voters; yet a candidate cannot be disqualified solely on the basis of his or her views. The debate around Khan's nomination is therefore misplaced.

A cursory glance at the profiles of the last few chancellors reveals that while all of them were national political figures, none were active in politics at the time of their election. A careful reading of the Council regulations 8,

clause (7) © further clarifies that "the Chancellor cannot be a serving member of, or a declared candidate for election to, an elected legislature."

Our pundits should examine whether the former PM meets this criterion. He remains highly active in politics, having declared his candidacy for parliament in this year's elections with the intention of re-entering parliament and becoming prime minister. Assuming Khan is elected, will he announce his withdrawal from electoral politics during the chancellor's term, which is 10 years?

If Imran Khan's nomination is accepted, the next step is to dissect the electorate. Electoral analyses typically rely on outcomes from previous elections. In the last three elections, voting occurred in person in Oxford, involving voters based in Oxford or those who could travel there on the day of the vote. The turnout ranged from 4,000 to 8,000 votes. Notably, only graduates who have had their degrees conferred,

along with staff and members of the congregation, are eligible to vote.

The election will be held online this time, with 250,000 eligible voters. The university has yet to disclose how many voters have registered. The shift to online voting has extended the franchise beyond geographical borders, which is territory yet uncharted by any election guru.

Further dissecting the electorate would reveal pockets of support for Imran Khan. As a student in 2002, I had an opportunity to examine the database of Pakistani students at Oxford while assisting the Oxford University Development Office in raising funds for scholarships for Pakistani students. In the first 50 years (1947-1997), fewer than 300 students from Pakistan came to Oxford University. Since then, the annual intake has increased significantly, because of the unwavering dedication of the Lady Nyon Educational Trust, and more recently the Oxford Pakistan Programme

(OPP), in supporting scholarships for Pakistani students. Over the last 25 years, we have another 300 students who attended Oxford. So we can estimate under 600 Pakistani students since Pakistan's inception, many of whom are no longer alive or too old to vote online. The annual intake of British-born Pakistani students is increasing, with a greater focus on undergraduate programmes. Most of them are the second or third generation of Pakistani economic immigrants whose aspiring parents strove to carve out a future for them. They started gaining visibility in dreaming spires only from the early 1990s. The majority are devout Khan supporters. Further research is needed to estimate their numbers.

Oxford University is a quintessentially British institution. Its ties to the British establishment continue to be deep, so British graduates in the UK might be inclined to follow voting patterns from the last few elections, and favour British national fig-

ures such as Peter Mandelson and William Hague in this election. Others might favour Lady Elish Angiolini as potentially the first female chancellor. On the other hand, as overseas voters will be voting online for the first time, Khan might be able to galvanise the electorate in countries where cricket is popular, which are Britain's former colonies. Overseas voters from other countries are yet to be mapped, challenging the predictive powers of even the Oxford University Council.

So instead of getting too overwrought, we should enjoy these occasions, as we did the 2011 election at Cambridge University when Lord Sainsbury was elected chancellor. Sainsbury's is the second-largest supermarket chain in the UK, and another nominee was the owner of a local British Pakistani grocery shop, leading to the rumour that the election was a contest between two grocers. We should approach such events in the same spirit! - Courtesy Dawn

Draining the swamp**Sohail Habib**

The brazen attack in Rahim Yar Khan a few days back, in which 12 police officers lost their lives, brought to mind the proverb, "If you want to get rid of mosquitoes, drain the swamp that breeds them".

The katcha areas, ie the riverine areas of south Punjab and upper Sindh, have become a perennial headache. The frequency of attacks and magnitude of losses have multiplied recently. However, the state response to this complex 'cancer' has so far been to treat it with 'aspirin'.

The riverine area in Pakistan lies where the borders of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab meet. This tri-border area is of strategic importance because the Koh-i-Sulaiman hump has pushed all railroads, gas and oil pipelines, rivers and motorways to converge in a narrow geographical corridor that passes through it. To understand the complexity of criminality in this strategic terrain, let's delve deeper into the issue.

Generally, weak governance and security gaps in tri-border areas allow criminal infestation. For example, criminal gangs threaten ship-

ping lanes in the tri-border areas of Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei. Likewise, the Liptako Gourma tri-junction of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger has become the epicentre of militant attacks. Similarly, Tres Fronteras, or the triple border of Brazil, Colombia and Peru, is a hotbed of illicit activity, including narcotrafficking, deforestation and organised crime networks.

Since the three provinces of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan have different governments with different priorities, there is a lack of synergy in their efforts against criminal elements. Additionally, the criminals follow a peristaltic movement: when pressure is exerted through kinetic operations in one province, they displace to and disperse in another. Secondly, in the riverine terrain, 'crimes and cuses' are directly related. When the water level, ie cuses, rise in the mighty Indus, especially in the monsoon season, there is a spike in criminality and dacoits dominate the terrain due to the restricted mobility of LEAs.

Thirdly, sugarcane sown in Rahim Yar Khan yields the highest sugar content, which leads to extensive cropping. This area provides camouflage to dacoits in the November-January period, when water starts receding in the Indus. Fourthly, there are geographical enclaves of one district or province in another district or province, which makes operations against criminals difficult. Rajanpur lies west of the Indus, but its enclave, Bangla-Icha, is located to the east of the Indus in Rahim Yar Khan district. Bangla-Icha has historically proved to be the Waterloo for our police, with maximum casualties occurring there because reserves from Rajanpur police take five hours to reach Bangla-Icha in case of a crisis, while the RYK police hardly require half an hour. Likewise, Machka, the site of the recent attack, is a geographical enclave of Punjab located within Sindh, where police from Sindh can be more effective and responsive.

Fifthly, criminal franchises flourish in regions where economic disparities are highest. Districts with highest economic disparities and lowest HDI, like Rajanpur, Ghotki, Kashmore, Dadu, etc, are incubators for criminal

gangs. Finally, the political economy plays an important role. In some areas, dacoits are the antidote to the bourgeois feudal system, and in other places, waderas use the patronage of these bandits for political mileage. Fake police encounters involving the innocent relatives of the dacoits alienate the youth and swell the ranks of criminals.

To bring stability in the tri-border region, a long-term, proactive approach is required, involving both kinetic and non-kinetic actions. Firstly, the three provinces need unity of effort and pooling of forces to minimise coordination deficit. A simultaneous and coordinated hammer-anvil strategy employed by the three provinces can squeeze the criminal networks. Secondly, administrative-legal decisions are required to merge the enclaves in respective districts or provinces. An inter-provincial task force can be formed to take structural decisions regarding these geographical anomalies. In 2017-18, the Punjab government merged the Rajanpur enclave of Bangla-Icha in Rahim Yar Khan district. Criminal activities drastically declined after that decision. However,

the decision was reversed under feudal pressure.

Thirdly, the LEAs need to be equipped with superior weaponry and gadgetry as compared to the criminals. The dacoits have 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns, 81mm mortars, RPGs and anti-tank mines, which not only hinders police mobility but also make the police APCs sitting ducks. In such a threatening environment, police need amphibious capabilities and vertical-aerial gadgetry in the form of VTOL drones, surveillance drones with night-time capability, thermal-imaging scopes for guns, and simple armed drones that can drop mortars under gravity.

Moreover, incentivising criminal arrests through reward money and activating passport control at airports and an IVAS system at borders will lead to their attrition.

Fourthly, halting the conversion of cotton belts to sugarcane belts, especially near the riverbeds, will expose criminals' movements. Fifthly, the no-go areas can be integrated with the mainland through infrastructure development. Bridges can help mainstream fractured social strata. Such infrastructure will reduce

under-governed blind spots. Sixthly, establishing a truth and reconciliation commission will help resolve protracted tribal feuds and give relief to innocent citizens wrongly nominated in FIRs. Finally, the marginalised areas need to be integrated into the mainland through better education and employment opportunities.

In 2018, a community school was opened in the riverine area of Rojhan at a meagre cost of Rs200,000. Children of dacoits were admitted in this school. It became an instant success because of free lunch and free books provided to these children. A notorious bandit, Attaullah Putt, once dining with his grandchildren studying in the said school, appreciated the system as the children had learnt English words which he couldn't understand. He was surprised when his grandchildren showed eagerness to attend this school even on Sundays!

Therefore, for long-term stabilisation, the pen should replace the Kalashnikov in youth's hands. Draining the swamp is more effective than the short-term strategy of focusing on mosquitoes.

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 un-

fortunate 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, Ambassador 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

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 shelter-

less in 24 districts. Forty-eight per cent of the affected 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 kickback of conventional 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-nt, a sizeable population still await construction of their she-ters. 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 improvised 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

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 Chaipayon 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.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif talking to relative of martyred during her presence at monument of martyred on the eve of Defence Day.

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 the martyrs' memorial and prayed for elevation of their ranks in Heaven. In her speech on the occasion, she said, "It is a matter of great honor and pride for me that today, on the Defense Day, I have got an opportunity to visit the 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."

The CM said, "Today I especially want to pay tribute to mothers of the martyrs, I have met them too." She added, "It

is such a sentiment whose depth cannot be gauged." She added, "A mother can understand when her child goes out of the house, she waits and prays for his well-being; only when her child returns safely, she sleeps peacefully."

Maryam Nawaz said, "I think this emotion is also an invincible emotion that when a mother sends her child to the battlefield to protect the country." She added, "A mother knows where she is sending him and what can happen to him; she knows one day his body may come back in khaki." The chief minister said, "Our officers and men fight bravely on borders."

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." In response to a question, Governor Tessori remarked, "Whenever Haji Hanif Tayyab calls, I make it a point to come, as I am also a member of Al-Mustafa Trust. We must all join hands to support this team."



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

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 National Assembly Speaker 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.

Best efforts being made for welfare of kids: Sara Ahmed

MULTAN (APP): Chairperson Child Protection Bureau Punjab 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, including providing essential needs, education and training to ensure that these orphaned and abandoned children could become productive and valuable members of society.

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, including providing essential needs, education and training to ensure that these orphaned and abandoned children could become productive and valuable members of society.



KARACHI: Corps Commander Karachi, Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during his visit to Jinnah Mausoleum on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, in Karachi.

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. Former premier emphasised that nations, which thrive, never forget their martyrs and heroes, underscoring the importance of honoring those who sacrificed their lives for the country. He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmir cause, expressing solidarity with the people of the occupied valley.



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

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 Defense 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.

On this day, our brave soldiers protected the country as well as the lives of millions of patriots, he added. Murad said that the day proved we were a living nation.

"We always remember our martyrs, who sacrificed their tomorrow for our today," Chief Minister Sindh said.

He further said that the Pakistan Army had full capacity to defend the motherland.

"We stand by the side of our Pakistani forces," he said adding that once again Pakistan was going through a very critical period, on which we need to unite.

He concluded that Pakistan would always remain forever.



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.

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 famous 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 and the status of redressal of victims' grievances.

The DG NAB stated that the victims who are receiving the offer of plots and flats from the administration should take immediate possession, however, in case all the claims of the victims are not adjusted by concerned authorities, NAB Lahore team has been ordered to recover more than the original amounts of the claims.

Addressing the victims of the Professional Cooperative Housing Society, he said that due to NAB Lahore's efforts, 130 kanals of land has been recovered and handed over to the society's current management. At the insistence of the victims, the DG NAB.

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 lay 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.

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.

The new vehicles are expected to enhance the mobility and productivity of the judges, ultimately benefiting litigants who rely on their services.



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

All out efforts to control dengue, says Iqbal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Special Secretary of Health, Muhammad Iqbal on Friday stressed utilizing all resources to control dengue fever.

He directed the concerned authorities to further speed up the efforts and surveillance activities along with ongoing campaigns in this regard.

The special secretary remarked this during a meeting presided over by him on the anti-dengue campaign which was held at DC Office.

During the meeting, the dengue situation and other related administrative issues were reviewed.

The chair was

apprised that the work is being done on a large scale in the entire district.

The secretary directed the administration that any dengue suspect should be admitted to the hospital till his medical reports become negative.

"Take timely action, give a speedy response to dengue cases, spray properly on affected areas," he said. The special secretary emphasized on paying special focus on high-risk union councils with targeted dengue surveillance teams.

He appreciated health officers' deployment of authorities and personnel of relevant institutions for monitoring is commendable.

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. The day renew our commitment to doing everything possible for the safety and prosperity of our homeland."

Nawabzada stressed that every Pakistani.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain visited the family of Lt. Col. Asif Ali Awan Shaheed.

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.

Pirzada assures NA for taking steps towards accelerating work on FGEHA's projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday assured the National Assembly of taking steps towards accelerating work on Federal Government Employees Housing Authority's (FGEHA) projects, facing delays for a long time.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Shagufta Jumani and others about the delay

in the completion and handing over to allottees of the Residencia Apartments, G-13 and residential plots of F-14, F-15, Bhara Kahu and Park Road projects under the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, the minister regretted the delay in the execution of the housing projects for various reasons. He said it would also be our effort that the landowners get the market

price for their land.

He said that the projects also faced delays due to pending cases before the courts and there were also land dispute issues.

He went on to say that land was vacated for the said projects but payments were not made to the owners of the land.

The minister said that all efforts would be made to hand over possession to the allottees as soon as possible.

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.

Besides, the Additional Chief Secretary of Home and Principal Secretary to CM Muhammad Abid Majeed, high-ups of the Energy and Power Department, PEDO, and representatives of an international firm working on BHPP attended the meeting. While briefing the participants of the meeting on the 300 MW Balakot Hydro Power Project, it was told that the project would be completed in seven years at an estimated cost of Rs 95 billion adding a total of three 100 MW power houses would produce electricity of 1143 GWH annually. He was further told that a receipt of Rs. 15 billion per annum is expected from BHPP.

During the briefing, the participants were apprised that the construction of dams, powerhouses, tunnels, intake structures, residential colonies for staff, and approach roads are the main components of the project.

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.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 (37.25%) items increased, 13 (25.50%) items decreased and 19 (37.25%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included tomatoes (14.54%), chicken (1.55%), wheat flour (1.31%), chilies powder (1.30%), diesel (1.23%),

petrol (0.68%), pulse masoor (0.59%), sugar (0.54%), pulse mash (0.49%) and cooking oil 5 litre (0.41%).

The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included onions (3.83%), pulse gram (1.65%), garlic (1.38%), LPG (0.90%), cooked daal & cooked beef (0.70%) each, eggs (0.54%), potatoes (0.50%), rice basmati broken (0.34%) and georgette (0.14%).

On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (37.69%), sugar (21.79%), chilies powder (20.00%), electricity charges for q1 (16.91%), diesel (15.64%), petrol (15.03%), cooking oil 5 litre (10.77%), rice basmati broken (9.52%), gur (7.92%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (6.80%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (6.00%) and washing soap (0.92%).

'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. The minister also shed light on Punjab CM's livestock card and added that as per the direction of Punjab CM a decision had been made to set up foot and mouth disease free zones at a cost of Rs 7.5 billion.

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.

Fourteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Suape VII, Zhong Gu Bo Hai and Wan Hai-316 left the port today morning while four more ships, Colombo Express, YC Azalea, Clipper Kythira and Ullswater are expected to sail on Friday.

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.

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 while no bid was received for the 28-day tenor.

PSO's outstanding dues 'climb' to Rs 786b

KARACHI (INP): The total outstanding dues of various sectors of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) have climbed to Rs 786 billion.

According to sources, the import bill for RNLG (Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas) has surpassed Rs 506 billion, while Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) owes PSO Rs 506 billion for LNG supply.

The power sector's dues have also crossed Rs 186 billion, adding to PSO's financial woes, whereas, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) owes PSO Rs 28.75 billion.

The drop in of the rupee rate has resulted in an additional burden of Rs 88.84 billion on the government. Despite the massive outstanding

dues, only Rs 10 billion has been paid to PSO in the past month, sources revealed.

Earlier, the decision to privatize major state-owned energy companies, including Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pak Arab Refinery Company (PARCO), and Sui gas companies, has been deferred to the federal government.

The Petroleum Division submitted a summary to the Cabinet Committee regarding the privatization of PSO, PARCO, and Sui gas companies.

The summary from the Petroleum Division suggested that the federal government should make the final decision regarding the privatization of these entities.

PSX gains 0.45% this week amid range-bound trading

KARACHI (INP): The benchmark of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), KSE-100, gained 0.45% this week compared to last week's session but remained below 79,000, according to an AHL report.

On Friday, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) rose and 52 fell with KOHC (+10.0%), MARI (+1.31%) and BAFL (+2.11%) providing the biggest upside index contributions, according to AHL.

Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) rebalancing on September 20 should now start to come into focus where Pakistan will be moving from a secondary emerging market (EM) to a frontier

market (FM) and the quantum of sell-side flows that can materialise. The outlook remains positive above 78,000 with expectations for moves towards 80,000 in the coming week, AHL said.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) KSE 100 Index week-on-week gain can be attributed to consumer price index CPI inflation number for the month of August 2024 that clocked in at 9.6% year-on-year as compared to 11.1% in July 2024, according to Topline Securities.

Other major developments during the week were Pakistan's trade deficit for the month of August 2024 clocking in at US\$1.68 billion (down by 12% month-on-month).

Rupee gains 11 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 11 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.67 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.67. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.75 and Rs 280.25 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 63 paise to close at Rs 309.58 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.95.

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 Insaf 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 Insaf 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 and its armed forces know very well how to protect their freedom and defend the borders of the motherland.



MULTAN: A vendor arranging and displaying seasonal fruit pomegranates to attract the customers at his roadside setup.

Tunisia, Pak 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 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 company's commitment to embracing the latest technologies to provide a modern workspace, ensuring long-term sustainability, and delivering excellent value to shareholders, investors, employees, suppliers, and vendors.

During the meeting, Mr. Khan gave a comprehensive presentation on investment opportunities in Pakistan. He noted that Tunisia's geographical location is strategically important for Pakistan due to its connections with developed European countries and its position at the crossroads of emerging African markets.



RAWALPINDI: Labourers busy in packing husk into sacks to transport different areas at Pirwadi in twin cities.

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.

... 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 Enderasha 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 Arevalo 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 on Thursday, without reaching the deal he had sought with prosecutors.

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 and efficiency in the public sector, particularly in areas of high societal and long-term economic significance such as health, education, security and civil protection."

US says deep strikes in Russia no game-changer after Zelenskiy plea

Monitoring Desk
RAMSTEIN AIR BASE: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin cautioned on Friday there was "no one capability" that would turn the war in Ukraine in Kyiv's favour after President Volodymyr Zelenskiy urged the West to let his forces use its long-range weapons to strike Russia.

At a regular meeting of Ukraine's allies at Ramstein US Air Base in Germany, Zelenskiy repeated his plea for Western nations to supply more long-range missiles and lift restrictions on using them to hit targets such as airfields inside Russia.

Austin said Washington and its allies would continue to give strong support to Ukraine in fighting Russia's invasion, announcing another \$250 million in

US security assistance. But, questioned by reporters, the Pentagon chief pushed back on the idea that allowing deep strikes inside Russia with Western weapons would be a game-changer.

He said Russia had already moved aircraft that launch glide bombs into Ukraine beyond the range of U.S.-supplied ATACM missiles.

"There's no one capability that will in and of itself be decisive in this campaign," Austin told reporters at the end of the meeting. He also said Ukraine had capabilities of its own - such as drones - to hit targets inside Russia that were beyond the reach of ATACM and British-supplied Storm Shadow missiles.

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.

Man jailed for 9 years for arson at asylum seekers' hotel in UK riots

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A British man was jailed for nine years on Friday for arson at a hotel housing asylum seekers last month, by far the longest sentence imposed over a wave of anti-Muslim riots. Thomas Birley, 27, pleaded guilty to arson with intent to endanger life after stoking a fire in a bin by an entranceway to a hotel near Rotterdam in northern England on August 4.

Prosecutor Elisha Kay said Birley added wood to an already-flaming industrial bin which had been placed in front of a fire door of the hotel while staff and guests sheltered inside. Kay said hotel staff barricaded themselves in a panic room and "thought they were going to burn to death".

Birley, who also pleaded guilty to violent disorder and possessing an offensive weapon, was sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court by Judge Jeremy Richardson.



France newly appointed Prime minister Michel Barnier delivers a speech next to outgoing Prime minister Gabriel Attal during the handover ceremony at the Hotel Matignon in Paris, France.

Opec+ delays oil output hike for two months

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Opec+ has agreed to delay a planned oil output increase for October and November, the producers group said on Thursday after crude prices hit their lowest in nine months, adding that it could further pause or reverse the hikes if needed.

Oil prices have been falling along with other asset classes on concerns about a weak global economy and soft data from China, the world's biggest oil importer. Oil prices held near a

14-month low on Thursday. Brent futures were down 18 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$72.52 a barrel by 1739 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 25 cents, or 0.4pc, to \$68.95.

Eight members of Opec+, which is made up of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, that had been scheduled to raise output from October held a virtual meeting on Thursday. Opec said in a statement.

Bangladesh's poll chief resigns

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's elections chief quit on Thursday after denying political interference in January polls that re-elected autocratic leader Sheikh Hasina, who has since fled the country after a student-led revolution.

Kazi Habibur Awal and the country's four other election commissioners all tendered their resignation, citing the ex-premier's ouster as the reason for doing so. They are the latest of several Hasina-appointed public officials to quit their posts since her departure, including the central bank boss and supreme court judges.

Colombia reaches deal with truckers to suspend road blockades

Monitoring Desk
BOGOTA: Colombia's government on Friday reached a deal with truckers to suspend a protest over a rise in diesel prices after road blockades threatened to cause food and fuel shortages in the biggest cities. The deal came after the government backed down from its plan to increase the price of diesel by 1,904 pesos (45 cents) per gallon starting this month, instead agreeing to a rise of just 800 pesos in two equal increments during the rest of the year.

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 Khan Yunis in the south of Gaza, both areas that have been battered by the conflict and have hosted tens of thousands of people who

have fled other parts. "The polio vaccination campaign has moved to Gaza southern areas today. UNRWA teams are in Khan Yunis this morning, working with partners to provide the vaccine to children," UNRWA said in a statement.

"At this critical time, area pauses must be respected to protect families and humanitarian workers," it said.

Most of the activity will be conducted in Khan Yunis and will include residents who had been forced by the Israeli military to leave Rafah, near the border with Egypt, where Israeli forces have been operating since May.

Health officials aim to reach 640,000 Gaza children for vaccinations against polio in a campaign launched after the discovery of a case in which a one-year-old baby was partially paralysed.

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.

Deadly super typhoon Yagi makes landfall in China's Hainan

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Asia's strongest storm this year, Super Typhoon Yagi, made landfall along the coast of China's Hainan province on Friday, bringing gales and heavy rain which shut schools for a second day and cancelled flights in the South China Sea region.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 234 km per hour (145 mph) near its centre, Yagi registers as the world's second-most powerful tropical cyclone in 2024 so far, after the Category 5 Atlantic hurricane Beryl, and the most severe in the Pacific basin this year.

After more than doubling in strength since killing 16 people in the northern Philippines earlier this week, Yagi slammed into the city of Wenchang on Hainan island.

The typhoon had shut schools, businesses and transport links in Hong Kong, Macau, Hainan and Guangdong as well as airports in Vietnam, which it is predicted to hit, along with Laos, over the weekend.

Vietnam's Civil Aviation Authority said four airports in the north, including Hanoi's Noi Bai Inter-

national, would be closed on Saturday due to the storm.

In the financial hub of Hong Kong, the stock exchange was shuttered while schools remained closed on Friday as a precautionary measure.

Hong Kong's airport authority said operations had largely returned to normal after 50 flights were cancelled on Thursday, and the city of over 7 million people also lowered its typhoon warning by a notch after midday, with winds expected to weaken gradually as Yagi moves away, allowing businesses to reopen.

The world's longest sea crossing, the main bridge linking Hong Kong with Macau and Zhuhai in Guangdong, also reopened on Friday afternoon after being shut since Thursday. However, intense rainbands associated with Yagi will still bring heavy squally showers to the territory.

Yagi is the most severe storm to land in Hainan since 2014, when Typhoon Rammasun slammed into the island province as a Category Five tropical cyclone.

Pope Francis arrives in Papua New Guinea, country two of 12-day trip

Monitoring Desk
PORT MORESBY: Pope Francis arrived in Papua New Guinea on Friday evening from Indonesia, where the 87-year-old leader of the global Catholic Church will continue an ambitious 12-day tour across Southeast Asia and Oceania.

The Garuda Indonesia plane carrying the pope and his entourage arrived in Port Moresby, the Papua New Guinea capital, where he will stay for the next three nights. The pontiff, departing the plane using his wheelchair, was met on the tarmac by Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso and senior members of the Catholic Church in the country. Local children presented him with gifts as a military band played the anthem of the Vatican.

After the brief ceremony at the airport, Francis headed to the Vatican embassy for the evening. His first public event in the country will be an address to political leaders on Saturday morning. While in PNG Francis will make a day trip to the northwestern town of Vanimo, before departing the country on Monday. He is then scheduled to visit East Timor and Singapore before returning to Rome on Sept 13.

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, Francis urged political leaders to guard against religious extremism.

The pope also visited Istiqlal Mosque, Southeast Asia's largest, and signed a joint declaration with the national grand imam.



Demonstrators clash with police officers during an anti-immigration protest, in Rotherham.

Meena Majeed Baloch pays homage to martyrs of 6th September: BA adopts resolutions about increase in grant of BINUQ, registration of private water tankers in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted two resolutions here in its session held on Friday afternoon.

The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair. The resolutions adopted by the House were related to the increase in annual grant of Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology (BINUQ) and registration of the private water tanker operators and licenses of their drivers in Quetta city.

The resolution about increase in grant of BINUQ was tabled by the Member Provincial Assembly belonging to National Party, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch while the second resolution about registration of the private water tanker operators was presented by the MPA belonging to JUL.

MPA Rehmat Baloch demanded of the provincial government to increase the grant of BINUQ from existing Rs. 500 million to Rs. 2 billion. The government should ensure allocation of the grant of BINUQ from Rs. 500 million to Rs. 2 billion in view of the increasing number of patients there, the MPA demanded through his resolution.

It was also pointed out that the BINUQ is the only center of providing free treatment to the patients of kidney in Balochistan where hundreds of patients are provided free treatment and medicines.

He also pointed out that 300-400 major and minor operations of the patients are carried out in the Institute while dialysis of 100-120 patients are also done on daily basis there.

In addition to this, transplant of more than 65 patients have also been done in the BINUQ, it was

further noted.

Meanwhile, through her resolution, the MPA Shahid Rauf demanded of the provincial government to conduct registration of the private water tankers supplying water in Quetta city and surrounding areas.

Moreover, ban should be imposed on those drivers operating the water tankers without licenses, it was further demanded adding that use of mobile phones and headphones should also be banned during driving.

Earlier, the MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch on a point of order said that session of provincial assembly is being run by the Opposition. He said that the government members have no interest in running the assembly.

He said that if government members didn't turn up in the session next time, then we would pinpoint towards quorum.



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

Balochistan celebrates Defence Day with zeal

QUETTA (APP): The Defence and Martyrs Day was celebrated with zeal in Balochistan on Friday. The day dawned with the recitation of the Holy Quran and special prayers for the prosperity of Pakistan in all mosques throughout the province.

Officers of the Pak Army, Frontier Corps, Police, and Levies Force while offering Fataha for the fallen heroes of the nation laid floral wreaths at different Yadgar-e-Shuhada set up in various districts of the province. Rallies were taken out in respective districts including Quetta to pay rich tribute to martyrs on Defence Day. Various ceremonies were held to pay homage to the martyrs and Ghazis and highlighted the sacrifices rendered by the Armed Forces.

Defender of Pakistan Movement (DPM) took out a rally, led by DPM's Provincial leader Mehmood Khan Mandukhail, from Quetta Metropolitan Corporation to celebrate Defence Day and accumulated

in front of Quetta Press Club after marching different routes.

Addressing the participants of the rally, he said that the defense of the country was strengthened due to numerous efforts of security forces including the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC), and other forces.

He said that on 6th September our brave forces defeated Indian Army. He also paid rich tribute to the martyrs of the country.

In his message, on the occasion of 6th September Defence Day, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti paid homage to all the martyrs of the motherland on the Defence Day.

He said that the Defence Day is a renewal of the pledge that we would not let the sacrifices of our great martyrs go in vain adding that we could always play our role collectively as patriotic Pakistanis for the defense, development, integrity, and stability of our country.

He said that 6th Sep-

tember is a day in the history of Pakistan and that we must always maintain the collective national spirit and determination for the protection, integrity, and defense of our beloved homeland.

The CM said that this was demonstrated by the entire nation during the war of 6th September 1965, when our brave armed forces and the entire nation came together to prove that arms or numbers do not mean anything before the strength of unity and faith.

He said that it was a historic day when our forces uprooted the enemy's footholds and became a leaden wall to defend the motherland. When, despite being outnumbered and lacking in war equipment, our forces showed great courage and bravery, he said.

Sarfraz Bugti said that the Pakistan Army successfully defended the geographical borders of the country and thwarted the nefarious intentions of the Indian forces.

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 it 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 Plan, and Vision 2030. Key areas such as exports, digital development, environment, energy and equity have been prioritized under this framework.



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

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 (retd) Badruddin and other relatives.

He expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of martyred Captain Ahmed Badr and offered Fataha 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 (retd) Badruddin had demonstrated remarkable composure and courage after the martyrdom of his son, who fought bravely against terrorists.

"The whole nation is proud of the unwavering spirit demonstrated by the martyr's father on the martyrdom of his son", the minister remarked.

"Today we are safe in our homes because of the sacrifices of martyrs like Ahmed Badr" he said.

He said that the government and the Pakistan Armed Forces were determined to uproot Fitnatul Khawarij from the country.



QUETTA: Provincial President Awami National Party (ANP) Asghar Khan Achakzai, Nasrullah Zarey, Aslam Baloch and others addressing All Parties' joint Press conference

NA passes 'Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill 2024'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Friday passed the "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024" with a majority vote.

The bill, introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Danyal Chaudhary, aims to regulate public gatherings to ensure they do not disrupt public order.

Law Minister Azam Tarar said that the purpose of the bill is to maintain peace during public assemblies and processions.

He dismissed the opposition's concerns, noting that the increasing number of demonstrations in the federal capital has caused significant inconvenience to citizens. The bill seeks to address these challenges while preserving the right to peaceful assembly.

The bill was moved by Pakistan Muslim League

Nawaz senior leader Danyal Chaudhary.

Law Minister Azam Tarar said the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill 2024 aims to ensure that the public order is not disturbed by public gatherings.

He rejected the notion of the opposition and said the federal capital was seemingly "under siege" and the growing number of processions had made the lives of citizens miserable.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons: The right to assemble peacefully is a fundamental right, but it is subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order morality, and the security of the state. The restrictions are necessary to ensure the exercise of this right does not infringe upon the rights of others and threaten the stability of society.



QUETTA: Ittehad Ahle-Sunnat Balochistan Chief, Syed Shuja-ul-Haq Hashmi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.



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 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.

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.

Director Colleges issues notice to private colleges, academies, tuition, language centers

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Director Colleges has issued notice to the private colleges, academies as well as the tuition and language centers operating in the province.

According to a notice appeared in a section of press, the Director Colleges asked the private colleges, academies, tuition and language centers to get them registered with the concerned department by September 27, 2024. Otherwise, action would be taken against those failing to do so.

The Director Colleges mentioned that the notice has been issued to the private colleges and academies in light of the directives of Government of Balochistan and High Court.

Tree plantation begins at New Gwadar Intl Airport

GWADAR (INP): A tree plantation drive has kicked off at New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) under the "Green Coverage Initiative" as part of fulfilling the commitment to BRI's global greener practices. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) and China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) have been collaborating in the afforestation process to beautify the ambience that will help bolster the environmental landscape, Gwadar Pro reported. In the first phase, which started on September 3rd, more than 3 kilometers of incoming and outgoing roads at NGIA are being brought under tree coverage. During the second phase, trees will be planted on designated patches of the airport to boost the green ecosystem.



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.

Khethran says: 6th Sept is celebrated as symbol of bravery

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Public Health Engineer (PHE) Sardar Abdul Rehman Khethran on Friday said that the 6th September is the day of our brave armed forces in the glorious history of Pakistan. In a message, he said that it is celebrated as a symbol of the bravery, determination and unparalleled spirit of sacrifice of the troops. The minister said that 59 years ago on this day, our Pakistan Army officers, soldiers, navy men and air force soldiers proved to the world that they are always ready to defend the motherland secretly at any cost.

He said that the Day of Defense and Martyrs reminds us of the unparalleled courage and bravery that the armed forces and the nation displayed by defeating the nefarious intentions of the enemy. Khethran said that in the hour of trial, the forces of Pakistan fought the land, sea and air war fearlessly.

"The nation and the armed forces proved that size does not matter, it is passion, passion and courage that matters most", he said. He said that we are well aware of our national and international responsibilities, our armed forces are ready to deal with any kind of situation.

He said that the Day of Defense and Martyrs reminds us of the unparalleled courage and bravery that the armed forces and the nation displayed by defeating the nefarious intentions of the enemy. Khethran said that in the hour of trial, the forces of Pakistan fought the land, sea and air war fearlessly.

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.

P@SHA delegation visits PTA

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan IT Association (P@SHA) visited the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Headquarters on Friday to discuss and deliberate on facilitating a smooth and congenial business environment for IT companies and software houses. Chairman of the PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman, extended a warm welcome to the P@SHA delegation.



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir briefed Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai about accountability facilitation cell

Dr. Rubaba Buledi says: WDD to continue every possible support for women's welfare

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to CM Balochistan on Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized that skilled women are beneficial for both society and the economy.

She highlighted that given the changing times, it has become essential for women in Balochistan to acquire unconventional skills. She made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the Women Chamber of Commerce (Quetta District).

The delegation informed her about the challenges faced by women in participating in international and local exhibitions, the need to train disabled women, the importance of e-commerce training for women entrepreneurs in

Balochistan, and the funding required for the Chamber's activities, along with other issues related to women's welfare.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi underscored the significance of participating in national and international handicraft exhibitions. She noted that such events not only encourage women but also provide them with opportunities to showcase their skills. Efforts are underway to ensure the participation of women from the province in international handicraft exhibitions. She mentioned that, Under the arrangements of Department of Women's Development many women have been trained in the province and are successfully running businesses through e-commerce.

National Party condemns raid on Ayub's home

Independent Report.
TURBAT- Nazimuddin Advocate Baloch, Central Committee member and former Advocate General of Balochistan, strongly condemned the raid on the home of National Party's Central Vice President Ayub Qureshi in Karachi.

In a statement, Baloch said that the police entered Qureshi's home without a warrant, violating the sanctity of the house and disrespecting the family's privacy. He termed the act as a blatant disregard for the law and democratic norms.

Baloch demanded an immediate inquiry into the incident and action against those responsible for the unauthorized raid. He also emphasized that the National Party will not tolerate such acts of harassment and intimidation against its leaders and workers.



QUETTA: Women MPAs talking with Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola before start of Balochistan Assembly session

Deputy Chairman NAB visits Quetta, meets with CM and Speaker BA

Independent Report
QUETTA: Deputy Chairman NAB, Sohail Nasser, visited Quetta yesterday and held separate meetings with the Chief Minister of Balochistan and the Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly. The purpose of the meetings was to enhance coordination regarding complaints filed against members of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly (MPAs).

The Deputy Chairman stated that the Accountability Facilitation Cell (AFC) will work un-

der the direct supervision of the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly. Complaints received by NAB against MPAs will be sent to the Speaker's office through AFC for initial reports. NAB will then determine its future course of action based on the feedback received.

In line with the vision of Chairman NAB, Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed, NAB is committed to protecting the dignity, rights, and personal respect of MPAs who have cases filed against them in NAB.

Seminar highlights journalists' role in polio eradication efforts

Independent Report
CHAMAN: A seminar was held at the Chaman Press Club to discuss the crucial role of journalists in the polio campaign in the district. Assistant Commissioners Sadram Ilyas Baloch and Sardar Mujeeb Jozgai addressed the gathering, while District Area Coordinator Dr. Asad Safi and District Community Communication Officer Ashraf Achakzai provided insights on child health.

Speakers emphasized that polio has been eradicated globally, except in Pakistan and Afghanistan,

and stressed the importance of media's role in its eradication. Despite global efforts, 17 polio cases have been reported in Pakistan and 13 in Afghanistan.

The success of the national polio campaign, they noted, hinges on the awareness and cooperation of media professionals and parents. Without their collective efforts, polio eradication remains an unattainable goal.

The seminar underscored the responsibility of every citizen, including journalists, to contribute to making Pakistan polio-free.