



PML-N always on forefront to create ease of doing business: Atta Tarar

Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Thursday that the PML-N had always been on forefront to create ease of doing business which is very critical to achieve economic growth, progress and prosperity in the country. (Details on Page 3)



SC set to announce all-important NAB amendments case verdict today

The Supreme Court is set to announce its reserved verdict on intra-court appeals against the September 15, 2023 majority judgment striking down the amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO). A larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faiz Isa will announce the reserved judgment at 9:30am on Friday (today), as per the top court's cause list issued today.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Fatiha

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha over the martyrdom of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi Shaheed, during his visit to Lahore, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

President Zardari visits family of martyred Captain Qureshi

City Desk

LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari paid a visit on Thursday to the family of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi, who was recently martyred in Balochistan.

During his visit, he expressed his profound condolences to the grieving family. He prayed for elevation of ranks of Captain Muhammad Ali in Jannah. He paid tribute to Captain Qureshi's courage and dedication, recognising his invaluable contributions to the nation's fight against terrorism.

President Zardari high-

lighted the significant sacrifices made by many young individuals in the battle against terrorism and noted that former prime minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was also a martyr in this war against terror.

The president reassured the nation of unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism from the country, emphasising that efforts would continue till the threat was completely removed. He praised Captain Qureshi's family for their patriotism and selflessness and affirmed that the sacrifices of martyrs and their families would always be remembered.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Meets Commonwealth Secretary-General



City Desk

LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar met Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland KC at Marlborough House Headquarters in London today.

The Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth and readiness to play an active role in promoting intra-Commonwealth trade and advancing the Commonwealth agenda on sustainable development.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's role in spearheading the Common-

wealth's youth agenda and appreciated the Secretary-General's support for establishing the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance (CAYA) Secretariat in Pakistan.

Secretary-General Scotland recalled the warm hospitality accorded to her during her first visit to Pakistan in August 2024. She affirmed her desire to work closely with Pakistan on addressing climate change-related challenges and empowering Pakistan's young population.

The two leaders also discussed their shared priorities ahead of next month's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa.

PM expresses satisfaction over operational preparedness of Pakistan Army

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed his complete satisfaction over the operational preparedness of Pakistan Army, acknowledging the pivotal role of the Armed Forces in maintaining strategic stability in the region.

The prime minister, who was attending the concluding session of Army War Game, also acknowledged the Armed Forces' role in preserving the delicate



balance of power, essential for peace in nuclearized South Asia,

according to a press release. He was comprehensively briefed on the recently concluded war-game and operational readiness of Pakistan Army, across the full spectrum of threat.

Prime Minister Shehbaz commended the innovative employment concepts and structural reforms aimed at enhancing the deterrence regime which would ensure the imposition of retributive cost on any adversary in the event of aggression.

The military leadership reaf-

firmed their unwavering resolve to safeguard the national sovereignty and territorial integrity at all cost.

It was reiterated that Pakistan Army remained fully cognizant of the prevailing security challenges and would continue to enhance its capabilities to thwart any aggressive designs against Pakistan.

Federal Ministers for Defence, Finance and Information, Chief of the Army Staff and senior military officials were in attend-

Court martial proceedings against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed launched due to concrete evidence: DG ISPR

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: The court martial proceedings have commenced against former spymaster Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed based on "strong evidence" uncovered during a thorough investigation, the military's spokesperson said on Thursday.

"Following a detailed inquiry based on concrete evidence, the Pakistan Army announced on August 12, 2024, that the relevant officer [Gen Faiz] had violated sections of the Army Act," ISPR Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said at a press conference in Rawalpindi.

In a 48-minute briefing, the DG ISPR elaborated on the court martial of the former spymaster as part of the military's commitment to accountability while also addressing military operations in response to the deadly attacks that occurred in Balochistan on August 26, as well as the state of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

Lt Gen Chaudhry stated that Gen Hameed had breached



various sections of the Army Act. He confirmed that the former ISI chief, who was arrested last month, was found guilty of multiple violations, prompting the initiation of field general court-martial proceedings against him.

The August 12 statement of ISPR stated that the army complied with the orders of the Supreme Court, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by the Pakistan Army, to ascertain the correctness of complaints in the Top City Case made against Hameed.

Continued on Page 8

Finance Minister urges PCICL to foster joint ventures and enhance support for Chinese companies in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met with the leadership of Pak China Investment Company Limited (PCICL) to discuss boosting Chinese investment in Pakistan, with a focus on joint ventures and expanding exports of Pakistan-based Chinese firms.

Attendees included PCICL Chairman Mr. Sun Bo, Managing Director Mr. Hassan Raza, and senior officials from the Finance Division and PCICL. During the discussion, the Finance Minister said that PCICL was an important partner for Pakistan's economic growth and development. He said that in the CPEC phase 2, development and growth of industry and relocation of businesses were going to be the priority areas. In such a scenario, it was imperative for PCICL to reposition itself with a clear view



of the target market and play the role of an anchor in identifying areas for joint ventures and SMEs and providing advisory and support in financing to boost investment and trade flows, he said.

Mr. Sun Bo and Mr. Hassan Raza briefed the Minister on PCICL's efforts to strengthen Pakistan-China trade and investment, pledging continued support. Mr. Sun Bo, Chairman PCICL, thanked the Finance Minister and appreciated his comments and concerns about

the role of PCICL in promoting investment and joint ventures between both countries. "We would do our best to serve the Pakistan economy," he added.

In the end, the Finance Minister also reassured Chinese investors of their security, underscoring the importance of their contributions to Pakistan's economic progress, and reiterated the commitment of the government to promote a business and investment friendly environment in the country.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs to be abolished, as Govt reveals plan for closing SOEs

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government has approved a plan to close 33 State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in the first phase of a rightsizing initiative aimed at streamlining the government and improving efficiency.

The decision was made during a cabinet meeting, where the Prime Minister-approved recommendations from a committee tasked with reviewing the feasibility of rightsizing the government.

The committee identified 33 SOEs for closure, privatization, or transfer, and 9 others for merger. Additionally, 60% of vacant regular posts (up to 150,000) will be abolished or declared redundant.

The government also plans to outsource non-core services like cleaning, plumbing, and gardening, leading to a signif-

icant reduction in staff size. Contingency posts will also be eliminated.

To address concerns from employees affected by the rightsizing exercise, a committee will be formed with representatives from retired judges of superior courts. This committee will have quasi-judicial powers to review and address grievances.

Furthermore, the government will propose amendments to the Civil Servants Act, 1973, and establish a Civil Service Reforms Committee to work in tandem with the rightsizing committee.

The implementation plan for the first phase of rightsizing is expected to be finalized within two weeks. The second phase will target entities within the Ministry of Commerce, National Food Security and Research, Housing and Works, and Science and Technology.

President, PM AJK eulogize Pakistan's brave military on defense day

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and prime minister Chudhary Anwar ul Haq have paid eulogizing tributes to Pakistan armed forces for their significant role and sacrifices in defending the country's geographical and ideological frontiers. In their separate messages issued on Pakistan defense day, today, they said that September 6 was remembered as a symbol of courage, resilience and spirit of sacrifices displayed by the Pakistani nation and its armed forces in the face of foreign aggression. In his special statement issued on the eve of defense day, the president said that the war of September 1965 was actually a great challenge the Pakistani nation and its armed forces faced bravely. "The Pakistani army not only accepted this challenge but also demonstrated the highest level professional capabilities

and skill by thwarting the aggressive designs of the enemy, which is much bigger than its size", he said. "It was a splendid display of national unity and patriotism that our future generations will be proud of", he said, adding that the armed forces of Pakistan dashed all the pride and evil designs of the enemy to the ground. Referring to the faith-inspiring events of September 1965 war, he said, "While scripting a new history of courage and sacrifices during the war our armed forces displayed unique combat skills, professionalism and discipline, which are rarely seen in the world history". Barrister Chaudhry said that our armed forces had the full support of the people in this war.

The prime minister Azad Kashmir Chudhary Anwar ul Haq in his message termed September as an important milestone in the military history of Pakistan and army's significant contribution in defending the country's territorial integrity. The entire Kashmiri



nation, he said, salutes the supreme sacrifices of all those brave-hearts who laid down their lives for the defense of Pakistan. "Kashmiris living on both sides of the ceasefire line consider Paki-

stan as their protector while Indian army serve as a symbol of hatred for Kashmiris", the PM said. He said that Pakistan Army has rendered unprecedented sacrifices for the defense of the motherland and was fully capable of thwarting any foreign aggression. Lauding the professional capabilities of the Pakistan army, Air Force, the Navy forces, the AJK premier said that September 6 stands testimony to the fact that "Pakistan Army is one of the best and strongest armies in the world that has all the potential and capability to defend the country under any circumstances".

He added that the nation has full faith and confidence in the capabilities of the Pakistan Army. Voicing their concern over the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the president and prime minister said that Kashmiri people have made unprecedented sacrifices for their inalienable right, the right to self-determination. They, however, maintained that despite using all means of oppression the Indian government has miserably

failed to suppress Kashmiris' freedom struggle. The duo expressed their optimism that the day was not far off when Kashmiri people will achieve their goal of freedom. Demanding an end to the continued bloodshed and violence in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, they said, talks process between India and Pakistan at any level won't be successful unless India stops the ruthless persecution of Kashmiris. Stressing the need for an early settlement of the lingering dispute, they said that instead of weaving cobwebs of confusion around Kashmir issue, the India government should create a congenial atmosphere for the talks and put an immediate end to bloodshed in the region so that a tangible progress can be made on the issue of Kashmir. India, they said, cannot hold Kashmiris' hostage for too long. "Sooner or later India will have to quit Kashmir and grant Kashmiris their birthright", they maintained.

National Heroes

LAHORE: Students visiting the boards having deeds of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives protecting the country on September 6, 1965.



Photo: Online

Bazil Naqvi hails Pakistan Army on Defense and Martyrs' Day

Abdul Majeed Tahir.

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Minister of Social Welfare and Women's Development Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi has said that the Pakistan Army is victorious in every test and in the face of every enemy. Whenever the country was in need, the Pakistan Army played its role in every difficult hour. On the occasion of Defense and Martyrs' Day of Pakistan, the forces salute the great martyrs of Pakistan. Be it the battle field, eradication of terrorism or natural calamity, Pakistan forces have made a story of success by making sacrifices at every stage. On the occasion of Pakistan's Defense and Martyrs' Day, Social Welfare Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that Defense Day is a day of renewal of commitment, Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control stand by the side of their brave forces. Kashmiris are playing the role of the first force for the survival and welfare of Pakistan and this will continue. He said that in 1965, the people of Pakistan and the forces of Pakistan had resisted the external aggression in an unprecedented way. He said that Pakistan Defense Day is a memorable day in our history, on this day we showed such a wonderful display of national unity, solidarity and patriotism that our future generations will continue to be rightly proud of. The government minister said that the Pakistan Army is the protector of honor and integrity of Kashmiris. The manner in which General Asim Munir gave his categorical stand on Kashmir has boosted the morale of the Kashmiri people on both sides of the Line of Control. Salutes Pakistan Army for making exemplary sacrifices for the defense of the dear motherland.



Food point owner held after two siblings died of food poisoning

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police on Thursday nabbed an owner of food point in Pindigheb town of Attock as two siblings allegedly died of food poisoning while their mother was admitted in critical condition. According to sources, Muhammad Ikram - a native of Dhoke Jutt, Ghreabwall purchased fried chicken from a food point located in Pindigheb town on Wednesday and took it to his house. After consuming the same, the ill-fated family got ill and when their condition became deteriorated, they were rushed to tehsil headquarters hospital Pindigheb where his son identified as Abdul Ahad died while another Abdul Sammad died in way to hospital to Rawalpindi. The mother of the victim is stated to be in critical condition. Police acting on promptly, sealed the food point, collected samples of the food and send the owner behind the bars.

Huge quantity of narcotics smuggling bid foiled

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle huge quantity of narcotics from KP to Punjab and arrested a smuggler-stated to be member of inter provincial gang of narcotics smugglers. The Police spokesman said that acting on a tip off, a police party intercepted a Rawalpindi bound passenger van at Mankoor check post coming from Kohat and during search recovered 10 kilogram from Manzor Ahmed - a native of Nowshera. During preliminary interrogation, the suspect has revealed that he is member of interprovincial racket of narcotics smuggler and was smuggling the consignment from tribal areas to various cities of Punjab. A case was registered against the suspect under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997 and launched further investigation. The spokesman has said that the value of the seized narcotics is millions in the international market.



Sardar Attique says September 6 is most important day in history of Pakistan

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that September 6 is the most important day in the history of Pakistan. The enemies were dusted. It is a living example of the invincible defense of Pakistan and the sacrifices of martyrs and ghazis. In a message on September 6 on the occasion of Defense Day, he said that India is an insidious enemy which tried to improve relations with Pakistan as soon as it became difficult and it is India's habit to make conspiracies against Pakistan as soon as it became out from difficult.



It was born from a nation that is always devoted to the spirit of jihad and passion for martyrdom. Brave actions like Major Aziz Bhatti and MM Alam and Air Marshal Asghar

Khan set new examples of courage and bravery. Sardar Attique said September 6 reminds us of the passions and sacrifices of the ghazis, martyrs and brave Pakistani people who crushed the

enemy's ambitions and the Indian army attacked Lahore in the dark of night, but Pakistan's armed forces and martyrs cooperated by doing an unprecedented demonstration. India's projects were mixed in the Bay Kokhak. The men of Pakistan Army had tied bombs on their bodies and lay down in front of the Indian tanks. This spirit of the Pakistan Army and the people thwarted the Indian plans and proved that Pakistan's defense was impregnable. Even today, the enemy expresses its evil ambitions in Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, but the people can make this region a graveyard for any aggressor by working with the forces of Pakistan. He said that the nation and the army are one soul and two hearts.

Preparing for polio campaign, says AC Kashif Khalid

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Preparations for the polio campaign starting from Monday were discussed in an important meeting held at the office of Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai, Junaid Khalid. The meeting was attended by Additional Assistant Commissioner Sahar Anwar, DSP Takht Bhai Circle Shakeel Khan, District Community Officer Zawar Hussain, UNICEF representative Dr. Nayab, MPA Focal Person Shahid Khan, and representatives from the police and health departments. Maulana Salman Asghar rejected all doubts and misconceptions about polio drops, saying they are completely in line with Islamic principles and health standards, and a fatwa from religious scholars is also available in this regard.

Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai Junaid Khalid appealed to religious scholars and parents to play their role in saving Pakistan's future from disability and ensure that no child under



the age of 5 is deprived of polio protection drops. He asked religious scholars to spread awareness from the pulpit and parents to ensure their children receive the drops. UNICEF representative

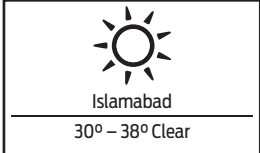
Dr. Nayab said that the target for the campaign starting on Monday is to administer polio drops to 116,569 children. On this occasion, health department officials Muhammad

Ajmal, Wakeel Khan, Muhammad Anwar, Sardar Khan, Aziz Khan, Pir Muhammad, and Aziz Khan were awarded appreciation certificates for their outstanding performance.

Four proclaimed offender netted

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police during crackdown against the proclaimed offenders (PO) wanted in different cases registered against them at the different police stations of Attock district netted four of them and send them behind bars. Police spokesman has said on Thursday that Attock city police arrested Zahoar Ahmed, Fatehjang Police arrested a wanted out law identified as Sakhawat, Pindigheb Police arrested Izzat Khan while Injra Police arrested Muhammad Aabid. Police spokesman has said that these wanted outlaws were declared as PO by respective courts.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:20 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	4:38 pm
Maghrib	6:26 pm
Isha	7:52 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

PML-N always on forefront to create ease of doing business: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Thursday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had always been on forefront to create ease of doing business which is very critical to achieve economic growth, progress and prosperity in the country. "Whenever the people of the country gave the chance to the PML-N to run this country, the business community has always benefited greatly", he said while



delivering his speech at CEO Summit. Citing an example, he said till 2018 when the PML-N was in power, GDP growth rate stood at 5.8 per cent and it was projected at 6.4 per cent and inflation was merely 4 per cent. He said foreign direct investment was pouring in and China had invested nearly \$ 70 billion in China Pakistan Economic Corridor and other projects. All international financial journals and institutions were projecting that Pakistan would join G-20 countries in six to seven years. In that era, he added, Pakistan had

achieved the landmark development through sincerity, dedication and clarity of thought. Without security there cannot be progress and first and foremost attention was focused on creating a safe and secure environment in the country. He recalled that when the PML-N came into the power in 2013, Pakistan was facing challenges of energy crisis and poor law and order situation. At that time, the national economy was losing approximately Rs 500 billion per annum due to energy shortage, he

added. The minister said that security situation of the country was also not good. After coming to power, the PML-N regime under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif embarked on projects to rid the country of energy crisis and within four years, 20 hours load-shedding was brought to zero. "We have good story to tell and with right kind of approach, optimism and hope, the sky is the limit and we will get through these hurdles and Pakistan will prosper," he concluded.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Turkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari visits mausoleum of Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that the entire nation will always feel proud of the way Pakistan's armed forces are offering sacrifices for the defense of the country by foiling the evil designs of the enemy. He paid rich tributes to the martyrs and veterans of war by adding that September 6 is an important day in the national and military history of Pakistan.

He mentioned this in his remarks during his visit to the mausoleum of Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider in Mehfooza Bad, old Pind Malkan, Rawalpindi.

He laid a floral wreath at the martyr's mausoleum, offered Fateha and registered his remarks in the visitors' book.

ICCI President also visited the family of the Shaheed and paid rich tributes to all the defenders of the country, especially Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz.

It is noteworthy that Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz born on October 15, 1944, in Pind Malakan, a village in Rawalpindi was enrolled in Pakistan Army on October 25, 1962. After training, he joined the 15th Punjab Regiment and during the 1971 war he was part of the operation in the Wahga-Attari sector.

Homebridge Celebrates Top A Level Achievers

City Desk

LAHORE: Homebridge, Pakistan's pioneering hybrid A Level institution, proudly celebrated the remarkable achievements of its students during its inaugural A Level High Achievers' Ceremony. The event honoured the students' exceptional academic performances and set a new benchmark for educational excellence.

The ceremony was graced by CEO Homebridge, Mr Nassir Kasuri, who commended the students on their brilliant performance and emphasised the importance of quality education in shaping the future of the nation. Also present at the event were Project Director of Homebridge, Mr Sajjad Leghari, and Homebridge Head of Academics, Mr Asim Bukhari.

During the ceremony, 16 high achievers were honoured with shields and certificates, celebrating their dedication and hard work. This recognition is especially significant as many of these achievers come from Matriculation backgrounds, challenging the notion that students from Matriculation backgrounds cannot excel in A Levels. These awards symbolise not only academic excellence but also the transformative impact of Homebridge's innovative educational approach.

Homebridge stands as a leader in hybrid education, blending the flexibility of online learning with the engagement of traditional classroom settings. This unique model allows students to pursue A Levels at their own pace and from any location, breaking down barriers of socioeconomic status, cultural diversity, and geographic distance. By harmonising digital and physical learning environments, Homebridge empowers students to thrive in a globalised world, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of

ISSI-NIMA seminar on

Unlocking the Potential of Blue Economy and Pakistan's National Security

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), hosted a seminar on "Unlocking the Potential of Blue Economy and Pakistan's National Security." The seminar was aimed at underscoring the importance of maritime sector development, Pakistan's profound dependence on maritime trade, the untapped potential of marine resources, and their intrinsic link to national security.

Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MOMA) was the chief guest. Distinguished speakers included: Amb. Masood Khalid, former Ambassador to China; Dr. Nazir Hussain, Member Board of Directors, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo-Sri Lanka; Rear Admiral, Faisal Ali Shah (R), Honorary Research Fellow NIMA; and Vice Admiral (R) Ahmed Saeed HI(M), President, NIMA.

In his welcome remarks, Amb. Sohail Mahmood emphasized the Blue Economy's pivotal role in strengthening Pakistan's national security and driving long-term economic resilience and growth. He detailed Pakistan's extensive maritime assets, including its lengthy Arabian Sea coastline, diverse marine life, and rich reserves of hydrocarbons, minerals, and fisheries.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Director ACDC Malik Qasim Mustafa highlighted the significance of the Blue Economy. He stated that Pakistan should prioritize the



Blue Economy as a new arena for investment and a critical element for sustainable economic activity. Amb. Masood Khalid elaborated on the geo-strategic importance of the Arabian Sea in the context of 'Indo-Pacific' strategic thought.

Dr. Nazir Hussain shared his insights on harnessing the Blue Economy for sustainable economic growth. He highlighted the critical role of maritime resources in global trade and national security.

Rear Admiral Syed Faisal Ali Shah addressed maritime security, discussing both challenges and opportunities. He highlighted the 'Indo-Pacific' Strategy's role in countering China's influence and its potential to escalate

regional tensions.

Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed, in his concluding remarks, highlighted the critical gaps in understanding Pakistan's Blue Economy, stressing its ethical ties to ecosystem preservation.

Amb. Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, in his vote of thanks, highlighted the vital connection between maritime opportunities and national security. He emphasized that addressing security challenges is crucial to maximizing Pakistan's maritime potential.

The seminar was attended by academics, diplomats, practitioners, students and members of the think-tank community and the media.

Google announces new report on Pakistan's IT services as it ponders how to boost exports

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Google today hosted Agay Barho: A Google for Pakistan Event in Islamabad, sharing updates on its continued commitment to unlocking future opportunities for Pakistan's digital economy. A new research findings show that investing in digital skills and boosting digital exports can play a significant role in future-proofing Pakistan's digital economy.

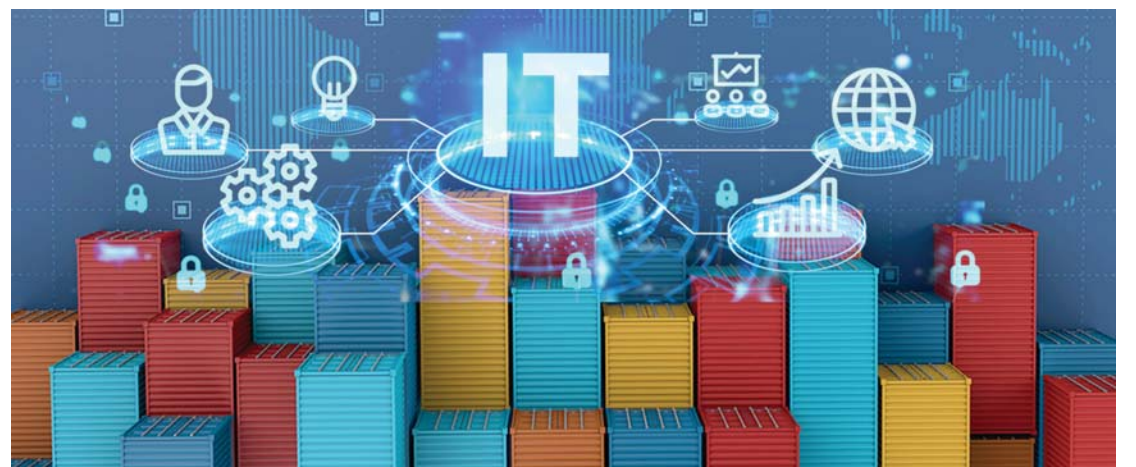
Pakistan's IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja commended Google for its role in driving the country's digital economy forward. "The potential of digital exports to transform our economy is immense," she said. "By working together, the public and private sectors can ensure

Pakistan reaches its full potential in the digital age." The Minister added, "I would like to commend Google for undertaking initiatives that have significantly improved the lives of thousands of Pakistanis over the last few years. I was pleased to see that Google has provided over 960,000 jobs to Pakistani youths in 2023 alone. The success of these Google initiatives in Pakistan is a testament to both; the country's potential in the digital world and Google's commitment to upskilling and uplifting the youth of our country."

Farhan S. Qureshi, Google Pakistan's country director, stated: "Today's event underscores our commitment to empowering Pakistan's talents and vibrant digital economy. As the Access

Partnership report highlights, Pakistan's young and dynamic workforce is poised to drive remarkable growth. With that opportunity in mind, we're committed to fueling this momentum by investing in skills development with initiatives such as Google Career Certificates and Google Developer programs, ensuring individuals and businesses can harness the full potential of AI – a potential that could add PKR 2.8 trillion to Pakistan's annual GDP by 2030."

In order to harness Pakistan's digital export potential, the report highlights a strong need for investing in digital skills training and education for the workforce to ensure competitiveness and readiness to participate in the digital economy. Narrowing the digital skills



gap through digital skills training and greater adoption of education technologies can add PKR 2.8 trillion to Pakistan's GDP in 2030.

Mr. Qureshi further added, "We're also very proud that in 2023 alone, Google's AI-powered tools contributed a staggering PKR 3.9 trillion to the Pakistani economy. In addition, our recent partnership with Tech Valley, Allied and NRTC to produce 500,000

Chromebooks locally, with the Prime Minister's support, marks a significant stride in Pakistan's digital transformation journey."

In 2023, Google supported 864,600 jobs by helping businesses expand through their use of Google Search, Google Ads, Google AdSense, Google Cloud, and YouTube. The Android app economy supported an additional 100,400 jobs.

Under Agay Barho, Google's initiatives focused on elevating Pakistani tech talent and developers with digital and AI skills, and getting the Pakistani workforce ready to seize new opportunities in the digital economy. Last year, Google provided 44,500 Google Career Certificate (GCC) scholarships to women and students, and will provide up to additional 45,000 scholarships in 2024 via its partners TechValley and PAFLA.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Defence Day - A tribute to unyielding spirit of Armed Forces

Ali Jabir

Amidst challenges of maintaining domestic peace in the wake of foreign-sponsored terror onslaught, the nation is celebrating another Defence Day on September 06 – a day steeped in history, valor and national pride.

Every year, this day reminds us of our obligations to the sacrifices of men and women in uniform who had defended nation's sovereignty over the decades from the battlefields of 1965 and 1971 to the icy heights of Kargil and through the tumultuous War on Terror.

Hats off to our defence forces for always standing as a bulwark against aggression, both external and internal and no matter it is full-fledged war or terrorism threats, the legacy of sacrifices continues to inspire and unite the nation.

The origins of Defence Day trace back to 1965 Indo-Pak War, beginning with escalating tensions over the disputed region of Kashmir and culminating into a full-scale conflict between India and Pakistan as India on September 6, 1965, launched a surprise attack on Lahore, aiming to capture the city. The Pakistani military, despite being outnumbered, mounted a fierce defense.

The battle of Lahore and another key engagement in Sialkot and the defense of the strategic Chamb sector highlighted the courage and resilience of Pakistani soldiers. Heroes like Major Raja Aziz

Bhatti, who received Nishan-e-Haider for his gallantry, became symbols of national pride.

On the night of September 5-6 Indian army, without a formal declaration of war, crossed the international border, launching attacks on Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan's Army and Air Force halted the offensive, inflicting significant casualties on the aggressor.

Besides Lahore and Kasur, an Indian Army Corps also launched a major thrust east of Sialkot with armored and infantry divisions, supported by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support).

This prompted a swift response from Pakistan, with a 30-mile front established to halt the enemy's advance at Chawinda front. This sector witnessed the largest tank battle since World War II, led by 6 Armored Division, valiantly supported by 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and 4 Corps Artillery. Due to heavy losses inflicted on India, this front is remembered as 'Graveyard of Tanks.'

Pakistan Air Force also played a crucial role, achieving air superiority and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. On September 7, Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, a PAF pilot, achieved an unmatched feat by shooting down five Indian Air Force Hunter aircraft in a single sortie. So, this day is celebrated as Air Force Day. Pakistan's Special Services Groups also executed para-drops on Indian Air Force bases at Pathankot, Adampur and Halwara the same night to neutralize

them. Traditionally described as 'Silent Service', Pakistan Navy during 1965 war encountered valiantly against a larger Indian Navy with indomitable courage and defiant spirit. Successful operation Dwarka was a commendable achievement where it took only four minutes to complete the bombardment, firing altogether about 350 rounds on the target and inflicting heavy losses on Indian Navy.

The war ended in a stalemate after India approached UN Security Council for a ceasefire, but it cemented the resolve of Pakistani nation to defend its sovereignty at all costs.

Since 1965 war, India remained continuously engaged in sabotage activities against Pakistan and shamefully disintegrated the country by supporting separatist movement in East Pakistan. The sacrifices of soldiers in battles like the defense of Dhaka, the naval engagements in the Bay of Bengal and the air battles over the subcontinent were immense.

Whether it was 1948, 1965, 1971, or Kargil operation, Pakistani soldiers, operating in extremely challenging conditions, displayed extraordinary bravery. As during last 25 years Pakistan and India did not engage in a full-fledged war, Indian governments and spy agencies had always been busy in destabilizing activities by fuelling extremism, conducting covert operations, and sponsoring terrorism.

The turn of the 21st century brought a new and complex challenge to Pakistan

in the form of the War on Terror and this new kind of warfare required the military to adapt to counterinsurgency operations, facing an enemy that was often elusive and deeply entrenched in difficult terrain.

Operations such as Rah-e-Rast, Rah-e-Nijat and Zarb-e-Azb were pivotal in dismantling terrorist networks in tribal areas and restoring the state's writ. The military's success in these operations came at a tremendous cost with thousands of soldiers martyred and many more wounded. The efforts of the armed forces not only curbed terrorist threats but also paved the way for rebuilding the war-torn regions, enabling displaced populations to return to their homes.

In recent years, the armed forces have been battling the remnants of terrorism through operations like Radd-ul-Fasaad and Azm-e-Nau. Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad in 2017 and now the Azm-e-Nau, aim at eliminating the residual threat of terrorism and consolidating gains made in earlier operations. Radd-ul-Fasaad focused on intelligence-based operations, counter-terrorism measures and de-radicalization programs – reflecting a comprehensive approach to national security while operation Azm-e-Nau is part of a broader strategy to strengthen Pakistan's conventional deterrence.

As the country faces a resurgence of terrorism and navigates a volatile security landscape, the nation is celebrating another Defence Day with a resolve to safeguard the motherland and pay tribute to our valiant soldiers who laid down lives for national defence.

Social media – a boon or bane for our social fabric

Technological advancements have propelled human civilization forward by unlocking tremendous opportunities of knowledge, innovation and connectivity along with presenting formidable challenges needed to be addressed.

Whether technology becomes a blessing or a curse is a nuanced question and its impact is shaped by the choice societies make regarding its development and application and so is the social media – a latest but ticklish mode of communication.

It is not only a tool for communication but a pivotal force in reshaping the life of youth, comprising a major chunk of population offering significant opportunities and challenges in different countries including Pakistan.

According to DataReportal, there were 111.0 million internet users in Pakistan at the start of 2024, when internet penetration stood at 45.7 percent. Pakistan was home to 71.70 million social media users in January 2024, equating to 29.5 percent of the total population.

As this tool is used education and positive information sharing, it is also used for promoting nefarious propaganda, mud-slinging and character assassination. Sometimes it becomes too lethal for sponsoring anti-state narrative maligning the nascent minds and creating unrest in society.

Therefore, the saner elements take strong exception of negative information sharing and tarnishing image of our state institutions, urging to promote and share positive content on these media.

"We direly need to promote positive narratives about digital skills and a clear distinction between hate speech, disinformation and misinformation," stated a lawyer and Internet Activist, Nighat Dad. "We must educate youth how they can play role in combating online narratives based on propaganda and disinformation".

Although these platforms have economic impact in terms of monetization, promoting business and digital skills yet the question lies, whether we could add to capacity of educators for training of youth considering such developments? Are we focusing on AI, emerging technology, opportunities that these technologies are bringing?

"As our youth comprises over 60 percent of total population with many among them yet to learn positive use of social media, the government must devise a plan to prepare youth from school level to use social media platforms for positive purposes and economic benefits," advocate Nighat Dad said. "It is important to educate them about their responsibilities to use these platforms for positive gains and penalties for their illegal usage."

No doubt we have numerous success stories where our students and youngsters excelled locally and internationally winning laurels for the country, but there are scores others busy in misusing these facilities.

Therefore, a strict vigil was needed to ensure positive use of social media for education, research and economic benefits, the same time tightening noose around those promoting hatred and airing obnoxious material.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Defense Day of Pakistan: Remembering sacrifices of valiant armed forces

Tooba Khan

From Khyber to Karachi and Chitral to Gwadar, the nation will celebrate the 59th Defense and Martyrs Day with fervent patriotism on Friday. People from all walks of life will honor the martyrs and veterans of Pakistan, who sacrificed their lives and endured injuries to defend the homeland.

In addition to military and civilian officials, citizens, senior citizens, academics, civil society members, human rights activists, farmers, laborers, and media professionals will offer heartfelt tributes to the martyrs and heroes of Pakistan's armed forces, who made unparalleled sacrifices during the 1948, 1965, and 1971 wars, the 1999 Kargil Conflict, and fight against terrorism.

"September 6, 1965 was a day when India attacked Pakistan in darkness without a warning or a declaration of war by violating all international laws, conventions and agreements. The whole Pakistani nation along with their valiant military forces stood up against the cowardly enemy and showed unmatched valour in 1965 War," said Brigadier (Retd) Mehmood Shah, senior defense analyst and former secretary law, Fata while talking to APP.

Brig Mahmoood Shah said Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Artillery had broken the back of the enemy in 65 War. "Pakistan had occupied about 1,617 square miles of Indian territory in 65 war and was in a strong position to occupy Delhi if war continued for a few more days as the morale of enemy troops had completely shattered."

The legacy of unmatched gallantry and sacrifices of our Army Officers and Jawans started with the martyrdom of Captain Raja Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed (NH) in 1948

Kashmir War, was carried forward by Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (NH) in 1965 war, Maj Shabbir Sharif Shaheed (NH) in 1971 War and Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (NH) and Havaldar Lalak Jan Shaheed (NH) during Kargil conflict in 1999.

Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) was one of those celebrated officers of the Pakistan Army whose indomitable courage and heroic battlefield performance during Kargil conflict has been highly praised by the Indian Army.

"Death was meaningless for the 29-year old celebrated young officer of the 12th Northern Light Infantry (NLI) Regiment, Capt. Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (NH) who fought like a lion against both enemy and harsh weather on an altitude of 17,000 feet on Line of Control (LoC) at Gultary sector at Tiger Hills near Kargil and inflicted heavy human and material losses to the enemy," said Brigadier Mehmood Shah.

"On July 5, 1999, Indians forces with the help of two battalions, attacked these posts at Tiger Hills and managed to capture some portion of one of his posts. Despite facing all odds, Capt. Sher Khan led a counter-attack and re-captured the lost portion," he said.

"True to his name, Capt. Sher Khan chased the enemy and conducted many successful raids in the enemy area. During one such raid, he went inside the enemy camp where he inflicted heavy losses to them."

During the fierce battle, the lion of Kargil received a burst of machine gun fire in the chest and embraced Shahadat on July 5, 1999. His epic action in the battlefield true to his name earned him the title of "Lion of Kargil".

The courageous feat of Capt Sher Khan by accomplishing the assigned mission of forcing the enemy to withdraw left the Indian commander Brig M. P. S Bajwa out rightly impressed by his indomitable courage and

splendid battlefield performance and wrote a citation letter, requesting Pakistan that Capt Sher Khan Shaheed had fought bravely and deserved the highest recognition.

Later, Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (1970-1999) and Havaldar Lalak Jan Shaheed (1967-1999) of the 12th NLI Regiment were decorated with the prestigious Nishan-e-Haider, the highest military gallantry award of Pakistan posthumously. Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed was the first army officer from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who was awarded Nishan-e-Haider.

"The shooting down of two Indian warplanes inside LOC one fell in Azad Kashmir and the other in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir besides the capturing of an Indian Pilot on February 27, 2019, had proved the highest professionalism, courage and outstanding fighting skills of the PAF," he said. The unity exhibited by the nation after the Indian air strike on Balakot on February 27, 2019, was almost the same as that of the 65 War, he reiterated.

Brig Mehmood said the February 27 successful action of PAF has clearly testified that our armed forces were fully capable of giving a befitting response to the enemy in case of any misadventure by it. He said the national songs of Melody Queen, Noor Jehan had infused a new spirit of patriotism in the nation during the 1965 war. He said from generals to soldiers, the armed forces of Pakistan had sacrificed their lives for the defence of their motherland, adding that Pakistani forces rendered matchless sacrifices whether it was war against terrorism or natural calamities.

The veteran officer said Pakistan had been created after a lot of sacrifices by our forefathers under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, adding that "we all need to work hard in our respective professions to make it one of the greatest countries of the world".



Taboos, social limitations affect women empowerment

Despite various reform initiatives and advocacy platforms, the socio-economic situation of women has not improved in the province. The process of empowerment has either been affected by social limitations or taboos that still persisted.

These social limitations and taboos are deeply rooted in societal norms. Therefore, the situation demands mass awareness and mindset change to address the issue of women's empowerment.

These factors give rise to gender inequality and limit the role of women in different fields of life, said Khursheed Bano, Chief Executive Officer of 'Da Hawwa Lur' a women's advocacy platform.

She said Pakistan is predominantly a patriarchal society where the majority of power is controlled by men in both public and private spheres and make decisions. This dominance has limited women's participation in decision-making processes that had largely affected their lives.

The concept of family honor is often linked to the behavior, movement and reputation of women. This places immense pressure on women to conform to restrictive social norms, limiting their freedom to make personal choices and take decisions, she said.

"Gender disparity in education is also witnessed in our society that created a significant gap in educational opportunities for girls," said Sadaf Syed, a lawyer while talking to APP.

In many areas, the attitudes affect and discourage education of girls as these prioritize domestic roles over academic or professional achievements, she added.

"In the male dominant society, women often

face barriers including discrimination in hiring practices, wage gaps, and limited opportunities for career advancement," said Saima Hanif.

"Workplace harassment is a serious problem that deters many women from pursuing careers or remaining in the workforce. The lack of strong enforcement of laws and social stigma around reporting harassment further exacerbates the problem," she said.

She said Islamic law grants women the right to inherit property while in practice, many women are denied their inheritance due to pressure from male relatives. "Another reason that negatively affects women empowerment is that those that have the right to vote and stand for election, their representation in political offices remains low, limiting their influence on policy-making that also affect women's rights and empowerment."

Cultural taboos and stigma often prevent women from speaking out or seeking help, leaving them trapped in abusive situations. Many women, especially in rural areas, are unaware of their legal rights and the resources available to them. This lack of awareness limits their ability to challenge the status quo and seek empowerment, said Saima Hanif.

Mashal Alam, KP CM Adviser for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment said that empowerment of women was cornerstone of the KP government policy. She said that women policy has been approved and notified to all concerned for implementation. She said that legislation for protection against harassment of women has been passed by the provincial assembly and the enforcement of women's property rights ensured.

Mashal said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women has been formed to promote women rights in the province. Being an adviser for women's empowerment and social welfare in the province, she would continue to raise voice for the rights of women and do all possible efforts for their development and economic well-being. She said that the government strongly believed in gender equality and granted stipends for girls' students of less developed districts increased under the Stars of the KP program to bring them at par with the developed areas of the country.

Hussna Khattak, Rawalpindi

Defence and Martyrs Day



The Spokesman

Friday, September 6, 2024

Message on the occasion of Defence and Martyrs' Day of Pakistan, 06 September 2024

On this Defence and Martyrs' Day, we pay homage to our Ghazis and Shuhada, who rendered immense sacrifices and bravely defended the country against external aggression. This day is a reminder of our Nation's unwavering commitment and determination to defend its sovereignty. I pay homage to the brave sons of the soil who shattered the enemy's dreams to harm Pakistan.

Our Armed Forces are vigilant and ever-ready to respond to any challenge to national sovereignty and territorial integrity. They are provided with adequate defence equipment and possess the desired professional skills and the will to protect the country from all challenges. We seek peace and stability in the region and are committed to peaceful coexistence with all neighbours. However, enduring peace is only possible when the plight of the Kashmiri people is alleviated. They bear illegal subjugation



Mr. Asif Ali Zardari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

and a continuous reign of terror by the Indian Armed Forces over the unfinished agenda of the partition of the sub-continent. The revocation of

the autonomous status of IIOJK has further compounded the problem. India must adhere to the UN Security Council's resolutions that guarantee the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Today, Pakistan is facing many threats and security challenges and hostile countries are bent upon harming Pakistan by supporting anti-Pakistan elements to carry out terror activities in the country. In the face of these challenges, our Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies are fully prepared to defeat terrorists. We stand behind our security forces to stamp out the menace of terrorism.

On this day, we commemorate the will, determination, sense of patriotism and spirit of our valiant sons while the nation commits its unwavering support to the Armed Forces in the fulfilment of the sacred task of defending the country. May Allah protect Pakistan and guide us on the path to peace and prosperity
*Afwaq-e-Pakistan Zindabad!
Pakistan Paindabad!*

Armed forces mark 59 years of vigilance, excellence, resilience; uphold legacy of courage & preparedness

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that today on September 6, Pakistan commemorates a pivotal moment in its history, Defence and Martyrs Day, honoring the unwavering courage and ultimate sacrifices of its brave armed forces who repelled India's aggression in 1965.

"Fifty-nine years on, the Armed Forces of Pakistan unceasingly show the same ever-ready state of alertness, professional excellence and war preparedness while up-keeping the 'Spirit of September' that has become a symbol of resistance and resilience," the prime minister said in a message on Defence and Martyrs Day, September 6, 2024.

He said the September 6 marks a significant day in the history of Pakistan. "Every year on this day, the Pakistani nation observes 'Defence & Martyrs Day' in a befitting manner. Together we pay rich tributes to the valiant sons of soil and brave heroes of our Armed Forces who fearlessly fought, and defeated India that attacked our motherland across the international border on 6 September 1965," he added.

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.

"The courage and dedication of our soldiers coupled with preparedness of the Armed Forces ensure that we live in a free and sovereign country. We salute the



Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

families of Shuhada, whose immense resilience and strength continues to inspire us to commit to the defence of the country," he said adding "Our Armed Forces, equipped with modern day combat capability, are constantly enhancing their prowess to defend our territorial integrity and sovereign identity."

He stressed that the Government of Pakistan believes in dialogue over conflict and in cooperation over confrontation. "Our aim is to create an environment where all nations can prosper, and address issues like poverty, health, and education."

Unfortunately, he said non-resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is hampering the pace of positive development in the region. Kashmir is the unfinished agenda of partition that

needs immediate settlement as per the aspirations of the people of Kashmir and according to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions through an impartial plebiscite. At the same time, roots of terrorism stemming from our neighbors need to be curbed in our common interest.

"I bring to you a message of hope and resolve on this day. Remember, our past is a testament to our ability to overcome adversity. Each time, we have emerged stronger, battle-hardened. On this day, we must draw upon the same spirit of resilience that has always defined us. Azm-e-Istehkam under revised National Action Plan is meant to root out both physical and digital terrorism, once and for all. It is important that we join hands and pave a way to prosperous Pakistan," the prime minister added.

As regards, situation in Palestine, the prime minister said Pakistan stands firmly with the people of Palestine. "We will continue to raise the issue on all global platforms. The Palestinian people have shown incredible courage in their long struggle against Israeli occupation. We urge the international community to ensure the protection of Palestinian Citizens and stop genocide of innocent Muslims in Gaza," he added.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the souls of the martyrs and provide strength and patience to the families. "Let's draw inspiration from them to defend and build Pakistan with the same Spirit of September, and touch the heights of glory, God willing."

Pakistan Armed Forces pay tribute to 1965 War heroes on Defence and Martyrs Day

On the eve of the 59th Defence and Martyrs Day, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, and the Pakistan Armed Forces proudly commemorate the triumphant legacy of the 1965 War, a paradigm of the nation's indomitable will and unyielding spirit. This day serves as a poignant tribute to the valor, sacrifice, and heroism of our gallant soldiers who valiantly defended the motherland against formidable odds.

Fifty-nine years ago, the Pakistan Armed Forces decisively thwarted the enemy's malicious designs, securing a historic victory that will



be etched in the annals of history forever. The 1965 War was a beacon of hope, exemplifying the nation's resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

We pay heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan who have laid down their lives since 1947 in defence

of Pakistan and especially those who have given ultimate sacrifices in fights & war against terrorism. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

We also salute the veterans who fought valiantly, their bravery and selflessness will always be remembered.

The Pakistan Armed Forces reaffirm their unwavering commitment to defend the country against all threats and challenges. We along with Law Enforcement Agencies stand ready to defend our homeland with unwavering dedication and unrelenting passion, upholding the spirit of September 1965. We also pay tribute to the families of all our martyrs and veterans who have borne the brunt of their loved ones' sacrifices with courage and resilience.

Let us come together to honour the memory of our martyrs and heroes on this Defence and Martyrs Day. May their sacrifices continue to inspire us to strive for a stronger, more prosperous, and more peaceful Pakistan.

Message from H. E. Mr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan



On September 6th as the Great Nation of Pakistan celebrates its Defence Day (Yaum-i-Difa) I extend my sincere and warmest felicitations to the Armed Forces, Government and People of Pakistan on this auspicious day. Islamic Republic of Iran greatly values brotherly ties with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. I earnestly desire that the existing bond of friendship between our two brotherly Countries gets further strengthened. I pay tribute to the Pakistani Shuhadas who defend their motherland.

Message From Chief of the Naval Staff on the Occasion of Defence Day 06 September 2024

September 6th stands as a defining moment in our nation's history, when the indomitable Armed Forces of Pakistan exhibited unparalleled resilience, valour and unwavering determination in the defence of our country. This chapter, etched in glory, fills every heart with pride as we honour the profound patriotism, unmatched professionalism and immense sacrifices made in the face of enemy's sinister designs. This day sends a powerful message: defence of our motherland is impregnable and as united people, we are resolute in our ability to safeguard the sovereignty of this land.

Today, we pay tributes to the courageous heroes who were audacious in their planning, undaunted in their action and instilled fear in the hearts of our enemy. Pakistan Navy's Operation "SOMNATH" remains a shining example to this unflinching resolve.



Admiral Naveed Ashraf
Chief of the Naval Staff, Pakistan Navy

as PN Task Group destroyed Indian

radar station and shore installations at Dwarka, establishing uncontested dominance at sea from the very outset of the conflict. In the annals of history, this action as well as mere presence of PNS/M GHAZI in the Indian Ocean confined the Indian Fleet within harbours, too petrified to venture out into the open seas.

As we commemorate this venerated occasion to honour the feats and sacrifices of our brave sentinels of sea, our Navy stands vigilant and unfaltering in its commitment to defend maritime borders and secure our vital sea routes—the lifeblood of our economy. The latest additions to Pakistan Navy Fleet are ushering in a new era of deterrence, underscoring our relentless pursuit of formidable defence to ensure vibrant economic activities and national prosperity. We resolve to build a strong Naval presence that not only protects our interests but also propels our nation to an

elevated and rightful stature in the comity of nations.

On this day of national cohesion and enthusiasm, we pledge ourselves anew to the noble cause of securing Pakistan's maritime frontiers and economic interests. We rededicate ourselves to the visionary principles of our Quaid infusing the spirit of brotherhood and equality in a united homeland for all its citizens. With deep gratitude, we honour the sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, whose legacy inspires us to remain vigilant and well-prepared to deal with any eventuality. All the Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians reaffirm their resolve to defend our maritime frontiers with absolute faith in Allah SWT and trust in our sacred cause.

May Allah be our Guide and Protector, Ameen!

*Pakistan Navy Zindabad
Pakistan Paindabad*

6 September: symbol of our national unity, patriotism, and spirit of sacrifice

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Group Chairman of SM Food and Volka Food International, and Member of the National Development Export Board for Agro and Processed Food, said in his message on September 6th:

"September 6th reminds us of the countless sacrifices we have made to attain a great homeland. We must continue to uphold the bravery, sacrifices, and determination of our armed forces in safeguarding the security of our country. This day is a symbol of our national unity, patriotism, and spirit of sacrifice. Even today, Defence Day sends us the message of being a strong and united nation, capable of facing any challenge."

He stated that Defence Day serves as a reminder to the people of Pakistan that no sacrifice will be spared for the protection of the homeland. This day fills us with the spirit of unity, determination, and courage. It is the day when the entire nation pays tribute to its martyrs and heroes and reaffirms its commitment to always be ready for the security and defense of the country."

"Even after death, the love for my homeland will not fade, The fragrance of loyalty will emanate from my soil."
Long live the Pakistan Army!
Long live Pakistan!

6th of September reminds us of the spirit of great sacrifice of Our brave sons



Atif Ikram Sheikh
President, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said in his message regarding September 6 Defense Day that the day of September 6 reminds us of the spirit of great sacrifice of our brave sons, despite the difficult economic situation of Pakistan. Not oblivious to the strength of our defense. Our armed forces are ready to face any kind of situation, Martyrs' Day reminds us of the unparalleled courage and bravery shown by the armed forces and the nation to defeat the nefarious intentions of the enemy.

Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik said on this occasion that Pakistan is the bearer of peace but it should not be considered as our weakness. The world should realize that our desire for peace is for the economic well-being and prosperity of the people of South Asia. We need to work together for the sake of peace and a bright future for the generations to come. Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail Hussain said regarding the Defense Day that on September 6, 1965, our brave forces proved that they are always ready to defend the motherland, the nation is paying full respect to the brave sons of this land.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,863.34	78,848.01
Day's High	Day's Low
79,154.29	78,578.01
Index Value	Change
6,442,210,469	+15.33
Percentage	Time
+0.02%	5 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,241.71	-27.89
Percentage	Time
-0.34%	5 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,755.75	-219.22
Percentage	Time
-0.54%	5 Sept, 4:20 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,657.09	-390.52
Percentage	Time
-1.05%	5 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.25	190.50
Bahrain Dinar	731.10	739.10
Canadian Dollar	207.35	209.75
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	307.75	310.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.50	915.00
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	722.40	730.90
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	74.00	74.55
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	330.20	333.00
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.65	76.30
UK Pound Sterling	365.00	368.50
US Dollar	278.75	280.25

COAS's determination against terrorism is commendable

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Thursday that the will of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) to combat terrorism is admirable.

He said that Asim Munir is improving Army professionalism and the accountability system, which is going down very well with the masses.

For the country to survive, there must be no mercy for terrorists, their supporters, and their sympathizers, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the actions of COAS have improved the image of this important institution, which is very important for national security.

The business leader said that a strong army

is fundamental to the country's survival. It must be fully equipped with equipment and an intelligence system, and above all, it requires the support of the masses to carry out its duties.

He observed that the army chief's actions rapidly improved the Army's image among the public.

A recent Corps Commander's Conference clearly stated that the Army is a structured organization in which everyone is loyal to the institution and the state.

The Army upholds its values through strict accountability, leaving no room for bias. This has been said at a time when, for the first time in the country, strict court martial proceedings are underway against top military officials.

Action against top officials found violating Army discipline has increased the Army's reputation. At the same time, this decision



has given the people in the institution strict warnings for violating discipline. Participants of the Corps Commanders Conference offered Fateha. They paid

profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives for peace and stability in Pakistan.

The Corps Commander's Conference announcement has made the public aware of the Army's thinking and intentions. It has also made it clear that operations against terrorists will continue and that national security will not be compromised.

During this conference, the COAS has made it clear that no exception will be taken from terrorists and anarchists, and their facilitators will also be brought to an end.

He said that the country is currently in a critical time, so the people and all the political forces should put aside their interests and strengthen the hands of the Army so that it can adequately discharge its duties.

Preparation for Eid Nilad-Un-Nabi

KARACHI: People busy in buying decorating items in connection with Eid Nilad-Un-Nabi at Paper Market, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

21st International 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Mega Exhibition Inaugurated at Expo Centre Lahore

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: 21st International 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan—Country's Pioneer and Biggest Exhibition for Plastic, Printing and Packaging industry organized by Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. opened its doors on 5th September 2024 at Expo Centre, Lahore.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest Kashif Anwar—President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Saleem Khan Tanoli – CEO Fakt Exhibitions in the presence of other renowned industry names.

On this occasion Kashif Anwar stated that "Fakt Exhibitions has taken a wonderful initiative by organizing 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Exhibition, which provides a rewarding opportunity for Plastic, Printing and Packaging industry to demonstrate state-of-the-art machinery and technology. He further added that exhibitions like 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan have played a pivotal role in strengthening the industries, providing business, employment opportunities, uplifting the trade and economy of Pakistan."

Saleem Khan Tanoli said that "3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Exhibition plays a crucial role in advancing the industry. It



serves as an important platform for professionals to stay updated on the latest trends and technological developments, strengthening the ties between industry players and buyers.

The mega exhibition received an overwhelming response, more than 300 exhibiting companies from 15 countries including Austria, China, Germany, Iran, Italy, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Swit-

zerland, Taiwan, UAE, UK, USA and Vietnam etc. displayed a wide and exquisite range of innovative machinery, technology and solutions.

3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Exhibition will take place till 7th September 2024 providing the trade visitors an ideal opportunity to meet with the leading national and international companies of Plastic, Printing and Packaging industry.

CCP and PAS to enhance collaboration for competition law compliance

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Pakistan Advertisers Society (PAS) expand their collaboration promoting self-regulation in order to deter deceptive marketing practices in Pakistan and ensure due compliance with the Competition Law.

During the recent visit of PAS's Executive Council to CCP, discussions were held for enhancing collaboration to promote self-regulation and ensure compliance with competition law, particularly in the area of deceptive marketing. During the meeting, the PAS delegation provided an overview of the role it has been playing in arbitration also among its member

organizations which include various leading undertakings in the beverages, telecom, insurance, automobile, pharmaceutical sectors.

Commending PAS's efforts, Mr. Salman Amin, Member CCP, encouraged PAS to expand its membership to benefit all sectors of the economy, particularly through the self-regulatory Code that has been developed in compliance with the Competition Law. He stated that the recent collaboration between the CCP and PAS has added value for the other undertakings also to become the member of the PAS. These recent collaboration includes the trainings and joint advocacy sessions held for member organisations of PAS. It was also discussed that, if needed, sector-spe-



cific sessions will also be conducted by CCP, with sector specialists and resource persons provided by CCP as well as PAS.

Mr. Qamar Abbas, Executive Director of PAS, highlighted that the PAS's membership includes leading

local and international brands from various sectors, collectively accounting for 85% of Pakistan's total advertising expenditure. He also shared insights into the Code of Advertising Practice (COAP), which has been developed in line with the

CCP's compliance framework, highlighting the significant benefits it has brought to the sector. He also mentioned that as per the Code, arbitration among its members has, in turn, reduced the need for regulatory intervention by the CCP.

AkzoNobel welcomes the Provincial Minister to its new Faisalabad plant

Commerce Report

FAISALABAD: AkzoNobel proud manufacturers of Dulux paints, proudly welcomed the esteemed visit of Honourable Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Provincial Minister of Industries, Commerce & Investment, and Mr. Tanveer Jabbar, CEO of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC), to its newly established manufacturing plant in Faisalabad.

Expressing his optimism about the new facility, Honourable Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain remarked, "It is inspiring to witness global pioneers like AkzoNobel investing in Pakistan's industrial future. Their unwavering commitment to

sustainability and innovation aligns seamlessly with our vision for economic growth and environmental stewardship. This plant is poised to become a vital contributor to our industrial landscape, fostering new opportunities for local communities."

Echoing the Minister's sentiments, Mubbasher Omar, CEO of AkzoNobel Pakistan emphasized the company's strategic vision "We are honoured to host Minister Hussain and to present our latest investment in Pakistan. Our new state-of-the-art plant not only solidifies our dedication to the nation's progress, but also exemplifies our commitment to sustainable practices and striving to make a diverse and inclusive future for all."

SI Global Signs Partnership with Global Tech Company ProDevice

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: SI Global Solutions, a leading Pakistani system integration and IT company, has signed a strategic agreement with the global tech firm, ProDevice, to become its exclusive partner in Pakistan. This partnership was formalized during a recent signing ceremony in Poland, where CEO of SI Global, Dr. Noman Said, and CEO of ProDevice Global, Tomasz Filipow, signed the partnership agreement.

Through this agreement, SI Global will introduce a diverse range of high-tech solutions to assist companies in strengthening their information security and data protection capabilities. This partnership is poised to bring cutting-edge technologies to Pakistan, enabling businesses to enhance cybersecurity practices in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.



Commenting on the occasion, Dr. Noman Said stated, "Hi-tech systems and hardware are equally important as software solutions for adopting modern technologies. The presence of a global leader like ProDevice in Pakistan will facilitate the transfer of advanced technologies into the country. This partnership will provide companies in Pakistan with access to innovative solutions for bolstering their information security, safeguarding valuable data, and ensuring customer protection."

With SI Global's recent success in spearheading the Karachi Safe City Project and being the only Pakistani consultant to provide local and international solutions in both system integration and cybersecurity, this partnership will further enhance its ability to offer comprehensive cybersecurity solutions. The collaboration with ProDevice allows SI Global to expand its service offerings in the data destruction and cybersecurity space, providing clients with cutting-edge tools to protect sensitive information from ever-growing cyber threats.

AlHuda CIBE to Recognize Excellence in Takaful and Re-Takaful at Prestigious Awards Ceremony



DUBAI, UAE: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is proud to announce the upcoming Takaful and Re-Takaful Awards, to be held in Dubai on September 9, 2024. This prestigious event aims to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations in the Islamic finance industry. The Takaful and Re-Takaful Awards will honor prominent stakeholders who have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the Takaful and Re-Takaful sectors. Awards categories will be introduced to recognize excellence in various areas.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, highlighted the rapid expansion of the Takaful and Re-Takaful industry, driven by increasing global interest in Islamic finance. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and rewarding those who have made substantial contributions to the sector's growth and success.

The Takaful and Re-Takaful Awards serve as a platform to showcase the industry's achievements, foster collaboration, and inspire innovation. By recognizing outstanding performers, the awards aim to encourage further development and adoption of Takaful and Re-Takaful products and services. The event is open to the public, and interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to register for participation.

Following a rigorous selection process, AlHuda CIBE has chosen deserving institutions and individuals to be honored for their outstanding contributions to the Takaful and Re-Takaful sector.

PTCL Group partners with the Pakistan Hockey team to renew and honor the national legacy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) partnered up with the Pakistan Hockey team, as they gear up for the Asian Champions Trophy 2024. As the national telecom carrier, PTCL Group is dedicated to celebrating and enhancing the vibrant legacy of Pakistan hockey. This partnership aims to elevate the sport, bolster national pride, and showcase Pakistan's continued excellence on the global stage.

Hockey, a sport deeply cherished in Pakistan has faced various challenges in recent years. In light of this, PTCL Group is determined to revitalise hockey's prominent place in the hearts and minds of the nation.

The campaign aims to create history again by building on the momentum of PTCL Group's successful campaign for Arshad Nadeem ahead of the Paris Olympics. Under this partnership, PTCL Group will focus on creating awareness, and fostering a renewed love and backing for the sport among Pakistanis. The Group strongly believes that Pakistani players and athletes can dominate any sport at any stage if they have the



support and confidence of their people.

Hockey is Pakistan's national sport, and a symbol of our heritage and honour, and its revival is a cause closer to the nation's hearts. PTCL Group believes in the immense potential of Pakistani

athletes and are committed to providing them with the support they need to shine on the world stage. This partnership with the Pakistan hockey team is not just about extending support; it's about rekindling patriotism and contributing to

Pakistan's global success in sports.

PTCL Group is confident that with renewed support and public passion, Pakistan's hockey team can once again bring home regional and global victories, restoring the sport to its rightful place.

Match officials for Champions One-Day Cup announced

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Former ICC elite panelist Aleem Dar and Asif Yaqoob of the ICC's international panel will umpire the opening match between Wolves and Panthers in the Champions One-Day Cup on 12 September, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced today. Former Test cricketer Ali Naqvi will lead the Playing Control Team (PCB), which will also include Waleed Yaqub and Zulfiqar Jan as third and fourth umpires.

Aleem Dar, Asif Yaqoob, Waleed Yaqub and Zulfiqar Jan are amongst a panel of nine umpires who will be officiating in the tournament between country's best of the best players with stalwarts such as Misbah-ul-Haq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shoaib Malik and Waqar Younis involved as mentors. The other five umpires are: Faisal Aafreedi, Imtiaz Iqbal, Imran Jawed, Nasir Hussain and Rashid Riaz.

Apart from Ali Naqvi, match referees' responsibilities will be shared between Bilal Khilji, Iftikhar Ahmed, Iqbal Sheikh, Nadeem Arshad and Kamran Chaudhry.

Umpire and match referee



appointments for the three playoffs and the final will be announced closer to time.

Umpire and match referee appointments (all matches at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad; 16 Sep match will start at 9.30am, rest of the matches will start at 3pm):

12 Sep - Wolves v Panthers. Aleem Dar and Waleed Yaqub (on-field umpires); Asif Yaqoob (third umpire); Zulfiqar Jan (fourth umpire); Ali Naqvi (match referee)

13 Sep - Stallions v Lions. Aleem Dar and Waleed Yaqub (on-field umpires); Asif Yaqoob (third umpire); Zulfiqar Jan (fourth umpire); Ali Naqvi (match referee)

14 Sep - Dolphins v Panthers. Asif Yaqoob and Zulfiqar Jan (on-field umpires); Aleem Dar (third umpire), Waleed Yaqub

(fourth umpire); Bilal Khilji (match referee)

15 Sep - Wolves v Stallions. Aleem Dar and Rashid Riaz (on-field umpires); Waleed Yaqub (third umpire); Zulfiqar Jan (fourth umpire); Bilal Khilji (match referee)

16 Sep - Lions v Panthers. Waleed Yaqub and Zulfiqar Jan (on-field umpires); Rashid Riaz (third umpire); Imran Jawed (fourth umpire); Iqbal Sheikh (match referee)

17 Sep - Dolphins v Wolves. Nasir Hussain and Rashid Riaz (on-field umpires); Imran Jawed (third umpire); Waleed Yaqub (fourth umpire); Iqbal Sheikh (match referee)

19 Sep - Stallions v Dolphins. Imran Jawed and Imtiaz Iqbal (on-field umpires); Nasir Hussain (third umpire), Waleed

Yaqub (fourth umpire); Iftikhar Ahmed (match referee)

20 Sep - Lions v Wolves. Imran Jawed and Nasir Hussain (on-field umpires); Rashid Riaz (TV umpire); Imtiaz Iqbal (fourth umpire); Iftikhar Ahmed (match referee)

21 Sep - Panthers v Stallions. Imran Jawed and Nasir Hussain (on-field umpires); Faisal Aafreedi (third umpire); Imtiaz Iqbal (fourth umpire); Nadeem Arshad (match referee)

22 Sep - Dolphins v Lions. Faisal Aafreedi and Imtiaz Iqbal (on-field umpires); Nasir Hussain (third umpire); Imran Jawed (fourth umpire); Kamran Chaudhry (match referee)

Appointments for the playoffs and the final will be announced closer to matches.

Palestine impress in FIFA World Cup Qualifier against South Korea

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Palestine gave South Korea a major scare in an entertaining 0-0 away draw on Thursday as they attempt to reach the FIFA World Cup for the first time.

Making their debut in the third stage of Asian qualifying and 96 in FIFA's rankings to South Korea's 23, Palestine refused to be overawed for much of an open contest in Seoul.

Palestine play their home matches abroad, usually in the Middle East, because of the war in Gaza.

The local league has been suspended and many of the players are without a club.

Despite those obstacles, they thought they had taken the lead in the 22nd minute at the 66,000-capacity Seoul World Cup Stadium, only for the goal to be correctly ruled out for offside.

The hosts, under their fourth coach this year with Hong Myung-bo, looked shaky at the back and were struggling to get their talisman and skipper Son Heung-min into the game. Their best chance of an even first half fell to Lee Kang-in, but Palestinian goalkeeper Rami Hamadeh just about kept out the Paris Saint-Germain player's well-struck close-range effort.

The Palestinians appeared to tire in the second half and were restricted to rare but dangerous breakaways.

Lee was again guilty of missing a glorious chance when he shot wildly, then was denied with a 74th-minute free-kick that Hamadeh tipped over the bar.

Oday Dabagh then went close for the visitors on the break, before Spurs star Son rattled the outside of the Palestine post in the dying minutes.

Peshawar to host marathon race on Friday



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Department will hold the Peshawar Marathon Race on September 6 to mark Defence Day.

According to Secretary General AFP Col. (R) Shah Jahan Mir, the marathon will be a 25km distance set for the race. Athletes from across the country, including departmental teams, are invited to participate in the extravaganza.

The federation has issued guidelines to all relevant institutions, and provincial, and regional associations in this regard.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning athletes after the race.

Pak team to participate in World Youth Scrabble C'ship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A 14-member Pakistan team will feature in the 19th World Youth Scrabble Championship to be played in Sri Lanka from September 6 to 8.

The team led by Tariq Pervez, Director Youth Program of Pakistan Scrabble Association, comprises 12 boys and 4 girls.

Pervez said the players selected include Affan Salman, Aehzam Ahmed, Bilal Asher, Ahmed Salman, Manaal Asher, Muhammad Yadaan, Muzammil Hassan, Manhamah Mukarram, Syed Maaz, Misbah ur Rehman, Ibrahim Mansoor, Ayesha Naqvi, Shanzay Fazil, Zayan Zaman, Muhammad Usman, Syed Musaab.

It may be mentioned that Pakistan was the winner of the 2022 championship but finished second behind by Sri Lanka in the 2023 championship played in Thailand.

Ushna Suhail moves to Khawar Hyat Tennis Tournament's final

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial National Ranking Tennis Tournament continued with competitive matches keeping the spectators on edge at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex, Islamabad on Thursday.



In the ladies singles semifinals, Ushna Suhail emerged victorious, defeating Soha Ali with a score of 6-4, 6-4 to secure her place in the final.

Meanwhile, in the boys 18 & under final, Ahmad Nael Qureshi overcame a strong challenge from Bilal Asim. After dropping the first set 4-6, Ahmad fought back to take the second set 7-5. The match was tied at 3-3 in the final set when Bilal had to retire, giving Ahmad the victory.

In the Boys 12 & Under Final, Shayan Afridi claimed the title with a convincing 4-2, 4-2 win over Rashid Ali.

Earlier in the semifinals, Rashid Ali had defeated Muhammad Muaz 4-2, 4-1, while Shayan Afridi triumphed over Muhammad Junaid 4-2, 4-0.

The tournament continues on Friday with the ladies singles final scheduled at 3:00 PM, where Ushna Suhail will face the winner of the Sheeza Sajid vs Amna Ali Qayum semifinal. The day will conclude with the highly anticipated men's singles final between Aqeel Khan and Muhammad Shoaib.

6 ستمبر 2024

یوم دفاع

تمہیں وطن کی فضائیں سلام کہتی ہیں!

6 ستمبر 1965 کے ہیروز کو خراج تحسین پیش کرنے میں یک زبان

وطن کی نصائیں

نیشنل بینک اور پاکستان

Google to produce 0.5 mln Chromebooks in Pakistan by 2026, presents first to PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The global tech giant Google on Thursday launched an initiative to produce half a million Chromebooks in Pakistan, marking the occasion by presenting the first device to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at a ceremony held here.

President of Google Asia Pacific (APAC) Scott Beaumont presented locally manufactured chromebook to the prime minister.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister appreciated the contribution of Google on global level and in Pakistan as well.

He believed that the young generation of the country was much capable in the field of Information Technology that could play key role in economic development of Pakistan.

He said the federal and the provincial governments should utilize all possible resources to ensure their education and empowerment.

The prime minister informed that the government had set a target of IT export worth USD25 billion in next five years



Google's AI-powered products and services helped provide PKR 3.9 trillion of economic benefits for Pakistani businesses and households in 2023

that was quite achievable.

He asked the IT experts and entrepreneurs to present a plan to help government achieving the target besides promoting Small and Medium Enterprises and freelancers.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also resolved to make the country's governance system totally paperless and digitized to get rid of massive corruption in the best interest of people of Pakistan.

He said the govern-

ment had hired a new Secretary for Ministry of IT and Telecommunication through a transparent way.

Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Google was playing important role in digitization of Pakistan under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Regional Director of Google for Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Sri Lanka, Farhan S. Qureshi said focusing on technology would help increase economic activities in the country. He highlighted that there were huge opportunities for freelancers in Pakistan to move forward in various fields of technology.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal were also present on the occasion.

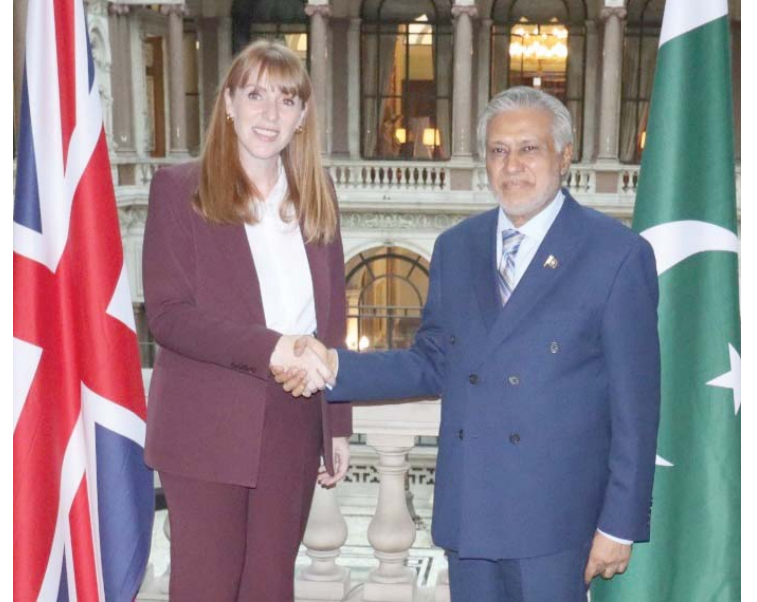
Deputy Prime Minister meets the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of the United Kingdom Ms. Angela Rayner.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar congratulated Ms. Rayner on her appointment as the British Deputy Prime Minister. He underscored the importance of a strong Pakistan-UK partnership for furthering the two countries' shared interests in the bilateral and regional domains. The Deputy Prime Minister lauded the contributions of British-Pakistani diaspora towards further enriching the longstanding ties between the two countries.

Recalling Deputy Prime Minister Rayner's visit to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2022 floods, Deputy Prime Minister Dar expressed Pakistan's desire to work with the UK on climate action and mobilizing international assistance for climate-vulnerable countries. He noted that creating opportunities for young people, and



enhancing bilateral trade and investment were other shared priorities of both countries. He also appreciated the UK's continued duty-free access facility for Pakistani exports.

Deputy Prime Minister Rayner

congratulated Deputy Prime Minister Dar on Pakistan's election to the UN Security Council. She also noted the positive role of the British Pakistani community in bringing the two countries closer together.

Finance Minister calls for optimizing investment and trade flows between Pakistan and Oman

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a virtual meeting with H. H. Juland Jaifer Salim Al-Said, Chairman of the Pak Oman Investment Company Limited (POIC) on Thursday to discuss ways for expanding business collaborations and enhancing investment and trade flows between the two brotherly countries.

The meeting was attended by H. H. Juland Jaifer Salim Al-Said, Chairman of the Pak Oman Investment Company Limited (POIC), Mr. Nauman Ansari, Managing Director of POIC, and senior officials from POIC and the Finance Division.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister highlighted the significant strides achieved in recent months to stabilize the economy and put it on a sustainable path of growth. He also mentioned the improvements registered in several macro and micro economic indicators of the economy as well as a host of structural reforms



undertaken in various sectors of the economy, including energy, taxation, privatization, and downsizing of government to let the private sector let the growth with the government playing the role of a facilitator, in the process.

H. H. Juland Jaifer Salim Al-Said, Chairman of the Pak Oman Investment Company Limited (POIC) lauded the initiatives taken by Government in

Pakistan for stabilizing the economy. He expressed his deeply-ingrained love for Pakistan, and that the Government of Oman and its businessmen also viewed Pakistan as a brotherly country and a potential place for business and investment. He expressed hope that due to opening up of more investment opportunities in Pakistan in the wake of ongoing economic reforms, there would be more business collaborations.

IMF stops government from setting support price for commodities



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has imposed a significant condition on Pakistan's federal and provincial governments as part of its \$7 billion bailout package, effectively prohibiting them from setting support prices for agricultural commodities, including wheat, sugarcane, and cotton.

This restriction is one of several aimed at curbing government spending and limiting their authority to provide subsidies.

The IMF's condition requires the phasing out of price-setting mechanisms by all five governments - federal and four provinces - beginning with the current Kharif crop season and concluding by June 2026. This will impact the prices of essential commodities like wheat, sugarcane, and cotton, as well as imported fertilizers, which will no longer be sold at subsidized rates.

The Punjab government, which has already stopped buying wheat from farmers, has seen a 40% reduction in wheat and wheat flour prices, contributing to a single-digit inflation rate last month. However, the IMF has also imposed a condition prohibiting all provinces from providing electricity and gas subsidies during the 37-month loan program.

BISP provided recognition to the poor women of Pakistan, says Senator Rubina



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, has stated that BISP is Pakistan's largest social safety net. Founded by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and launched by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008, the programme has played a vital role in giving recognition to the poor women of Pakistan. She emphasized that BISP is the key for economic empowerment of deserving women across the country. Senator Khalid shared these views during a media briefing held at the BISP headquarters.

Addressing misconceptions, Senator Khalid pointed out that there is a negative perception that BISP turns the poor into beggars, whereas similar

social security programmes exist worldwide. She stressed that it is the state's responsibility to support the poor. BISP provides essential financial assistance to deserving individuals to help them meet their basic needs.

Senator Khalid also announced the launch of the Benazir Skill Training Programme, aimed at providing skill development opportunities to deserving women and their family members. Consultations are underway with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis to ensure training programs align with international standards and meet the demands of both local and global markets. This initiative is expected to improve the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries, allowing more families to benefit from BISP.

Court martial proceedings ...


Continued from Page 1

In April, an inquiry committee was formed against Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hamid after a request from the owner of a private housing society. He was accused of misuse of authority in the housing society. The committee was headed at the senior level by a major general.

The DG ISPR stated that legal


action would be taken against those spreading misinformation and propaganda, particularly on social media.

"The army is committed to combating digital terrorism and ensuring transparency," he said, "the Pakistan Army is a national army and has no political agenda. The army does not support or oppose any political party."



یوم دفاع

6 SEPTEMBER



ہمارا عزم استحکام - محفوظ اور خوشحال پاکستان

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اظہار کرتے ہیں کہ اتحاد، ایمان اور نظم و ضبط سے دشمن کو ہر محاذ پر شکست دیں گے۔ پوری قوم سیدہ۔ پائی چنان کی طرح اپنی مسلح افواج کے پیچھے کھڑی ہے۔ اس موقع پر ہم اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں اور بہنوں کی سیاسی، سفارتی اور اخلاقی حمایت کا بھی اعادہ کرتے ہیں۔ بھارتی غیر قانونی زیر تسلط مہموں و کشمیر کی حیثیت کو تبدیل کرنے کے یکطرفہ بھارتی اقدام کو پاکستان کبھی بھی قبول نہیں کرے گا اور ہم عالمی برادری پر زور دیتے رہیں گے کہ وہ اقوام متحدہ کی قرارداد کے مطابق اس مسئلے کے حل کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کرے۔

وفاقی وزیر برائے دفاع اور دفاعی پیداوار کی حیثیت سے میں اس بات کا اعادہ کرتا ہوں کہ ہم اس پینڈ قوم ہیں۔ تاہم، اگر ہم پر جارحیت مسلط کی گئی تو ہم فیصلہ کن جواب کے لیے تیار ہیں۔

یوم دفاع کے اس موقع پر میں اللہ تعالیٰ سے دلی دعا کرتا ہوں کہ وہ 06 ستمبر 1965ء کی جنگ کے ہیروز کے روشن راستے پر چلنے کی ہمت اور حوصلہ عطا فرمائے۔ آمین

آج کے دن، میں آپ کے لیے امید اور عزم کا پیغام دیتا ہوں۔ یاد رکھیں، ہمارا ماضی، بحیثیت قوم ہمارا استحکام پر قابو پانے کی صلاحیت کا گواہ ہے۔ ہر بار، ہم مضبوط تر اور عسکری اعتبار سے سخت جان ہو کر ابھرے ہیں۔ آج کے دن ہمیں اسی عزم و مصمم سے کام لینا ہوگا جو ہمیشہ ہماری پہچان رہا ہے۔ "عزم استحکام" کے تحت نظر ثانی شدہ نیشنل ایکشن پلان کا مقصد تمام اقسام کی دہشت گردی، بشمول ڈیجیٹل دہشت گردی کو ہمیشہ کے لیے جڑ سے اکھاڑ پھینکانا ہے۔ اس امر کی ہے کہ ہم سب مل کر ایک خوشحال پاکستان کی راہ ہموار کریں۔

محمد شہباز شریف
وزیر اعظم اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان



خواجہ محمد آصف

وفاقی وزیر دفاع اور دفاعی پیداوار
کا یوم دفاع پاکستان،
06 ستمبر 2024ء کے موقع پر پیغام

06 ستمبر 1965ء ماروں کے ایک ایک انچ کے دفاع کے ہمارے عزم کا ابدی ثبوت ہے۔ یہ دن ہمیں اپنے بہادر شہداء، غازیوں اور سابق مایہ ناز فوجیوں کی قربانیوں کی یاد دلاتا ہے۔ ہماری قوم اور اس کی مسلح افواج کے ناقابل تسخیر جذبے نے دشمن کے مذموم عزائم اور ناپاک اقدامات کو خاک میں ملا دیا۔ جبکہ ہماری مسلح افواج نے حملہ آور دشمن کو فضا، زمین اور سمندر میں ذلت آمیز ضربیں لگائیں۔

جرات و بہادری اور شجاعت کی یہ میراث زندہ ہے۔ 1965ء کے اپنے ہیروز سے سیکھتے ہوئے ہماری مسلح افواج کا ہر رکن اپنے عظیم اور مقدس فرض کی تکمیل میں غیر متزلزل ہے۔

پاکستان کو آج بیرونی اور اندرونی طور پر یکسو رٹی کے حوالہ سے متعدد چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے۔ ان دونوں خطرات کا اصل ماخذ ہمارا داخلی مخالف ہے جو گمراہی کے تازعات کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے اور دہشت گرد تنظیموں سے مسلسل تعاون کر رہا ہے اور دہشت گرد تنظیموں کی حمایت سے ہماری قوم کی سالمیت اور سماجی شہرت پر حملہ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ دشمن 1965ء کی طرح ہمارے قومی عزم اور جذبے کا غلط اندازہ لگا رہا ہے۔

یوم دفاع پاکستان کے موقع پر ہم بحیثیت قوم اس عزم کا

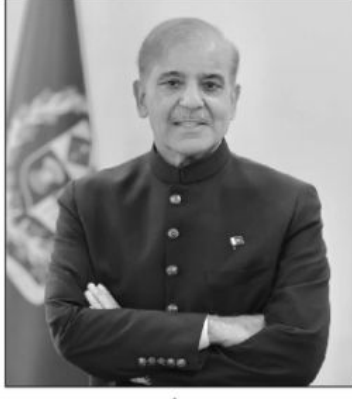
بجائے تعاون اور شرکت داری پر یقین رکھتے ہیں۔ ہمارا مقصد ایسی سازگاری پیدا کرنا ہے جہاں تمام اقوام ترقی کریں اور غربت، بیماری اور جہالت جیسے مشترکہ مسائل حل کرنے پر توجہ دیں۔ بد قسمتی سے مسئلہ کشمیر کا حل نہ ہونا خطے میں قیام امن اور ترقی کی راہ میں سب سے بڑی رکاوٹ ہے۔ کشمیر برصغیر کی تقسیم کا نامکمل ایجنڈا ہے جسے کشمیری عوام کی آنگوں اور اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی قراردادوں کے مطابق استصواب رائے کے ذریعے فوری حل کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ہمسایوں سے اٹھنے والی دہشت گردی کی جڑوں کو باہمی تعاون اور مشترکہ مفاد کی حکمت عملی کے ذریعے اکھاڑنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

آج کے دن، میں آپ کے لیے امید اور عزم کا پیغام دیتا ہوں۔ یاد رکھیں، ہمارا ماضی، بحیثیت قوم ہمارا استحکام پر قابو پانے کی صلاحیت کا گواہ ہے۔ ہر بار، ہم مضبوط تر اور عسکری اعتبار سے سخت جان ہو کر ابھرے ہیں۔ آج کے دن ہمیں اسی عزم سے کام لینا ہوگا جو ہمیشہ ہماری پہچان رہا ہے۔ "عزم استحکام" کے تحت نظر ثانی شدہ نیشنل ایکشن پلان کا مقصد تمام اقسام کی دہشت گردی، بشمول ڈیجیٹل دہشت گردی کو ہمیشہ کے لیے جڑ سے اکھاڑ پھینکانا ہے۔ اس امر کی ہے کہ ہم سب مل کر ایک خوشحال پاکستان کی راہ ہموار کریں۔

پاکستان فلسطینی عوام کے ساتھ مضبوطی سے کھڑا ہے۔ ہم بریلینٹ فارم پر اپنی آواز فلسطین کے لیے بلند کرتے ہیں۔ فلسطینی عوام نے اسرائیلی قبضے کے خلاف اپنی طویل جدوجہد میں ناقابل یقین جرات کا مظاہرہ کیا ہے۔ ہم عالمی برادری سے مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ وہ فلسطینی شہریوں کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے اور غزہ میں بے گناہ مسلمانوں کی نشتی بند کرے۔

میں شہداء اور غازیوں کے خاندانوں کو بھی سہم پیش کرتا ہوں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ شہداء کے درجات بلند کرے اور ان کے اہل و عیال کو جرات اور ہمت عطا فرمائے۔ آئیے! شہداء کے جذبے کو اپنے دلوں میں بسا کر پاکستان کا تحفظ اور تعمیر کریں اور جذبہ دفاع پاکستان کو بیدار کرتے ہوئے عظمت کی بلندیوں کو چھو لیں۔

افواجِ پاکستان زندہ باد!
پاکستان پائندہ باد!



محمد شہباز شریف

وزیر اعظم اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان
کا یوم دفاع شہداء پر پیغام

پاکستان کی تاریخ میں 6 ستمبر انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ ہر سال اس دن، پاکستانی قوم یوم دفاع و شہداء بڑے ولولے اور احترام سے مناتی ہے۔ ہم سب مادر وطن کے بیٹوں اور افواجِ پاکستان کے عظیم سپہوتوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے 6 ستمبر 1965ء کو ہماری سرحدوں پر حملہ آور دشمن کے خلاف بے خوفی سے لڑتے ہوئے اسے شکست فاش دی۔ دشمن کے اس غیر اعلانیہ حملے اور عدوی برتری کے باوجود افواجِ پاکستان کی بیداری اور تیاری کی بدولت تمام محاذوں پر برتری اور عزت ناک شکست کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ گزشتہ 59 سال سے، افواجِ پاکستان ہر دم تیاری اور پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتوں اور حربی تیاریوں کا مظاہرہ کر کے جذبہ یوم دفاع کو زندہ رکھے ہوئے ہیں جو ہمارے دفاع اور استقلال کی علامت بن چکا ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ قوم ہر چیلنج میں سرخرو ہوئی ہے۔ بلاشبہ ہماری افواج کا حوصلہ اور فرض سے لگن ہی پاکستان کی سلامتی کی بنیاد ہے۔ ان کی قربانیوں کی بدولت ہم ایک آزاد اور خود مختار مملکت میں زندگی گزار رہے ہیں۔ میں شہداء کے خاندانوں کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرتا ہوں جن کا جذبہ اور حوصلہ ہمیں محفوظ اور مضبوط پاکستان کی تعمیر کا عزم بخشتا ہے۔ جدید ترین حربی صلاحیتوں سے لیس ہماری مسلح افواج اپنی علاقائی سالمیت اور خود مختار شخص کو ناقابل تسخیر بنانے کے لیے اپنی استعداد میں مسلسل اضافہ کر رہی ہیں۔

ہماری حکومت تصادم کے بجائے مکالمے اور مذاکرات کی

سلامتی کونسل کی قراردادوں پر عمل درآمد کرے۔ آج پاکستان کو بہت سے خطرات اور یکسو رٹی چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے۔ پاکستان میں دہشت گردی کی کارروائیاں کرانے کے لیے دشمن ممالک پاکستان مخالف عناصر کی حمایت کر کے ملک کو نقصان پہنچانے پر تلے ہوئے ہیں۔ ان چیلنجز کے پیش نظر، ہماری مسلح افواج اور قانون نافذ کرنے والے ادارے دہشت گردوں کو شکست دینے کے لیے پوری طرح سے تیار ہیں۔ ہم دہشت گردی کی اہت کو ختم کرنے کے لیے اپنی یکسو رٹی فورسز کے ساتھ ہیں۔

ہماری مسلح افواج قومی خود مختاری اور ملکی سالمیت کو درپیش کسی بھی چیلنج کا جواب دینے کے لیے چوکس اور ہمد وقت تیار ہیں۔ ہماری افواج مناسب دفاعی ساز و سامان سے لیس ہیں، مطلوبہ پیشہ ورانہ مہارت کی حامل اور ملک کو تمام چیلنجز سے بچانے کیلئے پرعزم۔ چیلنجز سے بچانے کیلئے پرعزم ہیں۔ ہم خطے میں امن و استحکام اور تمام پڑوسیوں کے ساتھ پر امن بقائے باہمی کے خواہاں ہیں۔ ہم اپنے بہادر بیٹوں کو درپیش اور جبہ حسب الوطنی کی پادمانتے ہیں۔ آج ہم دفاع وطن کے مقدس فریضے کی تکمیل میں مسلح افواج کے ساتھ اپنی غیر متزلزل حمایت کا عہد کرتے ہیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ پاکستان کی حفاظت فرمائے اور ہمیں امن اور خوشحالی کی راہ پر گامزن فرمائے۔

افواجِ پاکستان زندہ باد!
پاکستان پائندہ باد!



آصف علی زرداری

صدر اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کا
یوم دفاع و شہداء، 06 ستمبر 2024ء
کے موقع پر پیغام

یوم دفاع و شہداء کے موقع پر ہم بیرونی جارحیت کے خلاف ملک کا دفاع کرنے والے اور عظیم قربانیاں پیش کرنے والے غازیوں اور شہداء کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرتے ہیں۔ یہ دن ہمیں اپنی خود مختاری کے دفاع کی جانب غیر متزلزل قومی عزم کی یاد دلاتا ہے۔ میں اس سرزمین کے ان بہادر سپہوتوں کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرتا ہوں جنہوں نے پاکستان کو نقصان پہنچانے کا دشمن کا خواب پھینکا اور کر دیا۔

ہماری مسلح افواج قومی خود مختاری اور ملکی سالمیت کو درپیش کسی بھی چیلنج کا جواب دینے کے لیے چوکس اور ہمد وقت تیار ہیں۔ ہماری افواج مناسب دفاعی ساز و سامان سے لیس ہیں، مطلوبہ پیشہ ورانہ مہارت کی حامل اور ملک کو تمام چیلنجز سے بچانے کیلئے پرعزم ہیں۔ ہم خطے میں امن و استحکام اور تمام پڑوسیوں کے ساتھ پر امن بقائے باہمی کے خواہاں ہیں۔ ہم اپنے بہادر بیٹوں کو درپیش اور جبہ حسب الوطنی کی پادمانتے ہیں۔ آج ہم دفاع وطن کے مقدس فریضے کی تکمیل میں مسلح افواج کے ساتھ اپنی غیر متزلزل حمایت کا عہد کرتے ہیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ پاکستان کی حفاظت فرمائے اور ہمیں امن اور خوشحالی کی راہ پر گامزن فرمائے۔

ہم ہمالیہ میں کوہِ گراں
ہم بحرِ تلاطم کے شناور

باوقار، سر بلند
ہم نگہبان، ہم پاسبان



ہم کوہستانوں میں سینہ سپر، ہم صبح دم تازہ اور تاریکیوں میں مستعد
ہم سندھ، ہم بلوچستان، ہم خیبر پختونخوا
ہم گلگت بلتستان، ہم پنجاب، کشمیر بھی ہم

ہم شہیدوں کے وارث ہم وفاق کی پہچان ہم ہیں پاکستان