



Judge delays Trump sentencing until after US election

Sentencing of Donald Trump in his New York hush money trial was delayed Friday until after November's presidential election, a win for the Republican as he battles Democrat Kamala Harris in the knife-edge race. The former president had been scheduled to be sentenced on September 18 for falsifying business records in a scheme to silence a porn star's politically damaging story.



Govt announces holiday on September 17

The federal government has announced a public holiday on September 17 (Tuesday) on account of 12th Rabi ul Awwal Eid Milad un Nabi. As per an official notification, the country will celebrate the birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on September 17 in the Rabi ul Awwal month of 1446 Hijri. On Wednesday, the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee announced that the crescent for Rabi ul Awwal was not sighted in the country, therefore, the Islamic month will commence from September 6.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

A graceful ceremony

KARACHI: President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with MOMA, Governor Sindh, CJCS, Chief of the Naval Staff and Ship's Company of PNS HUNAIN during Induction Ceremony of PNS BABUR and PNS HUNAIN held at PN Dockyard, Karachi.



Photo: PID

Pakistan Navy inducts two state of the art ships in its fleet

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A graceful ceremony for induction of MILGEM Class Corvette PNS BABUR and Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS HUNAIN was held at PN Dockyard Karachi. President of Pakistan, Mr Asif Ali Zardari graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

PNS BABUR is a multipurpose Ship built and commissioned at Istanbul Naval Shipyard on 23 Sep 23. PNS HUNAIN, an Offshore Patrol Vessel was built and commissioned at DAMEN Shipyard, Romania on 25 Jul 24.

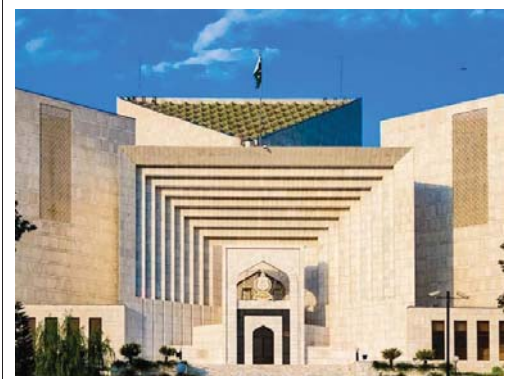
Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief Guest dilated upon the precarious geo-strategic environment in the Indian Ocean and the need to have a potent Naval force to counter growing traditional and non-traditional challenges. He remarked that induction of state of the art ships on Defence Day of Pakistan is a milestone achievement. He reiterated that induction of these ships in PN Fleet will consolidate and enable the Fleet to meet its ever-growing operational responsibilities. The Chief Guest also mentioned that PN Ships BABUR and HUNAIN

equipped with state of the art weapons, sensors and robust machinery, will In Sha Allah serve Pakistan Navy for years to come. Chief Guest formally handed over the ships' scrolls to the Commander Pakistan Fleet which marked the induction of PN Ships BABUR and HUNAIN in PN Fleet.

In his welcome address, the Chief of the Naval Staff termed the induction of these ships in PN Fleet as a major milestone in capacity building of PN Fleet. He acknowledged the government's full support for providing best possible resources for this purpose. He also acknowledged the professional competence of M/s ASFAT, Istanbul Shipyard, DAMEN Shipyard Galati Romania and the entire project team for delivering potent ships which showcased the deep rooted friendship and cooperation between friendly countries.

The ceremony was also attended by HE Mr Bilal Burdali, Deputy Minister of National Defence Turkiye, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of the Naval Staff, senior reps of construction yards, political leadership and high ranking officials of the Armed Forces.

Supreme Court restores NAB amendments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday reinstated the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments law by accepting the review plea of the federal government.

The judgment reserved by a five-member bench of the SC was reserved on June 6.

The judgment was given by a majority of 5-0 by a bench headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa with Justice Athar Minallah writing an additional note as well.

The SC in its short verdict stated that details of the decision will be shared later.

The federal and provincial governments had filed intra-court appeals against the declaration of the NAB amendments as unconstitutional. The Supreme Court had reserved its verdict on the federal government's appeal on June 6th.

It is pertinent to mention here that the apex court struck down amendments made to NAB laws on the PTI founder's plea.

In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court had approved former prime minister Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. The top court also restored graft cases against public office holders that were closed down following the amendments to NAB laws.

Don't let political differences breed hatred: COAS Munir

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has warned against allowing political differences to transform into hatred, urging the people to follow three principles of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam.

"Don't allow political differences to transform into hatred. The guiding principles of Quaid—faith, unity, and organization—should serve as our beacon," he said while addressing a ceremony to mark Defence and Martyrs Days in Rawalpindi on Friday, commemorating the sacrifices of fallen heroes of the 1965 war against India.

The army's top brass, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the

Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, other senior military and governmental officials, and families of martyred soldiers attended the ceremony.

He said that Pakistan's armed forces and the people knew how to defend its totality as the army chief warned foreign forces involved in spreading terrorism in the country.

"Pakistan's armed forces and the people will never allow malicious intentions to succeed," he said.

He expressed complete confidence in Pakistan's bright future as an essential part of patriotism. The army chief urged the adoption of qualities of unity and solidarity, saying: "In social and societal matters, we must demonstrate fraternity, harmony,



tolerance, and patience."

He stressed the need for "fully protecting" the rights of minorities in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan, rising above religious intolerance.

While addressing the Jammu and Kashmir issue, COAS Munir

said: "India's illegal occupation not only poses a challenge for Pakistan but also represents a regional and global concern." He paid tribute to the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom and asserted that lasting peace in South Asia hinges on the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

The army chief paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan. "Martyrs are Pakistan's identity and their families are a source of pride for the nation."

He asserted that "no power in the world can defeat" the Pakistani people, expressing confidence in the resilience of the nation. The army chief also commended the wounded soldiers and veterans of the Pakistan Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies, who have acted as a "formidable

shield" against enemies of the state, ensuring national security.

Thanks to the eternal sacrifices of martyrs and veterans, he stated, the country's defence would remain invincible.

He reiterated that the 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' was an integral part of the National Action Plan.

The army chief called for uniting against all factors that spread discord, uncertainty, and despair within the nation. He reassured that the nefarious objectives aimed at weakening national unity will never succeed.

He warned those who incite chaos under foreign influence, stating that they, along with those who justify and defend such crimes, would continue to face challenges.

Karsaz accident suspect gets bail after being pardoned by victims' family

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A sessions court in Karachi on Friday granted bail to prime suspect Natasha Danish in the Karsaz traffic accident case after an out-of-court settlement was reached with the victims' family.

Suspect Natasha Danish was booked and arrested for recklessly driving an SUV and killing a man and his daughter in an accident on Aug 19.

While pronouncing the order on Friday, the court allowed the bail plea in view of an out-of-court settlement reached by the applicants with the legal heirs of the traffic accident deceased.

The court granted bail to Natasha in the sum of Rs100,000 surety. The session judge also approved bail of Danish Iqbal, the husband of prime suspect in the Karsaz accident case.

A copy of the affidavit has been obtained by ARY News which reads, "We have reached a settlement and have forgiven the accused. We forgive her in the name of Allah, who is the Most Merciful and Compassionate."



The family submitted that they had no objection if the suspects were granted bail and released from prison in the present case.

The certificate also mentions that the accident was not "intentional" and that the heirs have "forgiven" the accused without any pressure.

"We have given this no-objection certificate without any pressure. What we have said in the affidavit is absolutely correct," the affidavit read.

The families have further affirmed that the statements made in the affidavit are accurate.

Terror attack in Mohmand foiled, four terrorists killed

Monitoring desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces in Mohmand district successfully foiled a terrorist attack, killing four terrorists. Ajj News reported.

According to sources, the terrorists attempted to infiltrate the Civil Administration Colony. Security forces engaged the terrorists, resulting in their elimination.

Sources further indicate that a clearance operation is currently underway in the area.

Finance Minister met with the family of Shaheed LNK Waqar Hussain Shah to pay a tribute to martyrs



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a heartfelt tribute on Defence Day, the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb visited the residence of Shaheed Lance Naik Waqar Hussain Shah to honor the sacrifices of Pakistan's armed forces.

Shaheed Waqar Hussain Shah laid down his life in the line of duty, defending the nation with unparalleled

bravery and dedication.

During the visit, the Finance Minister met with the widow of the martyr, Mrs. Sania Nazir, and their children, offering his deepest condolences and expressing the nation's immense pride in the valour and sacrifice of Shaheed Waqar.

He highlighted that the entire country stands in gratitude and solidarity with the families of those who have given their lives for Pakistan.

Federal govt approves special powers for security forces in Balochistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved special powers for security forces operating in Balochistan.

Sources reveal that the federal cabinet has amended the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, enabling enhanced authority for the Pakistan Army, Civil Armed Forces, and

government entities.

The cabinet's approval was reportedly secured through a summary circulation process.

Security forces will have the authority to detain any individual suspected of terrorism.

Moreover, the changes will offer legal protection to the forces, allowing them to conduct more effective operations against terrorist activities.

Azad Kashmir's President says 7th September reminds us of great moment

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that 7th September reminds us of the great moment when a historic decision vis a vis protecting the belief in finality of the prophet Muhammad (SAW) was taken unanimously by the parliament. The president said, "By declaring the Qadianis as a non-Muslim minority in 1974, the Parliament of Pakistan reflected the true sentiments of the Muslim Ummah". In his message issued on the eve of Youm e Tahaffuz Khatm Nabuwat Barrister Sultan



Mahmood Chaudhry said that the people of Azad Kashmir have always accepted the sanctity of the finality of the Prophethood and have made all kinds of sacrifices for its protection. Terming the belief in finality of the prophet as one of those fundamental articles of faith every Muslim has a faith, the president said that it was the duty of all of us to understand the importance of this faith and be united to thwart conspiracies against it. "While celebrating the day, we also renew our pledge to stay united for the protection of Tahaffuz e Khatm e Nabuwat and the exaltation of Islam", the president said.

September 7 reminds us of the need to protect finality of Prophet Muhammad SAW: PM AJK



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that September 7 reminds us of the importance and need to protect the belief in finality of the prophet Muhammad SAW. "Aqeeda Khatam e Nabuwat is the basis of our faith and essence of Islam", he said, adding that the people of Azad Kashmir have always been on the forefront to defend ideology and were ready to make every possible sacrifice for its protection. "It's our religious duty to protect this faith and stay vigilant to foil conspiracies being hatched against it", the PM said, adding that there was a dire need to educate the new generation about the importance of Aqeeda Khatam e Nabuwat. Terming Ameerul Momineen Syedna Abu Bakr Siddique (RA) as Mujahid e Khatm e Nabuwat, the PM said it was Abu Bakr who waged a war against Musailma Qazab. "We have to unite and continue this struggle to protect Islam and the belief in the finality of the Prophethood", he added. "May Allah the Almighty show us the right path and grant us the ability to protect the sanctity and belief in the finality of the prophet Muhammad SAW", he prayed.

Inauguration the polio campaign

Mr. Hashim Masood, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, is inaugurating the polio campaign at Naimat Begum, Hamdard University Hospital at Nazimabad with the support of Sindh Government. Brigadier Dr. Riazul Haque, CEO Hamdard University Hospital and others are also present on this occasion.



Photo: Spokesman

Defense Day of Pakistan celebrated with traditional zeal in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Like the rest of the country, Defense Day of Pakistan was celebrated with traditional enthusiasm in Attock. Various events and rallies were held throughout the district. The main event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, who was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Attock Anel Saeed, Assistant Commissioner Shagufta Jabeen, CEO Education Sajida Mukhtar, Chief Officer Municipality Attock Aftab Ahmed Khan, and other officials. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza paid tribute to the bravery, sacrifices, and courage of the Pakistan Armed Forces during the 1965 war and said that September 6th reminds us of the unparalleled sacrifices made by the people and the armed forces to defend their homeland. He highlighted that the Pakistan Air Force carried out attacks on Indian air bases and destroyed dozens of enemy aircraft, delivering a significant blow to the Indian Air Force. The Deputy Commissioner further mentioned that the Pakistan Navy thwarted the enemy's advance towards Karachi Port and destroyed Indian planes and radar systems in Dwarka. This day offers us the opportunity to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and veterans, and we must pledge to always remain ready to safeguard our nation's security and honor the courage of our armed forces. As part of Defense Day celebrations, events were held at Government MC School, Municipality Attock, and Government Graduate College Attock. Additionally, a rally was organized, starting from the Municipality of Attock and concluding at Fawara Chowk.

Young Kashmiri students honour Pakistan after high-profile address at Sawera

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Young Kashmiri children, representing both sides of the divided state of Jammu and Kashmir, gathered here on Friday to honour the armed forces of Pakistan for their unwavering commitment to defending the nation and supporting the noble cause of the oppressed Kashmiris.

"We honour the historic and courageous role of our armed forces in combating terrorism and safeguarding sovereignty. Their legacy of valour and sacrifices will be remembered and revered by the people of Kashmir and Pakistan for generations to come," said a resolution adopted by Sawera Student Assembly (SSA) at a powerful display of patriotism and solidarity.

The event was held under the aegis of Sawera Foundation, a not-for-profit organization headed by militant turned peace activist Tanveer ul Islam and working for promotion of peace and education among the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) based impoverished Kashmiris.

Zahid Amin, a prominent Muzaffarabad based political and social leader, was the chief guest on the occasion. Other speakers included Mr Islam, Kashmiri refugee leader Zameer Naz and senior Kashmiri journalist Tariq Naqash.

In the earlier part of the event, students Yusra Imtiaz, Hibba Naveed, Konain Fatima, Aqib Saeed, Minahal Iqbal, Qurat ul Ayn, Raja Liaquat and Chaudhry Bilal delivered powerful speeches in Urdu and English, highlighting the significance of Defence Day, the sacrifices of the armed forces, and role of the nation in countering enemy's aggression.

The resolution also honoured the martyrs, describing their bravery as a source of pride and inspiration for a strong, united, and resilient Pakistan.

PPP demands Govt to resolve issues of ongoing sit-in in Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Former National Assembly Candidate and District President Pakistan Peoples Party South Waziristan Lower Aman Ullah Wazir told media persons on Friday, and urging the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to resolve the issues of the ongoing sit-in in Upper South Waziristan.

Aman Ullah Wazir stated that the political leaders of Upper South Waziristan have been staging a sit-in at Mauley Khan Sarai in Tehsil Sarvekai for the past 12 days, with six demands that are legally permissible.

He emphasized that the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should take immediate steps to address these demands.

The PPP district president highlighted the demands, which included establishing peace in Sarvekai Tehsil.

Aman Ullah Wazir emphasized that Upper South Waziristan is the district most affected by the wave of terrorism in 9/11 and that all district offices of Upper Waziristan sub-division and all offices of Ladha sub-division are located in Tank, the most backward district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He requested the provincial government to issue orders to implement all the demands, providing relief to the people of Upper Waziristan.

Pakistan Army has made countless sacrifices for sake of Kashmir: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the historic day of September 6 is in the name of our Kashmiri martyrs and martyrs of Pakistan. Pakistan has fought for the survival and security of all Muslims in the region by successfully fighting the aggressive ambitions of India in every period. By defeating India's aggression with the help of the people, it was proved that wealth, reasons and external power alone are not the guarantee of success.



Speaking on the occasion of participating as a Chief guest in the 6th September Pakistan Defense Day ceremony organized by the Armed Forces of Pakistan in Kohala. Commander 12 Division Atterly Brigadier Waqar Ali, Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, Major Sardar Nasrullah Khan,

Muslim Conference workers and Civil society also participated fully in the program. The President-Muslim Conference further said that the Pakistan Army has made countless sacrifices for the defense of the country. Our forces guarded the borders with heart and soul, we know how to honor the martyrs. The sacrifices made for the defense of the homeland will not go in vain. The Pakistan Army has offered its blood for the elimination of terrorism from the country. There are many challenges that all the political parties have to unite on one platform to tackle. The war of September 1965 was actually a chal-

lenge that the nation accepted and used its capabilities to counter the aggressive ambitions of a power many times bigger than itself. On September 6, 1965, and in the days that followed, the armed forces of Pakistan crushed the pride of an attacker many times bigger than them and destroyed his impure ambitions. He said that the events of September 1965 are not only a source of pride for us but also faith-building and instructive. India's desire was crushed by the people and the forces together. Today, the entire nation needs the same unity and enthusiasm to fight against the malice and disasters of the enemy.

Amir Muqam pays tribute to martyrs on Defence Day

ISLAMABAD, SEP 06 (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the defense of the nation at Haveli Kahuta during a wreath-laying ceremony.

The ceremony held to mark Pakistan's Defence Day, honoured soldiers Sepoy Raja Vilayat Khan, Sepoy Muhammad Bashir, Sepoy Alam Din, and Sepoy Abdul Majeed, who died defending the country. Speaking on Pakistan's Defence Day, he reaffirmed the country's support for the people of Kashmir in their decades-long struggle for freedom.

Addressing the media, the minister expressed the nation's pride for martyred soldiers, acknowledging their sacrifice for the country's defense. "Our martyrs are our pride," he said.

TMA Takht Bhai celebrates Defense Day with pride and honours past

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Like other parts of the country, Takht Bhai also celebrated the national day of Defense Day. On this occasion, two separate events were held at TMA Takht Bhai and Government High School, which were attended by Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai Junaid Khalid, TMO Rahman Sher, Chief Officer Usman Ali Nashad, Principal Khurshid Khan, and other notable figures.

A walk was also organized on this occasion. Addressing the ceremony, Assistant Commissioner Junaid Khalid, TMO Rahman Sher, Chief Officer Usman Ali Nashad, Principal Khurshid Khan, and senior



journalist Haji Hayatullah Akhtar said that on September 6, the people of Pakistan celebrate Defense Day to pay tribute to their national heroes and brave armed forces who made sacrifices and unparalleled sacrifices in the 1965 war. They thwarted the enemy's intentions to occupy Pakistan by sacrificing their lives. They said that during this war, the brave and fearless people of Pakistan stood united and firm behind the armed forces of Pakistan. They said that living nations remember the achievements of their ancestors and take inspiration from them to move forward. They further said that the nation will continue to move forward with the spirit of September 6 and will not let the sacrifices of its heroes go in vain. The nation will always be ready to defend its country and will not compromise on its sovereignty and dignity.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

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 4451122 & Rescue Services 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

Pakistan appoints Scholar in Urdu and Pakistan Studies at University of Tehran

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT) has successfully completed the recruitment process of Pakistan Chair Aboard regarding Chair in Urdu and Pakistan Studies, University of Tehran, Iran. Mr. Zahid Munir Khan Amir, Director Urdu Development & Translation Centre, Punjab University Oriental College, University of Punjab, Lahore has been appointed as Scholar in the University of Tehran, Iran. The chair is important instruments for enhancing the recognition of Pakistan in the field of academia around the world. Moreover, it is meant to introduce the history, culture, and language of Pakistan to various globally renowned universities. After detailed deliberation, the Letter of Cooperation (LOC) was signed on 17th July, 2023 between Government Pakistan and University of Tehran, Iran. The said chair was vacant since 2008. The Chair, Mr. Zahid Munir Khan Amir, will carry out research in Urdu & Pakistan Studies and undertake such teaching duties in consultation with the relevant teaching department of the University. The holder will also be a link between the University and Pakistani Community and will play a role in furthering relations between Pakistan and Iran.

Chinese delegation calls on PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Chinese delegation called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and discussed various aspects of their ambitious plan to help Pakistan revolutionise the country's mass transit system to provide world-class transportation facilities to the public while achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals.

The delegation, comprising senior-level officials of the Chongqing CRRC Hengton Vehicle Company and Chongqing Public Transport Group Company, PowerChina International and Daewoo Pakistan Express appraised the PM's climate aide of Pakistan Green Transport Project (PGTP), an ambitious initiative that aims at transforming the country's public transport system to become more environmental-friendly and sustainable. "Basically set up under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, PGTP is a consortium of Pakistani and Chinese transport companies working to bring zero-emission, green transport in the country, which would benefit the common man in the



country, reduce the country's petroleum import bill, ensure optimal utilization of the power generation capacity and above all improve the environmental conditions across the country," said Faisal Ahmed Siddiqui, CEO Daewoo Pakistan Express group, who led the delegation.

Sharing further details during the meeting, Mr. Siddiqui said that MoU has already been signed among the consortium members at Pakistan Business Conference held in Shenzhen city of China in June 2024 in the presence of Federal Minister for Privatization

and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan; Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal. The delegation members also said that the initiative focusing on reducing air pollution levels in cities like Lahore,

Karachi, and Islamabad, which could be a step forward towards implementing carbon credit systems to further encourage green transport adoption in the country.

The Prime Minister's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam thanked the delegation for their interest in revolutionising Pakistan's mass transit system by introducing a network of e-buses and charging facilities.

She assured them her climate change & environmental coordination ministry's all-out support for implementing the Pakistan Green Transport Project, saying, "The consortium of Chinese and Pakistani transport companies will be welcomed and be fully supported to implement the game-changer e-transport system in the Pakistani cities."

"I hope the green transport project would revolutionise the country's transportation infrastructure by promoting environmentally sustainable and efficient mobility solutions across the nation.

During the meeting Ms. Alam said the present government is committed to modernize the country's public transport system, which decent, safe and environmentally-efficient.

Defence day celebrated at IMCG Kot Hathial

Defence day was celebrated at IMCG Kot Hathial with zeal and zest. Special events were organized at IMCG for the students to express their love for their beloved forces, in which the children participated enthusiastically.



Photo via Face Book

CBD Punjab Pays Homage To 1965 War Heroes On Defense Day

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), hosted a solemn ceremony on Defense Day of Pakistan to pay tribute to the martyrs and war heroes of September 1965. The ceremony, held at CBD Punjab complex, was graced by the presence of Chief Operating Officer CBD Punjab Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, as the chief guest. Senior officials and staff of CBD Punjab also participated in this significant occasion.

In his address at the ceremony, COO CBD Punjab Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua reflected on the historic significance of the September 1965 battle, highlighting the indom-



itable spirit of the Pakistani armed forces. He remarked, "Our martyrs and war heroes are the pride of our nation,

and their sacrifices will never be forgotten. In 1965, our forces decisively thwarted the enemy's malicious designs,

sending a clear message to the world that any hostile advance towards Pakistan will be met with unwavering resolve."

Roshni Associations Celebrated 23rd Anniversary Tahir Amin Malik



LAHORE: Roshni Associations which is a society for welfare of special persons celebrated the 23rd anniversary. The event was held at Roshni Association Bedian Road, Lahore campus where large number of special persons their parents, and CBR childrens were present. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Hakeem Muhammad Usman, Ceo Marhaba Food Industries. He said that we will continue to build up a brighter future for those who need it move. He said that Roshni Association is playing wonderful role for special persons. The President, Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor, General Secretary Ijaz Durani, Principal Rosni Association Saima Bajwa and Mr Ijaz Finance Secretary were also present on this occasion. Ijaz Durani General Secretary Roshni Association said that Roshni Associations will continue work for this noble cause. We will fully support to our special persons for their skill work. During the event the special persons showed the remarkable performances in dance and other activities.

Mushaal pays tribute to Pak Army's matchless sacrifices on Defence Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, paid a glowing tribute to the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army for rendering matchless sacrifices for the defense of their motherland.

In her special message on Defense Day, Mushaal, Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organisation, stated that she saluted the martyrs and ghazis who have given their lives to protect our country.

The former interim minister said that a country with a weak defense system cannot sustain its independence, citing Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as examples, where usurper forces have unleashed a reign of terror.

She said that today, the Indian army is committing genocide and ethnic cleansing of the people of occupied Kashmir, while the Pakistani Army is protecting the citizens of Azad Kashmir from Indian aggression.

Mushaal vowed that Indian and Israeli notorious forces would never dare to carry out the massacre of Kashmiris and Palestinians if their defense systems were impenetrable.

The Chairperson lauded the soldiers at borders who have made immense sacrifices to secure the country's frontiers from any foreign aggression. She recalled that the security forces rendered unmatched sacrifices in the war against terrorism, which would be remembered in golden words.

U. S. Embassy team visits AIOU to expand English program

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A team from the U. S. Embassy's Regional English Language Office (RELO), part of the Public Diplomacy Section, visited Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to discuss expanding the scope of English language education. During a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the focus was on extending the English Access Program to underdeveloped areas of Pakistan. Dr. Nasir praised the program and expressed the university's commitment to promoting education in remote regions, utilizing all available resources.

The delegation, consisting of Dr. Gerald Frank, Country Director Syed Rashid Hussain and Dua Mujeeb, attended a briefing session chaired by Dr. Nasir, where Dr. Saira Maqbool, Dr. Rashida, and Dr. Ubaidullah, along with focal person Dr. Amjad Khan, also participated. Dr. Gerald acknowledged the success of AIOU's collaboration, surpassing that of any other institution, and expressed a desire to further expand the project. The RELO team also visited the English Department and appreciated the successful implementation of the English Access Program in areas such as Attock, Mianwali, and Bhakkar, thanking the department for its efforts.

Youm-e-Difaye Pakistan conference held at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized Defence day conference in collaboration with All Pakistan Media Council to pay tribute to the martyrs. The conference was presided over by Director of the Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, while the special guest was the Minister of Transport for Azad Kashmir, Javed Butt. The special guest, Javed Butt, stated that during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, it was proven that wars can be fought and won when the state's people and army are united. Pakistan is currently facing various challenges, both internally and externally, for which



the Pakistan Army is playing its role in the best possible way. The sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in eradicating terrorism in the country are

unparalleled. The soldiers of the armed forces are sacrificing their present for the future of the nation, ensuring the country's

bright future. Director of the Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, remarked that September 6th is a proud day for the nation and the armed forces of Paki-

stan. This day reminds us of the martyrs and veterans of the September war and calls for renewing our pledge of loyalty to the defense of our beloved homeland.

Historically, September 6th has become a symbol of the bravery, courage, determination, and selflessness of our courageous armed forces. Sardar Khurram, head of the All Pakistan Media Council, said that the nation faces the challenge of defending its survival, freedom, sovereignty, and key national interests.

Our freedom, independence, and integrity are at risk. Former Member of the National Assembly, Ayesha Syed, also addressed the conference.

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Are Solar Panels Contributing to Circular Debt?

China has a robust, well-regulated solar energy policy driven by long-term vision and comprehensive planning, unlike Pakistan, where policies are often short-sighted and poorly implemented. During a recent visit to three provinces and five cities in China, we observed that rooftops in residential and commercial areas lacked solar panels, in contrast to Pakistan, where rooftop solar installations are common but often give a cluttered appearance to homes and neighborhoods.

China's focus is on large-scale solar farms and industrial applications, with most of its renewable energy capacity coming from centralized installations rather than individual households. Both state and local governments prioritize energy-efficient infrastructure and centralized solar energy feeding into the national grid, rather than encouraging decentralized rooftop solar production.

In contrast, Pakistan's telemetry policy promotes household solar panel installations, allowing households to sell excess electricity to the national grid while using WAPDA-supplied power for their own needs. Although this provides short-term electricity cost relief for households, it has unintended consequences. The policy has not accounted for its impact on the national energy system, contributing to circular debt in the electricity sector. This happens because reduced household demand forces Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to shut down production, but they still receive capacity payments despite not generating electricity, creating financial strain on the government.

The high initial cost of solar panels has

made them inaccessible to poorer households, exacerbating inequality. While wealthier households can install solar systems to avoid rising electricity costs, lower-income segments are left to bear the burden of increasing tariffs, worsening the financial strain on the energy sector.

Additionally, China's solar panel overcapacity, exacerbated by international sanctions, has led to a significant drop in the price of Chinese-made solar panels. As a result, Chinese manufacturers have flooded markets like Pakistan with cheaper panels, further incentivizing households and businesses to adopt solar energy to escape rising electricity costs.

Compounding the issue, political parties such as PML(N), PPP, and PTI have promoted the distribution of portable solar panels to households as a means of gaining voter support. This has led provincial governments to launch large-scale subsidy programs for solar energy installations, driven more by political motives than long-term energy planning. These interventions, while providing short-term relief, have intensified the challenges faced by Pakistan's formal energy sectors, such as coal, oil, gas, hydel, and nuclear power, and contributed to rising electricity costs.

These policy interventions and the political promotion of widespread solar panel adoption have ultimately increased the cost of electricity produced by the formal sector. Any potential savings households may have gained from installing solar panels have, in reality, been

offset by the growing circular debt, which will eventually be paid by the Pakistani consumer. As a result, the net financial impact of mass solar panel installations has turned into a loss at the national level.

Based on an estimated total power generating capacity of 43,000 MW versus an actual demand of 14,000 MW, and with the cost of electricity to the consumer set at Rs. 72 per unit, the nation is suffering a projected annual loss of Rs. 8.83 trillion due to the reduced demand faced by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) following the shift to solar panels.

While this figure might seem exaggerated—factors such as taxes, levies, line losses, and electricity theft are not fully accounted for—even if the loss were reduced by half to Rs. 4.42 trillion, it would still represent a significant cost. This burden, whether absorbed by the federal government or passed on to consumers, constitutes an accrued liability that ultimately affects the people of Pakistan.

If we compare Chinese and Pakistan policy initiatives we might reach the conclusion that China focuses on large-scale solar farms and centralized solar energy production integrated into the national grid. This ensures controlled energy management, reduces grid instability, and avoids the complications of decentralized solar power generation by households. It also ensures uniformity in policy implementation and reduces the risk of creating energy imbalances that could impact the overall energy sector.

Whereas, Pakistan's telemetry policy, allowing households to produce and sell electricity, creates an unregulated surge in household-level solar panel installations. While this policy has benefits, particularly for individual household savings, it also introduces challenges like grid instability, capacity payment obligations to IPPs, and increased circular debt.

Pakistan's solar energy policy requires a shift from its current decentralized, short-sighted approach to a more balanced and long-term strategy. Unlike China, which focuses on large-scale solar farms and centralized energy integration, Pakistan's telemetry policy encourages household solar installations, leading to grid instability, increased circular debt, and financial strain due to capacity payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs). To resolve these issues, Pakistan should prioritize large-scale solar projects, reform the IPP payment model, and implement grid modernization with smart technologies. Additionally, equitable access to solar energy for lower-income households and reform of the net metering system are essential to prevent the financial burden from falling on the poorer segments of society. Rural areas should adopt localized solar systems to reduce dependence on the national grid, while energy efficiency measures and public awareness campaigns can ensure responsible adoption of solar power. By focusing on a centralized, well-regulated solar strategy, Pakistan can stabilize its energy sector and mitigate the economic challenges it currently faces.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC and CEO, ATV



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

More than 160,000 children vaccinated against polio in southern Gaza

More than 160,000 children were vaccinated in southern Gaza Thursday, the first day of a polio vaccination campaign there, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Friday.

UN agencies and partners in the Strip will continue to vaccinate "as many Gazan children as possible" during the agreed humanitarian pauses, before moving to the north of the war-shattered enclave, UNRWA added.

Thousands of families visited health centers to get their doses from UN medical teams, UNRWA reported. In southern Gaza, more than 152,000 children were vaccinated in Khan Younis city, nearly 8,800 in Rafah and another 1,000 elsewhere in the south.

The promising development follows the successful completion of the first phase of the vaccination campaign in central Gaza earlier this week, which saw more than 187,000 children under 10 receive protection from polio. To date, combined coverage for central and southern Gaza now stands at 354,786 children.

In total, aid teams aim to reach 340,000 children in southern Gaza by Saturday, either in schools, health centres or by going from tent to tent.

A third and final phase is scheduled to begin in northern Gaza on Monday, 9 September for three days, targeting around 150,000 children, with a repeat of the whole exercise in four weeks.

Once completed, some 640,000 youngsters will have received two drops of the new type 2 oral polio vaccine in each of the two phases, after the highly transmissible virus resurfaced in Gaza in June after 25 years.

The campaign is being led by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNRWA, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other humanitarian partners.

Nearly 11 months since the start of the Israel's war in Gaza, international media teams are still barred from entering Gaza by Israeli authorities.

"It is standard for international journalists to cover conflicts and wars," said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, as he urged international media to push harder for access to the enclave and report freely.

"Palestinian journalists have my admiration. They continue to hold the torch despite far too many of them have been killed. They need the support of their colleagues," he said.

While Israeli attacks continue to rage in Gaza, ongoing deadly clashes in the occupied West Bank that have left two Palestinian children dead in Jenin and Tulkarem have been condemned by the UN's top representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland.

Pakistan Air Force—A Bastion of Professionalism and Integrity

Since its inception, Pakistan Air Force has been guided by a steadfast commitment to the ethos of professionalism, unwavering devotion to duty and the cultivation of integrity, dedication and sacrifice. As the guardian of the nation's aerial sovereignty, PAF stands as the sole obstacle in the eyes of Pakistan's adversaries, deterring any aggression through the expertise of its air and ground crews, led by the charismatic leadership of true heroes.

The celebration of 06 September as Pakistan's Defence Day, serves as a significant testament to the Men in Blues' resolute dedication to safeguarding the nation's aerial integrity at all costs. PAF's adherence to the highest standards of character, courage and competence has earned it the trust and respect of the nation and the international community alike.

The 1965 Indo-Pakistan War stands as a defining moment in the history of the Pakistan Air Force, showcasing its unwavering commitment to national defence. On that fateful day, our brave pilots soared into the skies, confronting overwhelming odds with unparalleled bravery and executing daring missions that disrupted enemy operations while providing vital support to ground forces. The legendary dogfights of the PAF's F-86 Sabres and F-104 Starfighters with the IAF's MiG-21s, Gnats, Mystères, Hunters and Vampires became emblematic of the PAF's credo, reflecting not only tactical brilliance but also an indomitable will to protect the homeland.

Heroes like Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Ahmed Rafiqi Shaheed, who continued to assist his comrades despite his guns being jammed and Air Commodore Muhammad

Mahmood Alam, who achieved an astonishing five kills in just under a minute, have become legends, inspiring generations of pilots to uphold PAF's proud tradition of excellence. The war was a testament to the PAF's dedication, with Pakistan Air Force aces dominating the skies. Their bravery, skill and sacrifices continue to resonate in the collective memory of the nation, serving as a source of immense pride and inspiration for the people of Pakistan.

As the nation commemorates Defence Day, Pakistan Air Force reflects on its impressive journey of modernisation and excellence under the astute leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Under his guidance, PAF has made notable advancements in self-reliance, developing indigenous capabilities and enhancing its arsenal by embracing disruptive and niche technologies alongside cutting-edge aircraft. Moreover, PAF has significantly progressed in the realms of space and cyber warfare, demonstrating its adaptability and forward-thinking approach to contemporary military operations. Pakistan Air Force's Integrated Air Defence System stands as a formidable fortress in the skies, an intricate web of advanced technologies that orchestrates a symphony of aerial dominance.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles navigate the heavens, wielding cutting-edge precision and stealth, redefining the very nature of modern warfare. This seamless fusion of man and machine captivates the imagination, heralding a new era of strategic prowess that not only fortifies national integrity but also delivers a resounding message to any adversary bold enough to challenge the skies.

Training and development are at the core of PAF's spirit. The investment in human capital has ensured that PAF personnel are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in an ever-evolving environment. Rigorous training programmes have instilled a sense of duty and honour, fostering a culture where courage and sacrifice are deeply respected.

Similarly, PAF's participation in international exercises and the performance of its air and ground crews on the international arena has further exemplified its dedication to collaboration and peacekeeping, showcasing its capabilities on the global stage. In addition to its military responsibilities, Pakistan Air Force has played a vital role in nation-building efforts, providing disaster relief during floods and earthquakes, extinguishing wildfires and conducting emergency medical evacuations. The establishment of the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park has further underscored PAF's commitment to fostering industry-academia linkages, driving innovation and contributing to the nation's development. National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASPT) is being spearheaded by PAF as the project of strategic national importance that is bringing in highly qualified PAF HR as well as talented youth from across the country in design, research, innovation and development centers being established at the national level in Kamra, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore as well as top ranked universities & institutions across the country. The project has led to the development of an ecosystem for aerospace and niche technology domains thus ensuring an enabling environment for home grown technology and tech enterprises.

Under the visionary guidance of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who envisioned the PAF as "an efficient Air Force, Second to None," the service has consistently upheld its



Analysis

Izmi Herlani



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

Pakistan Air Force Day: A Tribute to the Guardians of the Skies

Pakistan Air Force Day is celebrated annually on the 7th of September, a day that commemorates the bravery, dedication, and heroic feats of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The significance of this day dates back to the Indo-Pak war of 1965, where the PAF played a pivotal role in defending the country against a much larger Indian Air Force.

The roots of this celebration lie in the events of 7th September 1965. Despite having a smaller fleet, the Pakistan Air Force achieved significant victories, turning the tide in Pakistan's favor. The skill and bravery of the PAF pilots brought international recognition to the force, and their critical missions were instrumental in defending Pakistan's sovereignty. One of the most celebrated heroes of the 1965 war is Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, famously known as M. M. Alam. His remarkable feat of shooting down five Indian aircraft in under a minute during an aerial battle over Sargodha is legendary. His bravery, precision, and skill have cemented his place in the annals of air combat history, making him a symbol of the PAF's strength and courage.

Another national hero is Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas, who displayed extraordinary bravery during the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War. He became the youngest and the only PAF officer to receive the Nishan-e-Haider, Pakistan's highest military honor, for his selfless sacrifice.

Since its inception in 1947, the PAF has evolved into a modern and well-equipped force, continuously innovating and upgrading its capabilities. The day also serves as a tribute to the relentless efforts of engineers, ground staff, and the entire

PAF team, whose contributions are integral to the success and strength of the air force.

Across the nation, Pakistan Air Force Day is marked with various events and activities. Air shows are held at airbases, where fighter jets like the JF-17 Thunder, F-16, and Mirage perform breathtaking maneuvers, demonstrating the technical prowess and readiness of the PAF.

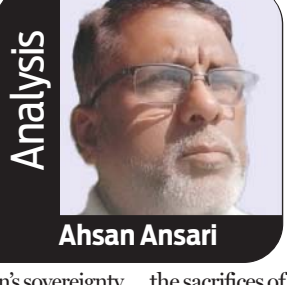
Special parades and ceremonies are organized at PAF bases to honor the officers and airmen who have rendered outstanding service to the country.

Television channels also play a significant role in celebrating the day by airing special programs, documentaries, and interviews with veterans of the 1965 war. These narratives not only honor the sacrifices of the past but also instill a sense of patriotism and pride in future generations.

In recent years, the Pakistan Air Force has continued to stand as a formidable power in the region. Equipped with advanced fighter jets and cutting-edge training programs, the PAF's capabilities have only strengthened. The indigenous development of the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet, in collaboration with China, is a testament to Pakistan's growing self-reliance in defense technology.

Pakistan Air Force Day is more than just a celebration of military achievements; it is a day of national pride and reflection. It serves as a reminder of the courage and dedication of the men and women who defend Pakistan's skies with unwavering resolve. On this day, the entire nation comes together to honor its heroes, celebrate its strength, and inspire future generations to carry forward the legacy of service, sacrifice, and excellence.

Pakistan Zindabad. Pakistan Paindabad.



Analysis

Ahsan Ansari

IS Celebrating Fazaia Day

The Significance of Air Force Day in Pakistan



Amjad Mehmood

September 7 holds a special place in the archives of Pakistan's history, celebrated annually as "Fazaia Day" aka Air Force Day. This day commemorates the remarkable contributions of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to national security and its legacy of excellence. It serves not only to honor the valor and professionalism of PAF personnel but also to inspire national pride and underscore the critical importance of air power in modern defense strategies.

Particularly in light of the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War, September 7 is

extremely significant. The PAF was crucial in this war, winning significant battles that demonstrated its potency and tenacity while protecting the country against Indian armed forces. Operation Grand Slam was a pivotal event in which the PAF carried out tactical airstrikes to obstruct enemy advances and support ground forces. By demonstrating its vital role in national defense, the air force's capacity to carry out successful air defense operations was crucial in safeguarding critical areas and infrastructure.

The valor displayed by PAF pilots during the 1965 war, particularly by flying ace Muhammad Mahmood Alam, who shot down five Indian aircraft in less than a minute, solidified the air force's reputation as a formidable force. This legacy of excellence continues to resonate today, as the PAF remains a crucial component of Pakistan's military capabilities.

In an era where the nature of warfare is evolving, the importance of air power cannot be overstated. The future of conflict is increasingly being

fought in the skies rather than on the ground, and nations around the world are investing heavily in strengthening their air forces. Countries such as the UK, USA, Germany, Russia, China, and even India are rapidly developing their air capabilities, focusing on modern technologies and strategies of air warfare. This global trend underscores the need for Pakistan to enhance its air power to maintain its strategic position in the region.

While Pakistan has a proud history of aerial defense, it is imperative to adapt to modern requirements and challenges. The recent incident involving Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, where the PAF successfully downed an Indian aircraft, serves as a reminder of the air force's capabilities and the need for continuous improvement. Despite its commendable track record, Pakistan must invest in modern tools and techniques to enhance its aerial capabilities further.

The PAF's legacy is built on professionalism and strategic innovation, but the challenges of contemporary warfare



demand that it evolves. Cybersecurity and cyberspace have emerged as critical battlegrounds, where nations will compete to enhance their strength and security. The PAF must integrate these modern aspects into its operational strategies to remain effective in

an increasingly complex security environment.

As we celebrate Fazaia Day, it is essential to reflect on the achievements of the Pakistan Air Force and the sacrifices made by its personnel. The day serves as a reminder of the importance

of air power in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and the need for continued investment in aerial capabilities. The PAF's commitment to excellence and its ability to adapt to changing circumstances will be vital in ensuring Pakistan's security in the years to come.

Pakistan Navy Celebrates Defence And Martyrs Day 2024

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy observed Defence and Martyrs Day to commemorate supreme sacrifices of our Armed Forces, Shuhada, Ghazis and national heroes who stood against the enemy with unparalleled display of unity and tenacity during 1965 Indo-Pak War.

In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis who repulsed blatant aggression of enemy and foiled its nefarious designs with support of our people. The day displays the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland and glorifies the courageous heroes who were meticulous in their planning, undaunted in their action and instilled fear in the hearts of our enemy. The Admiral reiterated that as we commemorate this venerated occasion to honour the feats and sacrifices of our brave sentinels of sea, our Navy stands vigilant and unflinching in its commitment to defend maritime borders and secure our vital sea routes which are the lifeline of our economy.

The day dawned with special prayers offered in all naval mosques for pres-



ervation of integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. Quran Khawani was held for Shuhada of the 1965 war. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami laid floral wreath at Shuhada's Monument at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, offered Fatcha and interacted with the families of Shuhada. Wreath laying ceremonies and Fatcha Khawani were also held at Shuhada's

memorials at Field Command Headquarters.

Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at all naval units and establishments wherein Commanding Officers addressed special gatherings of officers and men and highlighted the significance of the day. All ships and establishments were decorated and illuminated in accordance with naval traditions.

ICCI celebrates Defense Day:

The day is a testament to unyielding spirit of our armed forces: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Privatization and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the entire nation stands united alongside the country's armed forces to thwart "evil designs" against Pakistan's prosperity and integrity adding that September 6 symbolizes the immense courage, bravery and professionalism of our armed forces.

Addressing a ceremony held at S. M. Muneer Auditorium here at the Chamber House, ICCI on Friday in connection with the Defence Day he said that this day calls upon us to make a pledge to renew the spirit of loyalty and service to Pakistan and pay tributes to valiant sons of the soil who embraced martyrdom while ensuring security of the nation.

He went on to say that we continue to honour and respect the sons of soil, who never hesitate in giving their lives for the defence of motherland, its development and prosperity.

He said that at a time when the country is confronted with multiple security challenges, in

the form of extremism, terrorism and external aggression, we as individuals and collectively have to renew our pledge to move forward with unity, solidarity and determination.

The Minister said that today's Pakistan is stronger than ever, a leaden wall for the enemy and will emerge stronger in the days to come and that adversary can never dare to have a jaundiced eye on it.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI said that September 6 stands as an important milestone in our national history as our armed forces made great sacrifices to defend their motherland. He said that the nation will always feel proud of the way Pakistan's armed forces fought in that war and foiled the evil designs of the enemy. He added that a strong economy is very important to make the defence of Pakistan stronger, we have to make our country prosper and developed through our collected efforts.

He went on to say that the

business community stands shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces of Pakistan and will continue to do so for the cause of the country. He impressed upon the parents to make their children acquaintance of the sacrifices of the armed forces so that they can not fall prey to the hybrid war.

Bakhtawari also expressed his gratitude to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan for attending the ceremony by saying that both Azerbaijan and Pakistan enjoy exemplary and long lasting friendship.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari by paying tribute to the martyrs and veterans of the 1965 war said that September 6 is an important day in the national and military history of Pakistan. He said that the courage and bravery shown by the sons of Pakistan in the war of 1965 is a source of pride for the entire nation. He said that Pakistan has faced many crisis situations in the past and came out of them successfully. He hoped that Paki-

stan would soon come out of the current economic challenges also and will continue its journey to its ultimate destination of progress and prosperity because it has been created to remain intact.

He also whole heartedly praised the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for his love to the armed forces of Pakistan and for his services in the fields of politics and social work.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov said that his country is well aware of the importance of the armed forces in the defence of any country adding that shuhadas and Ghazis deserve utmost respect because of their sacrifices for our today. He went on to say that in his country the flags of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkiya always fly together which is a clear manifestation of close relationship with Pakistan.

Vice President ICCI Engr Azhar ul Islam Zafar in his vote of thanks said that this day reminds us that we have to promote unity and nationalism in our ranks



if we really want to make our country an economic giant.

On this occasion shields were also presented to renowned business leaders Chaudhry Abdul

Rauf and Mohammad Ishaq Sial in recognition of their services for the community.

Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Atif Jamil Butt, Nasir Mehmood

Chaudhry, Malik Mohsin khalid, Intiaz Abbasi, Rizwan Chheema, Maqsood Tabish and Zulqurnain Abbasi were prominent among the attendees.

ISSI Commemorates Defence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a ceremony to commemorate Pakistan Defence Day. The thematic focus of the event was on "Pakistan Strategic Defence: A Journey to Ensure Credible Deterrence." Commencing with the national anthem, the proceedings were attended by the ISSI Research Faculty, interns and students.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks on the occasion, paid rich tributes to the Pakistan Armed Forces and paid homage to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending the country. He stated that Pakistan, by virtue of its geography, has always faced



complex security challenges. It was a region where the pursuit of peace and security demanded constant vigilance and readiness. He added that over the past 77 years, Pakistan had navigated through turbulent waters, adapting to evolving threats and

challenges. He underscored that Pakistan's journey in strategic defence had been one of perseverance, innovation, and determination. Further, the spirit of the nation was never dampened, no matter what the odds. The nation had abiding faith in what

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had said: "There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan." Over the decades, Pakistan has built a credible deterrence capability, ensuring that no one can threaten its existence. From strength-

ening our conventional forces to developing a robust nuclear deterrent, our defence strategy evolved to meet the changing dynamics of regional and global security. He stressed the importance of renewing the commitment to ensure that Pakistan remains strong, secure, prosperous, and on-track to realize the Quaid's vision. He concluded by underscoring that with unity, faith and discipline, we will continue to build on the legacy of our founding fathers, honour the sacrifices of our martyrs, and bequeath a better Pakistan to our succeeding generations.

Earlier, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, stated that the nation commemorates this national day as one of the proudest moments in Pakistan's history when Pakistani soldiers sacrificed their lives to safeguard

our freedom and protect the homeland.

Sardar Jahanzaib, Research Associate ACDC, gave a presentation on the event's theme. He outlined the key security challenges faced by Pakistan since its inception. He emphasized Pakistan's adoption of "Credible Minimum Deterrence" following India's nuclear tests and elaborated on the evolution of Pakistan's nuclear doctrine in response to the Indian Nuclear Doctrine of 2003, India's Cold Start Doctrine of 2004, and the development of India's second-strike capability with nuclear submarines. He detailed Pakistan's "Full Spectrum Deterrence" to ensure comprehensive security at tactical, operational, and strategic levels.

Participants appreciated the

sacrifices of the Pakistan armed forces and added that there was no compromise on territorial integrity and sovereignty. They also highlighted the importance of national unity, social cohesion, economic strength, and the sacrifices of ordinary Pakistanis. Participants also discussed the ideological aggression Pakistan faces from the adversary as part of hybrid warfar, which needs to be countered.

In his remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, stated that today security is an all-embracing concept encompassing territorial integrity, safeguarding ideological frontiers, and achieving economic security. As a nation, we have the responsibility to meet these challenges.

The event concluded with dua for the shuhada.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,897.72	78,863.34
Day's High	Day's Low
79,254.25	78,917.29
Index Value	Change
6,059,861,813	+34.38
Percentage	Time
+0.04%	6 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,181.47	-60.24
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	6 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,400.53	-355.22
Percentage	Time
-0.87%	6 Sept, 4:20 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,391.47	-265.62
Percentage	Time
-0.72%	6 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

Four per cent cut in markup needed as inflation is reduced, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that hostile forces have focused on Balochistan to weaken Pakistan.

He said some countries with immense resources are provoking instability in Balochistan to make CPEC fail.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that despite all the security, continued terrorist incidents are alarming, which is sending negative signals.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that enemies want to frustrate China, which should not be allowed. He said that whenever the CPEC project



accelerates, terrorism also accelerates, which shows who is pulling the strings of the terrorists.

The business leader said that Balochistan is a vital province with which the peace of Pakistan is related, which is being disturbed by the terrorists.

It has become necessary to eliminate terrorists from the entire country, including Balochistan. Otherwise, the government will become weak internally, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that many other countries of the region, including our eternal enemy, are involved in worsening the situation of Balochistan, which amounts to playing with the security of Pakistan.

He said that, on the one hand, the law and order situation in the country is worrying; on the other hand, industries and businesses are finding it difficult to survive due to the price of electricity and high interest rates.

Rising unemployment has left people worried, as a large number of industries and

businesses are closing, but no one is ready to take notice of the situation, he said.

IPPs are not a business but a robbery, and now, the masses and companies cannot bear the burden of these white elephants.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that according to the recent report, inflation has come down to 9 percent. Now, there is a need to reduce the rate of bank markup by at least four percent to create a favorable environment for business and industry.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that 40 percent of people in Pakistan live below the poverty line, so poverty can be reduced by promoting industry and trade in the country, which can make the government's economic agenda successful and reduce inflation in the country.

The commoner could be supported, and the situation on the ground could be changed.

Disturbing situation

ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy shipping containers arriving at Islamabad due to security reason, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Experience Zong's 'Apna Sheher Hybrid Bundle' with International Direct Dialing

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator, is proud to announce the launch of IDD (International Direct Dialing) for USA & Canada to the Apna Sheher Jhelum Hybrid Bundle, exclusively for its customers in Jhelum.

The Apna Sheher Jhelum Offer is part of Zong's innovative regional bundle initiative, designed specifically to meet the unique needs of customers in Jhelum. Recognizing that a significant number of people from Jhelum have fami-

lies residing in the USA and Canada, Zong has combined international calling with local benefits to offer unmatched convenience.

Khurram Ishaq, Director of LDI & IR at Zong 4G, stated, "The Apna Sheher Jhelum Offer is specially designed for our valued customers in Jhelum. As the first telecom network in Pakistan to introduce such a localized bundle, Zong reaffirms its commitment to delivering personalized solutions that enhance the communication experience for all users."

Tajer group to contest for Rawalpindi Chamber, says Sheikh Waheed

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Central Anjuman Tajran and President of Inter-City Hotels Association Sheikh Abdul Waheed announced the representation of Tajer Unity Group in election of Rawalpindi Chamber and said that the present President of Rawalpindi of Commerce and Industry is only a puppet. The real Bagurd is in the hands of the group leader Sohail Altaf. We will not allow the rights of the traders to be taken away. The victory will be of the Trader Unity Group. We will give equal rights to fifteen thousand members after success. Everyone's dignity will be taken care of. We will take practical and positive actions for businessmen. I am giving a message to the business community that there is no recognition of the people sitting on the current chamber. They are known



only from photographs. We will give you all our prominent recognition. Support Tajar Unity Group for your honor, dignity and rights.

Talking to the journalists, he said that I am representing the Traders Unity Group.

Preparations for the elections of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on September 11 are in full swing. He said that the need of today is to create the Traders Unity Group. Fifteen years ago, there was an election in the chamber. The current leadership of the Rawalpindi Chamber is the Mafia group, which has been ruling the Rawalpindi Chamber for the past thirty-five years.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that Our victory in the chamber elections is certain. The ring road is being built and they have already started fixing their favorite persons where they are talking about building an industrial estate so that the plots can be shared among themselves here as well. Which we will strongly oppose. If successful, rights will be provided to all business community on equal basis. All kinds of irregularities will be eliminated.

BMA accuses BMG of rigging KCCI elections with illegal tactics

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) elections for 2024-26, the ruling Businessmen Group (BMG) is accused of using illegal tactics to rig the vote. Despite these allegations, the Businessmen Alliance (BMA) remains confident in their ability to win the KCCI elections.

Asif Sakhi, leader of the BMA, claimed in a statement that the BMG is using various methods to manip-

ulate the election process. He noted that while BMG candidates were assigned serial numbers from 1 to 30, the BMA's candidates have not been allocated any serial numbers.

Sakhi added that the BMA had previously requested serial numbers for its candidates, but the BMG assigned numbers only to its own candidates and withheld them from the BMA's nominees. This, Sakhi contends, indicates an attempt by the BMG to rig the elections.

Cement sector feels pinch of monsoon rains, sales decline 26%

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Monsoon rains have dampened construction activities in Pakistan; therefore, cement offtakes have declined by 26% so far this year compared to the same period last year.

Cement dispatches for August 2024 clocked in at 3.37 million tons, a decline of 26% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year of 2023, largely attributed to a slowdown in construction activity, exacerbated by heavy monsoon rains, according to AKD Research.

Average cement prices in the North have risen by Rs 43 per bag in the previous month, following the increase in royalty rates by the Punjab government, to hover around Rs 1,530 per bag.

The brokerage house forecasted that local cement demand to dampen further by 2% to 2.5% this fiscal year compared to last fiscal year. Meanwhile, exports of cement are expected to outperform the previous year, subsequently, total cement offtakes are anticipated to remain flat on an annual basis.

Overall, inflation in the country is slowing down. Headline inflation for the month of August 2024 dropped to 9.6%



year on year and 0.4% month on month, the lowest in almost three years. This was in line with expectations amid sticky food prices and an uptick in a few core segments. The housing and utilities segment, which has a 24% weight, posted a month-on-month fall of 1.4%, mainly due to a downturn in electricity charges.

Elsewhere, the national consumer price index (NCPI) in urban areas and rural areas was recorded at 11.7% year on year and 6.7% year on year, respectively. Core inflation in urban areas dropped to 10.2% year on year in August 2024 from 11.7% year on

year recorded in July 2024. Similarly, core inflation in Rural areas decreased to 14.4% year on year in August 2024 compared to 16.9% year on year recorded last month.

Moreover, the sensitive price indicator (SPI) was up 10.8% year-on-year in August 2024, compared to a 15.7% year-on-year increase in July 2024. Further, the wholesale price index (WPI) for August 2024 stood at 6.3% year on year (10.4% year on year in July 2024). Consequently, our base case NCPI expectation for Fiscal Year 2025 arrives at 10.7% year on year.

The State Bank of Pakistan's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet on September 12, 2024, where we expect the MPC to cut the benchmark policy rate by 100 bps to 18.50%. Market sentiment, reflected in the fall of the Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (KIBOR) and yields on Treasury Bills (T-Bills) in particular, coupled with a significantly positive real interest rate on a forward basis, points towards a bigger rate cut.

However, given the delay in the full adjustment of utility prices, volatile oil prices, and the need to support the Rupee amid delays in securing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board approval, a cautious approach to rate cuts is likely.

Consultation paper on areas of improvement in the public offering regime



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a Consultation Paper on areas of improvement in the public offering regime in order to foster capital formation. The requisite regulatory amendments will be finalized after receiving public feedback and stakeholder consensus.

SECP firmly believes in and is a big advocate of making capital formation easier for businesses. Efficient and cost-effective capital formation is a game changer for growing businesses and the

economy as a whole.

Overtime, SECP has introduced various improvements in the public offering regime for capital formation. In this regard, the Consultation Paper covers potential areas of improvement which have been identified based on a holistic review of the regulatory regime, international practices, evolving technology and suggestions received from the market. It is envisaged that potential improvements will bring greater transparency, efficiency and vibrancy; thereby benefiting issuers, investors and the overall economy.

PSX gains 0.45% this week amid range-bound trading

Commerce Desk

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

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

Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) rebalancing on September 20 should now start to come into focus where Pakistan will be moving from a secondary emerging market (EM) to a frontier market (FM) and the quantum of sell-side flows that can materialise. The outlook remains positive above 78,000 with expectations for moves towards 80,000 in the coming week, AHL said.

SBP cancels banking license of insolvent IDBL

KARACHI, SEP 06 (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Friday, annulled banking license of Industrial Development Bank Limited (IDBL) and directed its de-scheduling as it has gone into liquidation.

A notification issued by Banking Policy and Regulations Department of the central bank, reads "In exercise of powers conferred upon State Bank of Pakistan by Section 27 (4) of Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 the banking license issued to Industrial Development Bank Limited (license No. BL02-2012 dated 29 November 2012) hereby stands cancelled with effect from February 02, 2024 as it has gone into liquidation."

The SBP, through a separate BPRD notification, also directed "the de-scheduling of IDBL in terms of Section 37(2) (d) of State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956 with effect from February 02, 2024," due to bank's insolvency.



PCB appoints captains, provisional squads for Champions Cup 2024

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced captains of the five Champions One-Day Cup teams as well as the provisional squads for the tournament, which will be held in Faisalabad from 12-29 September.

The captains have been appointed by the five team mentors: Misbah-ul-Haq (Wolves), Saqlain Mushtaq (Panthers), Sarfaraz Ahmed (Dolphins), Shoaib Malik (Stallions) and Waqar Younis (Lions).

Pakistan's Test vice-captain Saud Shakeel has been appointed captain of the Dolphins, former Pakistan T20I captain Shaheen Shah Afridi will lead the Lions and the Panthers will be led by former white-ball vice-captain, Shadab Khan. Pakistan Shaheens' captain Mohammad Haris will lead the Stallions, while ex-all-format vice-captain Mohammad Rizwan will captain the Wolves.

The Champions One-Day Cup will feature the country's top cricketers. This 50-over tournament will be played in a single-league format. All matches will commence at 3pm, except for the Lions vs Panthers match on 16 September, which will start at 9:30am. The tournament will conclude with three playoff matches over four days, culminating in the final on Sunday, 29 September.

Misbah-ul-Haq's Wolves will face Saqlain Mushtaq's Panthers in the

opening match on 12 September.

The PCB has also announced provisional squads for the five teams. These were selected by the team mentors through a draft process from a pool of 150 players, which was provided by the PCB following fitness tests—one of the primary selection criteria for domestic contracted players. The centrally contracted players will undergo fitness tests in Faisalabad on 7 and 9 September.

Out of the 150 players, 125 were leading performers from the past three domestic seasons. The remaining 25 players were wildcards, selected based on their experience and performances for Pakistan, Pakistan Shaheens and Pakistan Under-19 teams over the last three years.

Each team includes existing centrally contracted players. These are:

- Dolphins: Saud Shakeel, Faheem Ashraf and Sarfaraz Ahmed
- Lions: Abdullah Shafique, Aamir Jamal, Imam-ul-Haq and Shaheen Shah Afridi
- Panthers: Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan and Usama Mir
- Stallions: Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Haris, Shan Masood, Tayyab Tahir and Zaman Khan
- Wolves: Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha and Shah Nawaz Dahani

Centrally contracted players who are not part of the squads include Mohammad Nawaz (personal reasons), Imad Wasim (unavailable), Arshad Iqbal, Hasan Ali, Ihsanullah and Mohammad Wasim Jnr (undergoing rehabilitation).

In addition to Imad Wasim, who is currently playing in the CPL, the following players have made themselves unavailable for the Faisalabad tournament: Ahmed Shehzad, Azam Khan (CPL), Haris Sohail, Mohammad Amir (CPL), Mohammad Abbas (County cricket in the UK), Mohammad Ilyas and Umar Akmal. Fakhar Zaman, who is also playing in the CPL, is due to return on September 10.

Other players undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) include Ahsan Ali, Athar Mahmood, Rizwan Hussain, and Zeeshan Zamir, in addition to Arshad Iqbal, Hasan Ali, Ihsanullah, and Mohammad Wasim Jr.

Nine domestic contracted players were excluded from the Champions One-Day Cup squads after failing their fitness tests. They are: Ali Shafique, Ali Zaryab, Arif Yaqoob, Danish Aziz, Mohammad Rameez Jnr, Saad Baig, Rameez Aziz, Sharjeel Khan, and Shawaiz Irfan.

Four cricketers, returning to competitive cricket after successfully passing their fitness tests and completing rehabilitation at the National Cricket

Academy, are: Hunain Shah (Lions), Sameen Gul, Sufiyan Moqim (both Dolphins), and Shah Nawaz Dahani (Wolves).

Squads (to be reduced to 15 players on 10 Sep):

DOLPHINS: Saud Shakeel (captain, Karachi), Aftab Ibrahim (Karachi), Asif Ali (Faisalabad), Awais Ali (Gujranwala), Faheem Ashraf (Kasur), Kashif Ali (Rawalpindi), Mir Hamza (Karachi), Mohammad Huraira (Sialkot), Mohammad Abbas Afridi (Peshawar), Muhammad Akhlaq (Kamoki), Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (Karachi), Muhammad Riazullah (Peshawar), Noman Ali (Hyderabad), Qasim Akram (Lahore), Sameen Gul (Jamrud), Sarfaraz Ahmed (Karachi), Sahibzada Farhan (Peshawar), Sufiyan Moqim (Kotli), Umar Amin (Rawalpindi) and Usman Qadir (Lahore)

MENTOR – Sarfaraz Ahmed
LIONS: Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain, Peshawar), Abdullah Shafique (Sialkot), Aamir Jamal (Islamabad), Aamer Yamin (Multan), Faisal Akram (Multan), Hassan Nawaz (Islamabad), Hunain Shah (Lahore), Imam-ul-Haq (Lahore), Imran Butt (Lahore), Khushdil Shah (Bannu), Mohammad Asghar (Karachi), Muhammad Irfan Khan (Mianwali), Mohammad Taha (Karachi), Omair Bin Yousuf (Sialkot), Rohail Nazir (Islamabad), Shahab Khan (Mardan), Sharoon Siraj (Sahiwal), Sirajuddin (Bajaur) and

Waqar Hussain (Okara)

MENTOR – Waqar Younis
PANTHERS: Shadab Khan (captain, Islamabad), Abdul Wahid Bangalzai (Quetta), Ahmed Bashir (Lahore), Ali Asfand (Faisalabad), Ali Raza (Sheikhupura), Amad Butt (Sialkot), Arafat Minhas (Multan), Azan Awais (Sialkot), Haider Ali (Attock), Mohammad Hasnain (Hyderabad), Mohammad Umar (Karachi), Mohammad Zeeshan (Faisalabad), Mubasir Khan (Rawalpindi), Rehan Afridi (Khyber), Rizwan Mehmood (Hyderabad), Saim Ayub (Karachi), Umar Siddiq (Lahore), Usama Mir (Sialkot), Usman Khan (Karachi) and Usman Salahuddin (Lahore)

MENTOR – Saqlain Mushtaq
STALLIONS: Mohammad Haris (captain, Peshawar), Abrar Ahmed (Karachi), Adil Amin (Peshawar), Azam Khan (Peshawar), Babar Azam (Lahore), Haris Rauf (Islamabad), Hussain Talat (Lahore), Jahandad Khan (Rawalpindi), Junaid Ali (Lahore), Maaz Ahmad Sadaqat (Peshawar), Mehran Mumtaz (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Ali (Sialkot), Mohammad Amir Khan (Swat), Saad Khan (Hyderabad), Shamil Hussain (Islamabad), Shan Masood (Karachi), Tayyab Tahir (Sarai Alamgir), Ubaid Shah (Lahore), Yasir Khan (Rawalpindi) and Zaman Khan (Mirpur)

(captain, Peshawar), Fakhar Zaman (Abbottabad), Abdul Samad (Faisalabad), Akif Javed (FATA), Ali Usman (Multan), Bilawal Bhatti (Muridke), Haseebullah (Pishin), Iftikhar Ahmed (Peshawar), Kamran Ghulam (Peshawar), Mohammad Faizan (Faisalabad), Mohammad Imran Jnr (Peshawar), Mohammad Sarwar Afridi (FATA), Muhammad Imran (Khanewal), Naseem Shah (Lahore), Nisar Ahmed (Lahore), Salman Ali Agha (Lahore), Shah Nawaz Dahani (Larkana), Zahid Mehmood (Dadu) and Zain Abbas (Multan)

MENTOR – Misbah-ul-Haq
 Event schedule (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
- 13 Sep – Stallions v Lions
- 14 Sep – Dolphins v Panthers
- 15 Sep – Wolves v Stallions
- 16 Sep – Lions v Panthers
- 17 Sep – Dolphins v Wolves
- 19 Sep – Stallions v Dolphins
- 20 Sep – Lions v Wolves
- 21 Sep – Panthers v Stallions
- 22 Sep – Dolphins v Lions
- 24 Sep – Qualifier (Team No.1 v Team No.2)
- 25 Sep – Eliminator 1 (Team No.3 v Team No.4)
- 27 Sep – Eliminator 2 (Losing Qualifier v Winning Eliminator 2)
- 29 Sep – Final.

Pak team off to Kazakhstan for ATF 12 & Under Team Competition

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan 12 & under boys tennis team on Friday departed for Kazakhstan to participate in the ATF 12 & Under Team Competition Final 2024, scheduled to take place in Shymkent from September 16 to 21.

The team will also attend a three-week training camp – one week before the event and two weeks after as part of a historic collaboration between Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) and the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation (KTF), said a press release.

This is the second time Pakistan has reached the final stage of the prestigious event. In 2021, Pakistan triumphed over India to win the championship.

Pakistan squad:
 Muhammad Shayan Afridi (player), Rashid Ali (player)



Muhammad Junaid (player), Muhammad Abid (captain & coach) Participating nations in the competition are:
 Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam
 East Asia: China, Chinese Taipei, Korea
 West Asia: Syria, Saudi Arabia
 Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan
 South Asia: Pakistan, India

Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam
 East Asia: China, Chinese Taipei, Korea

As a result of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the PTF and KTF, the Pakistani team will benefit from extensive training in Shymkent. This is the first time Pakistani players will attend a training camp abroad, which is expected to significantly enhance their skills.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the PTF, extended his best wishes to the team, urging them to play with full force and bring home the title. He emphasized the importance of the MoU, stating that such initiatives would give young players opportunities to showcase their talent and improve their skills. He also expressed gratitude to the KTF for hosting the Pakistani team.

Tennis Championship 2024



ISLAMABAD: Tennis player Ushna Suhail in action in the final of ladies singles during Khawar Hayat Memorial National Ranking Tennis Championship 2024 at PTF Tennis Complex.

PSB introduces transparent merit-based process for players

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has introduced new protocols to ensure merit-based selection of athletes representing Pakistan in international sports events.

Previously, there was no requirement for national sports federations to provide a selection criterion or post-event report when applying for No Objection Certificates (NOCs), said a press release.

Now, all federations seeking NOCs must submit a Player Profile Proforma that details the achievements and credentials of the selected athletes.

Furthermore, sports federations will be required to certify that players were selected based solely on merit.

In addition, a Post-Event Evaluation Form will also be submitted after the conclusion of each event. These documents will be made publicly available on the PSB's website under the new Foreign Sports Events tab to promote transparency.

Mohammad Haris ties the knot, drops nikah pictures

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Haris has announced the beginning of a new chapter in his life as he revealed tying the knot on Friday.

The right-handed batter took to Instagram to share snaps from his nikah ceremony as fans flooded the comments section to express their joy and wish him the best as he opened a new chapter in life.

In the pictures posted from the ceremony, Mohammad Haris was seen dressed in a traditional white shalwar kameez, surrounded by close family and friends.

In the caption of his post, the young cricketer wrote, "Nikkah day and forever Alhamdulillah for this blessing."
 Haris has recently led Paki-



stan Shaheens for two 50-over matches and the Top End T20 series, between August 4 and 18 in Darwin, Australia. The wicketkeeping batter has also captained Pakistan

Shaheens in the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023.

Under his captaincy, the Greenshirts defeated India in the final to retain the title.

Mohammad Haris is set to lead the Stallions in the upcoming Champions One-Day Cup, scheduled to begin from September 12 and will run through September 29 in Faisalabad.

Pakistan's Test vice-captain Saud Shakeel was appointed captain of the Dolphins, former Pakistan T20I captain Shaheen Shah Afridi will lead the Lions and the Panthers will be skippered by former white-ball vice-captain Shadab Khan.

Ex-all-format vice-captain Mohammad Rizwan will captain the Wolves in the 50-over tournament which will be played in a single-league format.

Ton-up Inglis powers Australia to series-clinching victory over Scotland

Sports Desk

EDINBURGH: Wicketkeeper batter Josh Inglis scored a quickfire century before Marcus Stoinis' four-fer muscled Australia to a thumping 70-run victory over Scotland in the second T20I of the three-match series here on Friday.

Put into bat first, the former champions registered a massive total of 196/4, courtesy of Inglis' brilliance.

The touring side, however, had a contrasting start to their innings as they lost their in-form opener Travis Head for a golden duck in the second over with just 11 runs on the board.

Australia then suffered another blow an over later when another opener Jake Fraser-McGurk fell victim to Brad Currie after scoring a run-a-ball 16.

Following the slump, Josh Inglis launched a ruthless attack on the Scottish bowlers.

He put together a one-sided 92-run partnership for the third wicket with Cameron Green, who scored an nchoring 36 off 29 deliveries.

Josh Inglis dominated the home side's bowlers till the penultimate over and perished after scoring a blistering century. He remained the top-scorer for Australia with a 49-ball 103,

laced with seven fours and as many sixes.

All-rounder Tim David further bolstered Australia's total at the backend with a brisk 17-run cameo, which came off just seven deliveries while Marcus Stoinis scored an unbeaten 20 off as many deliveries.

Brad Currie starred with the ball for Scotland, picking up three wickets while Chris Sole made one scalp.

Chasing a daunting 197-run target, Scotland's batting unit unfolded on a meagre 126 in 16.4 overs despite Brandon McMullen's gritty knock.

The home side got off to an unwanted start to the pursuit

as they lost both their openers George Munsey (19) and Michael Jones (1) inside three overs with just 20 runs on the board.

McMullen waged a lone battle for Scotland against a disciplined Australia bowling attack but lamented support from the other end.

He finally perished in the 13th over after top-scoring for Scotland with a 42-ball 59 which featured four fours and four sixes.

Following his dismissal, the rest of the Scotland batters crumbled like a pack of cards against dominant Australia bowling, led by Marcus Stoinis and the home side eventually bundled out on



126 in the 17th over. Stoinis returned brilliant figures of 4/23 in 3.4 overs, followed by Cameron Green, who bagged two wickets. Sean Abbott and Aaron Hardie, on the other hand, made one scalp each.

Tribute to the martyrs

RAWALPINDI: Chief of The Army Staff General Asim Munir paid tribute to the martyrs, laid a wreath on the memorial of the martyrs. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion.



Photo: ISPR

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

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, pledging to continue the ongoing operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij until their complete eradication.

"All our armed forces and law enforcing agencies will continue their operation for which there is a national consensus," he said while

addressing a ceremony held here at General Headquarters (GHQ) in connection with Defence Day.

Paying rich tributes to the valiant sons of soil and brave heroes of Armed Forces who fearlessly fought, and defeated the enemy that attacked our motherland across the international border on 6 September 1965.

Despite their numerical advantage, the prime minister said the enemy designs were thwarted by the valiant Armed Forces and were handed an

unforgettable defeat, on all fronts.

He saluted the families of Shuhada, whose immense resilience and strength continued to inspire the nation.

The prime minister emphasized that divisions within the nation posed threat to the country's integrity and any movement in the country aimed at weakening the state will not be tolerated at any cost.

"Abuse or bullets are not solution to the issues," he said

stressing the need of unity among the nation.

The prime minister said all Pakistanis were responsible to ensure development, peace and stability in the country. "We might be in different fields but our goal is only one that is development, integrity and security of Pakistan."

He said, "We have defeated our enemy's evil designs for multiple times but their evil intentions were still a big threat to Pakistan's security."

As regards the issue of Kashmir, the prime minister

said non-resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute was 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," he added.



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



City Desk

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

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

He expressed heartfelt con-

doles to the family of martyred Captain Ahmed Badr and offered Fateha for his soul. Terming Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed as the pride of Pakistan, the information minister Attaullah Tarar said that the nation will never forget the sacrifice of Captain Ahmed Badr Shaheed.

"Today we are safe in our homes because of the sacrifices of martyrs like Ahmed Badr" he said. He said that the government and the Pakistan Armed Forces were determined to uproot Fitnatul Khawarij from the country.

Defence minister visits residence of martyred Major in Quetta

Bureau Report

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

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

"The Pakistani nation takes pride in its martyrs," he said adding that it is an honor for me to meet the family of a brave martyred soldier of the Pakistan Army.

The minister said the martyrs have

made Pakistan invincible by sacrificing their precious lives.

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

Expressing government resolve to root out the menace of terrorism, the minister said the federal government was determined to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Balochistan ministers Asim Kurd Gailu, Ali Madat Jatak and Saleem Khoso accompanied the defence minister.

Dr. Musadik visits Shaheed Major Usman Ullah's residence



City Desk

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

Major Usman Ullah

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

While honoring Major Usman Ullah's sacrifice, he said, "The country thrives on

the sacrifices of its martyrs." Speaking to the martyr's children, he said, "We are all proud of your father's great sacrifice."

Dr. Musadik Malik said that the blood of martyrs is a debt upon the nation and offered prayers for the elevation of Major Usman Ullah's rank in the hereafter.

Minister visits Martyrs' grave at Navy graveyard

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Friday visited the Pakistan Navy graveyard and laid a floral wreath on the grave of Martyr Lt Cdr Zeeshan.

The minister, after laying the wreath offered Fateha and prayed for the departed soul of Shaheed Lt Cdr Zeeshan.

While paying tribute to Pakistan's valiant Armed Forces soldiers and officers, the Federal Minister said that in 1965, our forces fought bravely against the enemy and defended the frontiers of the homeland.

The bravery shown by our forces on September 6, 1965, is memorable for all of us, Qaiser Shaikh said, adding that he still remembers that day clearly. The minister said he would never forget that spirit shown by our heroes for which the entire nation pays respect to them.

He said Pakistan's defence is impregnable and no one dare to put the evil eye on us and the government is committed to providing all resources to our brave Armed Forces.

The vision of our young generation is a clear manifestation that this nation will always flourish and all challenges would be overcome,

Awais Leghari visits family of Shaheed Lnk Hasnain Ali Shah

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari visited the family of Shaheed (martyred) Lance Naik Hasnain Ali Shah here on Friday.

The minister prayed for elevation of the soul of martyr and offered condolence to the bereaved family.

He said Shaheed Lance Naik Hasnain Ali Shah sacrificed his life for the protection of the people and the mother land.

"Pakistan owes the blood of Lance Naik Hasnain Ali Shah and the sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain," he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that Lance Naik Hasnain Ali Shah embraced martyrdom during operation Zarb-e-Azab in Terah Valley in 2015.



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

Aleem Khan visits family of martyred Khurshid



City Desk

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

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

He praised the sacrifices of Subedar Major Muhammad Khurshid, saying that his martyrdom was a great honor for the nation.

Subedar Major Muhammad Khurshid was martyred on December 20, 2022, during an operation against terrorists in Bannu. His sacrifice will always be remembered as a great honor for the nation.

Members of the National Assembly, including Aun Chaudhry and Gul Asghar, accompanied the Minister during his visit.