

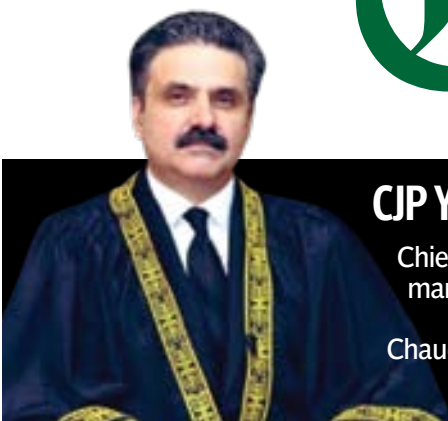


Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم خود تشریف کے
دن میں اٹھ رہے تھے اور یہ کہتے جاتے تھے۔
واللہ! اگر اللہ نہ ہو تا تو ہم ہدایت نہ پاسکتے۔ نہ
روزہ رکھ سکتے اور نہ نماز پڑھ سکتے۔ جس کے
اللہ! ہم پر سکینت نازل فرما اور جب سامنا
ہو تو ہمیں ثابت قدم رکھ۔ اور مشرکین نے
ہم پر زیادتی کی ہے۔ جب وہ کسی فتنہ کار ارادہ
کرتے ہیں تو ہم انکار کرتے ہیں۔
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CJP Yahya Afridi praises Punjab Prosecution's performance

Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Punjab Prosecution Department, praising its working mechanism and professional standards. A delegation led by Punjab Prosecutor General Chaudhry Irfan Sadiq Tarar met with Chief Justice Yahya Afridi and discussed the department's performance and professional practices.



IHC issues notices on petition challenging PIA privatisation

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notices to the federal government and other parties on a petition filed by People's Unity challenging the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir issued a written order following a hearing on the petition and directed the respondents to submit reports and para-wise comments within two weeks.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz hails Rs3 billion risk pool initiative to boost SME exports

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, chairing a meeting on the Export Development Fund (EDF) in Lahore, welcomed the Rs3 billion Risk Pool export credit insurance initiative by EDF and the Export-Import Bank of Pakistan, aimed particularly at helping SMEs boost export volumes. He called it a welcome step for small and medium enterprises and praised EDF's reforms, including handing its leadership to private-sector professionals, noting all available

EDF funds are being used to support the business community.

He said these measures reflect the government's commitment to promoting the economy and export-led growth, positioning Pakistan as a potential global investment hub.

The meeting was briefed on EDF's restructuring, with the entire Rs24 billion available fund allocated toward investment to facilitate businesses, and confirmation that no additional spending would go toward infrastructure. Instead, EDF is focusing on

research, skills development and competitiveness enhancement. Officials also updated the PM on efforts to extend Pakistan's GSP Plus preferential trade status to preserve market access in Europe.

The meeting was attended by Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Jam Kamal Khan and Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, PM's Adviser Haroon Akhtar, EDF Board Chairman Umar Saeed, and senior officials from relevant institutions.

'When the house is on fire, you don't divide it,' Says Fazlur Rehman

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman criticized government policies at a party meeting in Sahiwal, saying authorities should acknowledge mistakes instead of resisting criticism, noting rulers take oath under the Constitution but often violate it.

On new provinces demands, he said current supporters previously opposed Saraiki and Hazara provinces, arguing "when the house is on fire, it is not divided," and that Pakistan should first resolve its crises. He questioned who was responsible for the country's 80-year decline, blaming landlords, generals, capitalists and bureaucrats, and said Pakistan achieved neither genuine democracy nor economic stability.

He said the 18th Amendment gave provinces ownership of mineral resources, a provision still resisted by some, and criticized provincial revenue distribution. He said Pakistan lacked peace, stability and democracy while "dummy assemblies" were formed, and rulers received red-carpet receptions abroad while the country suffered bloodshed. He also vowed resistance against any attempt to repeal blasphemy laws.

Field Marshal Asim Munir Honours Martyrs, Praises Troops' Commitment in Quetta



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), visited Quetta Garrison and interacted with commanders and commanding officers of the field formations.

During the visit, COAS & CDF was given a comprehensive briefing on prevailing security environment, operational preparedness and ongoing measures aimed at maintaining peace and stability across Balochistan. Matters related to institutional coordination and support to the socio-economic development of the province were also reviewed.

COAS & CDF appreciated the high standards of professionalism, operational readiness and selfless commitment displayed by troops. He

underscored importance of continued coordination among Law Enforcement Agencies and other state institutions to consolidate peace and maintain an environment conducive to sustained economic activity and development.

The Field Marshal reaffirmed that the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Balochistan remain central to the efforts of the state. He emphasised that a stable and secure environment would continue to facilitate development initiatives, economic opportunities and improved prospects for the people of the province.

COAS & CDF paid rich tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs and lauded the steadfast dedication of officers and troops in the discharge of their duties.

Upon arrival at Quetta, COAS & CDF was received by Commander Quetta Corps.

DPM Dar pitches for consumer-centric power sector reforms

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Committee constituted by the Prime Minister for review of the proposed reforms in the Power Sector.

The meeting reviewed progress on the reform and privatisation agenda, including institutional strengthening and capacity building of key institutions.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the need for a consumer-centric way forward, ensuring that ongoing reforms and privatisation translate into



greater efficiency, sustainability and improved outcomes for electricity consumers.

Ishaq Dar underscored the importance of driving the reform process with a clear focus on results, institutional effectiveness and the long-term sustainability of the power sector.

Zardari, Bilawal vow to oppose any division of Sindh

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on President Asif Ali Zardari at his London residence on Friday, and discussed with him the country's overall situation.

Bakhtawar Zardari and her children were also present on the occasion.

In the meeting that lasted for five hours, it was agreed that the PPP would stick to its stance on the division of Sindh and there would be no compromise on the issue.

The speech made by PPP leader and MPA Faryal Talpur also came under discussion at the meeting.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Bilawal said that he would stay in London for a few more days. "I will meet with journalists in coming days," he said.

Later, Bilawal and Bakhtawar left for their residences.



PAKISTAN DEFENCE DAY

★ 6 SEPTEMBER ★

6 September reminds us of the great sacrifices of the brave martyrs and veterans who laid down their lives in defence of our beloved homeland.

Today, we must pledge to play our part with honesty, hard work and responsibility in our respective fields for the security, progress, prosperity and stability of Pakistan.

A strong economy, industrial development and national unity are the foundations of a strong Pakistan.

May Allah Almighty always bless Pakistan with peace, stability and progress, and elevate the ranks of our martyrs.

**Long Live Pakistan Armed Forces!
Long Live Pakistan!**

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum
Chairman, SM Group of Companies

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Portfolios Allocated to AJK Cabinet Ministers

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir has formally allocated portfolios to the newly sworn-in Cabinet ministers.

According to a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (Cabinet Section) on September 5, 2026, the portfolios have been allocated with the approval of the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir under Rule 3(4) of the Rules of Business of the



Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, 1985 (as amended).	Sardar Mir Akbar Khan — Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education	Development Authority
The portfolios allocated to the Cabinet ministers are as follows:	- Waqar Ahmed Noor — Minister for Physical Planning and Housing & Garden	- Dr. Mustafa Bashir Abbasi — Minister for Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries
		- Azhar Sadiq — Minister for Public Health

- Saqib Majeed Raja — Minister for Higher Education
- Muhammad Riasat Khan — Minister for Energy and Water Resources
- Umair Naeem — Minister for Finance and Rehabilitation
- Abdul Rehman — Minister for Tourism, Industries, Labour and Mineral Resources

The notification has been circulated to the relevant constitutional authorities, government departments, senior officials and other concerned offices for information and necessary action.

Paying tributes

RAWALPINDI: A woman takes picture of his son with Hatf I (short-range, land-based ballistic missile used by the Pakistan Army) at Ayub National Park on the eve of Defence Day, celebrate to pay tributes to the heroes who defended the motherland from external and internal threats.



Photo: Online

Masood Khan Warns US-Iran Conflict Shifts to Economic Warfare with Global Repercussions



 **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Pakistani ambassador to the US, China and UN, said the US-Iran confrontation is increasingly shifting toward economic warfare, with military escalation and diplomatic efforts by Pakistan and regional countries occurring simultaneously. Rising oil prices following recent attacks risk fueling inflation, prompting rate hikes, and slowing global GDP growth. He noted the US is relying more on economic tools—targeting Iran’s banking sector, cryptocurrency and aviation—rather than sustained military action to pressure Tehran’s leadership. Despite hostile rhetoric, both sides appear to want to avoid full-scale war. Khan warned the conflict’s economic fallout, including disrupted shipping and higher insurance costs, could extend beyond the region to Europe, Asia, the Gulf and Pakistan, while also creating political costs for President Trump. He stressed diplomacy remains essential, saying Pakistan and regional partners are working to create space for negotiations, with the goal of returning both parties to the table rather than allowing further escalation that threatens regional and global economic stability.

ITP facilitation vans take license services to doorsteps, serve over 7,000 citizens this year

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) facilitation vans have provided driving licence-related services to more than 7,000 citizens during the current year, bringing learner permits, license renewals and other facilities closer to residents across the federal capital.

An ITP official told APP on Saturday that the performance report showed that more than 2,900 citizens received learner permits through the facilitation vans.

The mobile service also facilitated over 2,000 citizens in the renewal of their driving licenses, while more than 200 duplicate driving licenses were issued. According to the report, over 1,700 driving test forms were issued through the facilitation vans. More than 200 citizens were also provided duplicate license and test-form related services.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Kainat Azhar Khan urged citizens to obtain their driving licenses at the earliest, saying that driving a vehicle or motorcycle without a valid license was an offense under the law.

She said ITP was making efforts to provide driving license-related facilities to citizens at their doorsteps through its mobile facilitation service.

The CTO Kainat said providing citizens with timely, transparent and convenient services remained a top priority of Islamabad Traffic Police.

Kashmir Leader Calls Out India’s “Political Vendetta” in Reopening Old Cases



 **Spokesman Report**

Dr. Ghulam Rasool, General Secretary of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, has condemned India’s revival of decades-old cases against pro-freedom Kashmiri leaders, calling it political vendetta aimed at suppressing their voice and erasing them from the political landscape. He noted many leaders have already spent three to four decades in Indian prisons, yet face renewed prosecution. He argued imprisoning leadership cannot extinguish Kashmiris’ aspirations for self-determination, and instead exposes the political nature of the dispute.

He appealed to the Kashmiri diaspora in the UK, US, Europe and elsewhere to raise these issues at parliaments, human rights bodies and international media. He highlighted concerns over prisoners’ health, citing inadequate medical care and custodial deaths, and urged international access to detainees.

He also called on Pakistan’s government to raise the issue effectively at the UN, OIC, and with friendly countries. Quoting him: “The Kashmiri people’s voice cannot be silenced by imprisoning their leadership.” He urged the international community to independently monitor detention conditions, judicial proceedings, and medical treatment of Kashmiri political prisoners in Indian jails.

Muslim Conference leader urges Awami Action Committee to Show Flexibility Amid Bridge Restrictions

 **City Desk.**



RAWALAKOT: Sardar Muhammad Irshad Khan, Chairman of the Parliamentary Board of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, expressed serious concern over the situation in Rawalakot and Pallandri, citing significant loss of life and reported restrictions on essential supplies via the Azad Pattan and Dhalkot bridges. He urged authorities to ensure uninterrupted movement of

food and necessities.

Noting the Government of Pakistan had already accepted several demands, he appealed to the Awami Action Committee to show similar flexibility toward a mutually acceptable solution, warning that growing public frustration could have serious consequences.

He opposed any coercive or military action, stressing further violence could have generational repercussions, and referred to demonstrations outside Pakistani missions abroad as a matter requiring serious government attention.

Khan urged AJK’s Prime Minister to restore internet services in Poonch and Pallandri, and called for opening routes linking AJK with Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He reiterated that dialogue and restraint remain the most effective path to restoring normalcy.

PML-N Leader Slams Party Leadership for Overlooking Senior Figure in AĴK Premiership Race

 **City Desk**

NEELUM: Haji Haroon-ul-Rashid, Vice President of PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Neelum District), voiced concern over PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir being overlooked for the AJK premiership despite his nomination, calling it difficult for party workers to understand given Qadir’s political stature and services.



He credited Qadir’s strategy and grassroots efforts for the party’s growth from three to 32 seats in AJK, citing his development work in Neelum in roads, education, health, tourism and infrastructure. He argued constitutional appointments should be based on merit, experience and public mandate rather than political considerations, warning that overlooking a senior leader could disappoint workers and send a negative signal.

Invoking Nawaz Sharif’s “respect the vote” philosophy, he said Neelum’s PML-N workers stand firmly behind Qadir, praising his political integrity for not voting against his conscience. Citing AJK’s history since 1975, he claimed governments compromising on merit faced instability, while merit-based governments achieved greater political stability.

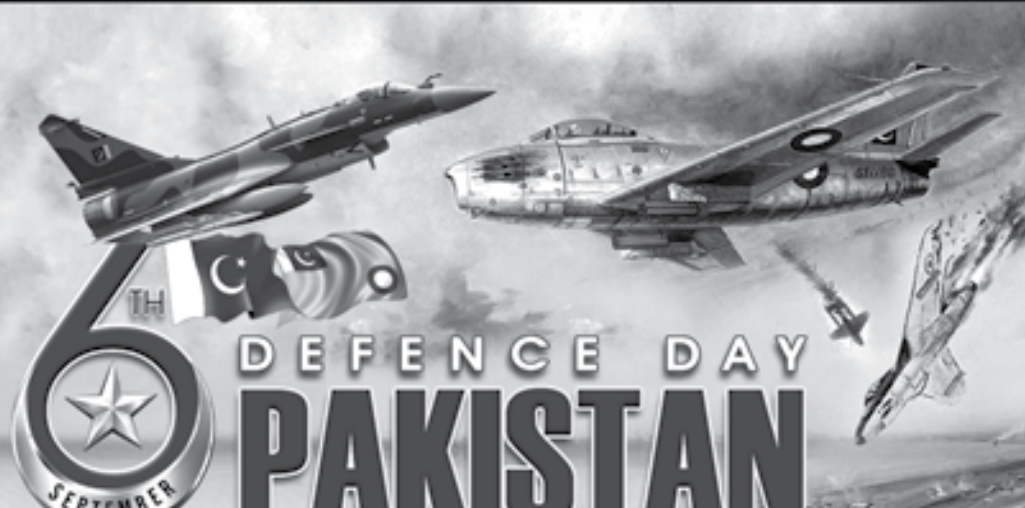
Dinner Hosted in Honour of Former AĴK Prime Ministers and PML-N President.

 **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Editor of daily Siyasat, Sardar Zulfiqar Khan, hosted a dinner in Muzaffarabad in honour of former AJK Prime Ministers Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, along with PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir.

During the meeting, participants agreed to uphold the ideological stance reflected in the Muslim Conference’s July 19, 1947 Srinagar resolution on accession to Pakistan and the principle that “Kashmir will become Pakistan.” They reaffirmed solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their struggle against Indian control and pursuit of self-determination.

The participants also reaffirmed commitment to safeguarding AJK’s constitutional powers, status, state identity and internal autonomy. They expressed deep concern over growing ideological divisions and the deteriorating law-and-order situation in AJK, emphasizing the need for political dialogue, unity and concerted efforts to restore peace and stability in the region.



DEFENCE DAY
PAKISTAN

Defence Day of Pakistan is a symbol of our national pride and unity, providing us an opportunity to relive the memories of 6th September 1965 each year. Indeed, the enemy on this very day; dreaming of a quick victory, launched a massive attack against a peace-loving country. The Armed Forces of Pakistan, backed by the whole nation, foiled the evil designs of the adversary and successfully defended their homeland. While celebrating the occasion, we pay homage to our Shuhada and owe them an eternal debt of gratitude for their supreme sacrifices.

It is heartening that our ancestral spirit of patriotism and passion for sacrifice displayed in 1965 is alive and runs in our blood. Our resounding success during Marka-e-Haq stands a testimony to this fact. No doubt, PAF, in perfect synergy with Sister Services, routed the enemy through Multi-Domain Operations that were exceptionally choreographed and smartly executed, which stunned the entire world.

On this historic occasion, I assure the nation that Pakistan Air Force is alive to the evolving situation in the region and remains fully prepared to defend sovereignty and aerial frontiers of Pakistan. Upholding Quaid’s Vision of being “Second to None”, PAF relentlessly pursues excellence in all domains on the strength of a comprehensive strategy of modernization and indigenization, whose dividends were witnessed in May 2025. Certainly, this journey of self-reliance will continue unabated with undiminished zeal.

May Allah Almighty give us strength and guide our efforts to defend the country in keeping with aspirations of the people of Pakistan! (Aameen).

Pakistan Air Force Zindabad!
Pakistan Paindabad!



Air Chief Marshal
ZAHEER AHMED BABER SIDHU, NI (M), HJ
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION



Sunday, September 6, 2026

1965 Indo-Pak War: The War Trophy From Chawinda To Islamabad

Colonel (R) Sayed GB Shah Bokhari

It is nearing midnight September 9, (1965), location Chawinda, a village near Sialkot. Indian and Pakistani forces are locked in the biggest post-World War II Tank battle. I am perching on a stool before a Battle Map, in my bunker, browsing over the ongoing battle situation, when I received a message from my Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel Mohammad Amin through Dispatch Rider, Sepoy Payo Jaan. The message, inter alia, reads:- “Captain Bokhari! GHQ has instructed us to rush up to Islamabad, one captured Indian tank. The tank must reach Gujranwala Railway as soon as possible, for onward journey by rail to the Capital.”

A thought flashed across my mind, that the government must have come up with the idea of displaying an Indian trophy in Islamabad, to prove Pakistan was on the winning side of the War. An Indian tank for public display in the serene ambient of Islamabad would definitely upswing morale of the nation, I pondered.

Searching for an Indian tank in the battle field was no problem. In the previous four days of battle our 6 Armoured Division, under the heroic command of Major General Abrar Hussain (later awarded Hilal-e-Jurrat) had turned the area into junkyard of damaged tanks, the Indian tank conspicuous by their outnumbers.

During the search my mission was to pick a piece, least damaged and the formation insignia, and other Indian markings conspicuously visible. With my battle torch that beamed out barest minimum light, and with four Jawaans the search begins. The flashes emanating from descending shells catapulted by the Indian artillery guns lit the area casually that facilitated the search. Going from one destroyed tank to another, I finally picked one British-made Centurion tank in almost show case condition, slightly pock marked by Pakistani-fired medium machine gun bullets. On this tank Indian Army marking were fully intact. The condition of the tank made me perceive; the Indian tank crew had abandoned this tank in the face of unprecedented resistance from Pakistani forces.

It was, indeed, a novelty to retrieve a destroyed arsenal in the thick of an ongoing battle. The retrieval operation had become knotty. The terrain

had become difficult to negotiate. The Indian guns disgorging artillery shells of various caliber had caused deep craters on the ground, besides raising a permanent film of blinding dust; the metal chains of opposing tanks going in pursuit of each other had literally furrowed the surface; darkness of the night was another factor to hinder our operation. Consideration for personal safety against crisscross fire or cluster of bolts raining from the blue, had become of no consequence.

Working my way with the assistance of an ARV (Armoured Recovery Vehicle), night September 9-10, we dragged the Indian tank to a clump of trees in the nearby Pasroor graveyard. When we finally loaded the tank over a tank-transporter of the famous 22 Supply and Transport Battalion, ASC, the new day September 10 was about to dawn. It was an ideal time for the Indian Gnat aircrafts, then hovering over the sky, to shoot at an unusually conspicuous target, a tank perched over a giant tank-transporter; albeit, not knowing the “target” was their own arsenal. Interestingly, in the last four days of the battle we learnt by experience, that after dawn the Indian aircrafts seldom revisited the Pakistani air space for fear of a dog fight with Pakistani shaahens.

Our journey from the Chawinda battle field to the Gujranwala railway station begins at 8 am. My Willy's jeep leading as vanguard and the captured Indian Centurian tank perched over a huge tank-transporter vehicle following me, cruised on the mettle road that linked Pasroor with Gujranwala.

The stretch of a short journey spanning over a mere 40 miles, soon turned out to be a historical event highlighting the extraordinary fighting spirit of the Pakistani nation. The civilian population who lived in the vicinity of the Pasroor-Gujranwala Road had not seen, since September 6, flow of military vehicles homeward: the specific route earmarked for replenishment of supplies for War soldiers was another one. Surprisingly, our vehicle movement backwards from the battlefield, did not seek unusual attention from the surrounding population.

Equipped with anti-aircraft weapons our eyes were set on the sky to encounter any of the Indian aircraft that may swoop on us. The journey was smooth. Nonetheless, one disclosure by the Mujahid guarding a bridge which our convoy was to go over, changed the

scenario. Before going over the bridge, we stopped. I disembarked from my jeep to assess if the bridge could bear the heavy combined weight of a tank and a transporter? In the meantime, the inquisitive Mujahid guard at the bridge learnt from my Bengali driver, Lance Naik Abu Islam Laskar that the tank was a captured piece from Indian forces. In a state of ecstasy, the Mujahid shouted slogans “Pak Army Zinda baad “and at the top of his voice, as a breaking news, announced, publicly, the presence of the Indian tank. The news spread like wild fire, attracted villagers from around the Road. In their jubilation, the crowd stopped our convoy, raised national slogans and forcibly hugged us all soldiers; some enthusiast climbed the Indian tank and thrashed its steel body with bare hands and slippers. I had to intervene to stop the crowd from causing damage to the captured trophy. Perforce our convoy had to inch the remaining journey to Gujranwala.

Imagine the national spirit of the population; the teeming crowd paced with our convoy until we reached Gujranwala railway station. Just, at the entrance of the Gujranwala town it appeared the entire local population had come out to welcome us leading a captured Indian tank. Security notwithstanding, the crowd broke out and, in frenzy, pulled out each of our soldiers from the vehicles, hugged and garlanded them from the ear-lobes down to the chest.

At the Gujranwala railway station, in the presence of eye-bulging teeming crowds, the Indian tank was loaded on an EVK wagon, while a special locomotive pulled it to its destination, Islamabad.

Back in the Chawinda battlefield, narration of our experience of the journey to Gujranwala, regaled our battle-inoculated comrades-in-arm, who felt assured of strong backing of everyone in Pakistan.

The writer was a Captain during 1965 War. He, after retirement, served as Director (Public Relations) WAPDA, Editor of an English daily Frontier Post, Member Federal Board of Film Censor, Islamabad and contributed articles in English, Urdu, Pashto to leading local/ international newspapers/ magazines and, regularly, appeared on Radio/ TV talk shows. He can be contacted on 03009599392 and northpole716@gmail.com.

Defence Day: The Spirit That Guards Pakistan's Tomorrow

Syed Muhammad Uzzam Kazmi

There are nations whose histories are written by circumstances, and then there are nations that write history through courage.

Pakistan belongs to the latter. Since its emergence on the world map, Pakistan has faced challenges that could have weakened a less determined nation. Yet, every challenge has produced the same response: resilience, unity, and an unwavering resolve to protect its freedom.

Defence Day is not merely a date on the calendar. It is a reminder of the spirit that has carried Pakistan through every difficult moment. It is a tribute to those who stood between the homeland and its enemies, to those who transformed limited resources into strength, and to those who proved that the will of a nation is its greatest weapon. From the battlefields of 1965 to the modern arenas of multi-domain warfare, the story remains the same: when challenged, Pakistan stands firm. The story of Pakistan's defence is, in many ways, the story of Pakistan itself. A country that emerged in 1947 with limited resources, a fragile infrastructure, and immense challenges built armed forces that became a symbol of professionalism, discipline, and courage.

The defining chapter of this national journey was written in September 1965. When Pakistan faced a major military challenge, the entire nation stood united behind its defenders. Pakistan Army displayed extraordinary courage on the battlefield, Navy demonstrated operational brilliance at sea, and Air Force transformed the skies into a symbol of determination and professional excel-

lence.

The aerial battles of 1965 remain one of the proudest chapters in Pakistan's military history. Against a numerically larger adversary, Pakistan Air Force demonstrated that victory is not determined by numbers alone but by training, leadership, strategy, and the courage of those who defend their skies. The legendary achievements of Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam became a lasting symbol of tactical brilliance and the fighting spirit of Pakistan's air warriors.

The success of Pakistan Air Force in 1965 was not merely a military achievement; it represented the power of confidence and preparation. The Shaheens proved that professionalism and determination can overcome difficult odds. That same spirit continues to define the Pakistan Air Force today, where the legacy of the past has been combined with modern technology, advanced systems, and evolving operational capabilities.

From the Sabres and Starfighters of 1965 to the JF-17 Thunder and J-10C fighters of today, Pakistan's air power has undergone a remarkable transformation. Modern warfare demands speed, precision, intelligence, and integration across multiple domains. Pakistan Air Force has embraced this evolution by developing a force capable of operating in a complex battlefield environment where technology, information, and decision-making determine success.

This transformation was once again demonstrated during Marka-e-Haq, which represented a significant milestone in Pakistan's defence history. When faced with attempts to challenge Pakistan's sovereignty and under-

mine regional stability, armed forces responded with confidence, coordination, and strategic precision. The operation reflected the strength of Pakistan's integrated defence approach, where land, air, maritime, cyber, and intelligence capabilities worked together with remarkable effectiveness.

Pakistan Air Force played a central role in this modern demonstration of capability. Through advanced platforms, network-centric operations, precision engagement, and highly trained personnel, PAF reinforced its position as a force capable of meeting contemporary challenges. The response sent a clear message that Pakistan possesses not only the capability to defend itself but also the determination to protect its national interests.

Behind this transformation stands visionary military leadership. Under the command of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan's defence posture has continued to evolve with greater focus on preparedness, strategic clarity, and operational effectiveness. His leadership has reflected confidence, discipline, and a deep understanding of modern security challenges. In an environment where nations must navigate complex security challenges, his leadership reinforced the principle that strength, unity, and strategic patience remain essential elements of national defence.

Marka-e-Haq was not only a demonstration of military capability; it was also a reaffirmation of deterrence. It reminded the world that Pakistan remains committed to peace and stability but will never compromise on its sovereignty. Any attempt to challenge Pakistan's territorial integrity or repeat

Continued on Page 7

Legacy of the September War

There are moments in a nation's history when the ordinary rhythm of life is suddenly replaced by an extraordinary test of courage. September 6, 1965 was one such moment for Pakistan. Lahore had been passing through an otherwise routine Sunday when news arrived that Indian forces had crossed the international border and were advancing towards the city. What followed was not merely a military confrontation but a remarkable national mobilisation. As soldiers moved towards the front, civilians supported them with food, prayers and unwavering resolve. Lahore and Sialkot endured air attacks with remarkable courage, while patriotic songs and wartime broadcasts strengthened national morale. For millions, September 1965 became a defining moment of unity, sacrifice and resilience, demonstrating the extraordinary strength of a nation that stands together in defence of its homeland.

The circumstances surrounding the war make the response of Pakistan's armed forces even more significant. Tensions had already been rising following clashes in the Rann of Kutch and continued exchanges along the Kashmir front. Yet the scale of the Indian offensive across the international border required Pakistan to respond under immense pressure. Indian planners had expected surprise to provide them with a decisive advantage, while the political and military leadership in New Delhi anticipated a rapid advance towards Lahore. Instead, the attacking forces encountered determined resistance. Pakistani troops moved swiftly to their defensive positions, while the Pakistan Air Force responded with remarkable speed and effectiveness.

The PAF disrupted the Indian

advance, while the Pakistan Army held its ground against a numerically superior adversary. The Pakistan Navy further demonstrated its reach by striking Indian facilities at Dwarka. While heroes such as Squadron Leader M M Alam became symbols of the war, thousands of servicemen fought with equal courage, many without ever being recognised by name. Together, the Army, Air Force and Navy demonstrated that preparedness, determination and strategic initiative can overcome numerical superiority.

Yet perhaps the most enduring



Omay Aimen

feature of 1965 was what happened away from the battlefield. The defence of Pakistan became a collective national effort. Citizens supported soldiers with food and supplies, communities endured blackouts and air raids, while Radio Pakistan, poets and singers strengthened national morale. Lahore and Sialkot, which faced intense attacks, became symbols of civilian courage and were awarded the Hilal-e-Istiaql. The soldier at the front knew that an entire nation stood behind him. That unity remains one of the defining lessons of the September War: when Pakistan faced aggression, its people stood together with its armed forces.

The passage of time has changed the nature of warfare, but it has not changed the fundamental responsibility

of Pakistan's armed forces. The India Pakistan rivalry has continued through subsequent decades, and the security challenges facing Pakistan have become more complex, extending from conventional threats to terrorism, militancy and information warfare. Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns over militant activity originating from Afghan territory and alleged hostile attempts to exploit instability inside the country.

These challenges have required the armed forces to remain prepared on multiple fronts rather than concentrating exclusively on a conventional battlefield. The experience of 1965 established a principle that remains relevant today: Pakistan's security cannot depend on assumptions about an adversary's intentions; it must rest on preparedness, vigilance and the capacity to respond. This is where the significance of Marka-e-Haq in 2025 becomes relevant. The battlefield may have changed dramatically since 1965, but the underlying test did not. Whether facing a conventional military threat or a more complicated combination of military, technological and asymmetric challenges, Pakistan's armed forces have continued to demonstrate their readiness to defend the country. 1965 showed one generation that Pakistan could withstand a major military challenge; Marka-e-Haq showed a new generation that this readiness has not disappeared with time.

For the generation that lived through 1965, the memories remain deeply personal: the sound of air raid sirens, the anxiety of families waiting for news from the front, the excitement surrounding wartime broadcasts and the pride inspired by the country's defenders. The younger generation may know much of 1965 through history books and stories told by parents and

Continued on Page 7



From courage to cultivation,
we stand for Pakistan.

PAKISTAN HAMESHA ZINDABAD

This **Defence Day**, FFC pays tribute to every patriotic Pakistani who plays a part in keeping Pakistan safe, stable and strong.



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Defence Day: More Than a Date on the Calendar

Every year, as September 6 approaches, Pakistan pauses to remember something that has become almost ritualistic in its retelling: the courage of 1965, the sacrifice of martyrs, the unity of a nation under threat. This year, Federal Minister Syed Imran Ahmad Shah added his voice to that chorus, paying tribute to the Armed Forces and reminding the country that the debt owed to its martyrs “can never be repaid.” He is right. But the deeper question Defence Day should force us to confront each year is not whether we remember — Pakistanis rarely forget — but whether remembrance is translating into anything more substantial than words.

There is real value in the ritual. A nation that stops, even for a day, to honour those who died defending it is a nation that has not lost its sense of gratitude. The families of martyrs, as the Minister noted, “continue to deserve the nation’s respect, gratitude and care” — and that care must mean something concrete: pensions paid on time, education secured for children left fatherless, healthcare that does not require a bureaucratic battle. Words of tribute cost nothing; the institutions that back them up cost a great deal, and that is precisely where the sincerity of a nation’s gratitude is tested.

The Minister’s invocation of unity between the Armed Forces and the people touches on something genuinely important. Pakistan’s history shows that its most resilient moments have come when state and citizen moved in the same direction. But unity cannot be conjured on a single day through speeches; it is built — or eroded — in the months between one Defence Day and the next, through how citizens are treated by the institutions meant to serve them, through whether ordinary people feel that the sacrifices asked of soldiers are matched by fairness and opportunity in civilian life.

The recent success referenced as Marka-e-Haq is cited, understandably, as proof of continued military professionalism. Military competence, however, has never been Pakistan’s central deficit. The harder, less glamorous work — economic stability, functioning institutions, equitable governance — is what determines whether the sacrifices of 1965 and since were made for a country that is actually becoming stronger, not merely one that survives.

The best tribute to a martyr, as the Minister rightly said, is fidelity to the ideals for which they died. That fidelity should be measured less in speeches delivered on September 6 and more in the quality of governance delivered on September 7, and every day after — because a nation truly honours its fallen not by remembering them once a year, but by building the country they died to protect.

How Leaders’ Egoism Pushing The World Toward Nuclear Catastrophe

In a stunning reversal that has sent shockwaves through conservative circles, Tucker Carlson — the podcaster who once stood as one of Donald Trump’s most stalwart defenders — has called for the president’s immediate removal from office. But Carlson’s demand is not rooted in the partisan grievances that defined previous impeachment attempts. Rather, it stems from a far more urgent concern: the specter of nuclear war.

“The second any president actively considers the first use of nuclear weapons, that person should be removed from office immediately,” Carlson declared during a conversation with Joe Kent, the former director of the National Counterterrorism Center. “Because that’s got to be the red line — destroying all of humanity with a nuclear strike.”

Carlson, who was “strongly opposed” to the two impeachment attempts against Trump during his first term, has drawn a distinction that transcends political affiliation. What was once absurd to him — removing an elected president from office — has become not just acceptable but imperative. “Anyone who would even tolerate that kind of talk from any of his subordinates or employees is by definition unfit,” Carlson argued. “That’s the total destruction of the world.”

This dramatic shift in position illuminates a terrifying reality: the leaders of the world’s most powerful nations, caught in an escalation ladder of their own making, are steering humanity toward a precipice from which there

may be no return.

The world today finds itself trapped in two simultaneous conflicts, each carrying the potential for nuclear conflagration. In Ukraine, Russia’s frustration with a proxy war backed by NATO and the United States has led Moscow to openly reconsider its nuclear doctrine. In the Middle East, the United States and Israel, having failed to subdue Iran through conventional means, are reportedly contemplating nuclear options to bring Tehran to its knees.

The parallels are striking and deeply troubling. In both theaters, conventional military might has proven insufficient to achieve the desired outcomes. And in both cases, the leaders involved — driven by ego, historical grievance, and strategic ambition — appear unwilling to accept anything less than total victory.

Carlson has highlighted the Russian dimension, interviewing Sergey Karaganov, a longtime political advisor to Vladimir Putin, who stated unequivocally that Russia is considering the use of nuclear weapons against the United Kingdom and Germany if the Ukraine war continues at its current tempo. “We will eliminate the UK and Germany with nuclear weapons,” Karaganov declared, a statement that Carlson described as “the biggest story of our lifetimes.”

Yet, Carlson noted with evident frustration, this story has been largely

ignored by mainstream media. “Have you read that story?” he asked his audience. “Has anyone mentioned that to you? That the most famous public intellectual in Russia, a close friend of Vladimir Putin’s, is saying in public that Russia plans to use nuclear weapons against Western Europe?”

The fundamental problem, as Carlson’s commentary reveals, is not strategic necessity but the egoism of leaders who have painted themselves into corners from which they cannot retreat without perceived humiliation.

President Trump, who repeatedly promised to keep the United States out of foreign military conflicts, launched a war against Iran on February 28. President Putin, who expected a quick victory in Ukraine, has seen his forces bogged down in a protracted conflict that has depleted Russia’s military and isolated it internationally. President Zelensky, banking on European and American support, has refused to compromise, even as his country is depopulated and devastated.

Carlson himself has been a vocal opponent of the Iran war, and his clashes with Trump in recent months reflect a fundamental disagreement over foreign policy. Trump has lashed out at Carlson on Truth Social, calling him a “loser” for meeting with other Republican figures. But Carlson’s response has been to esca-

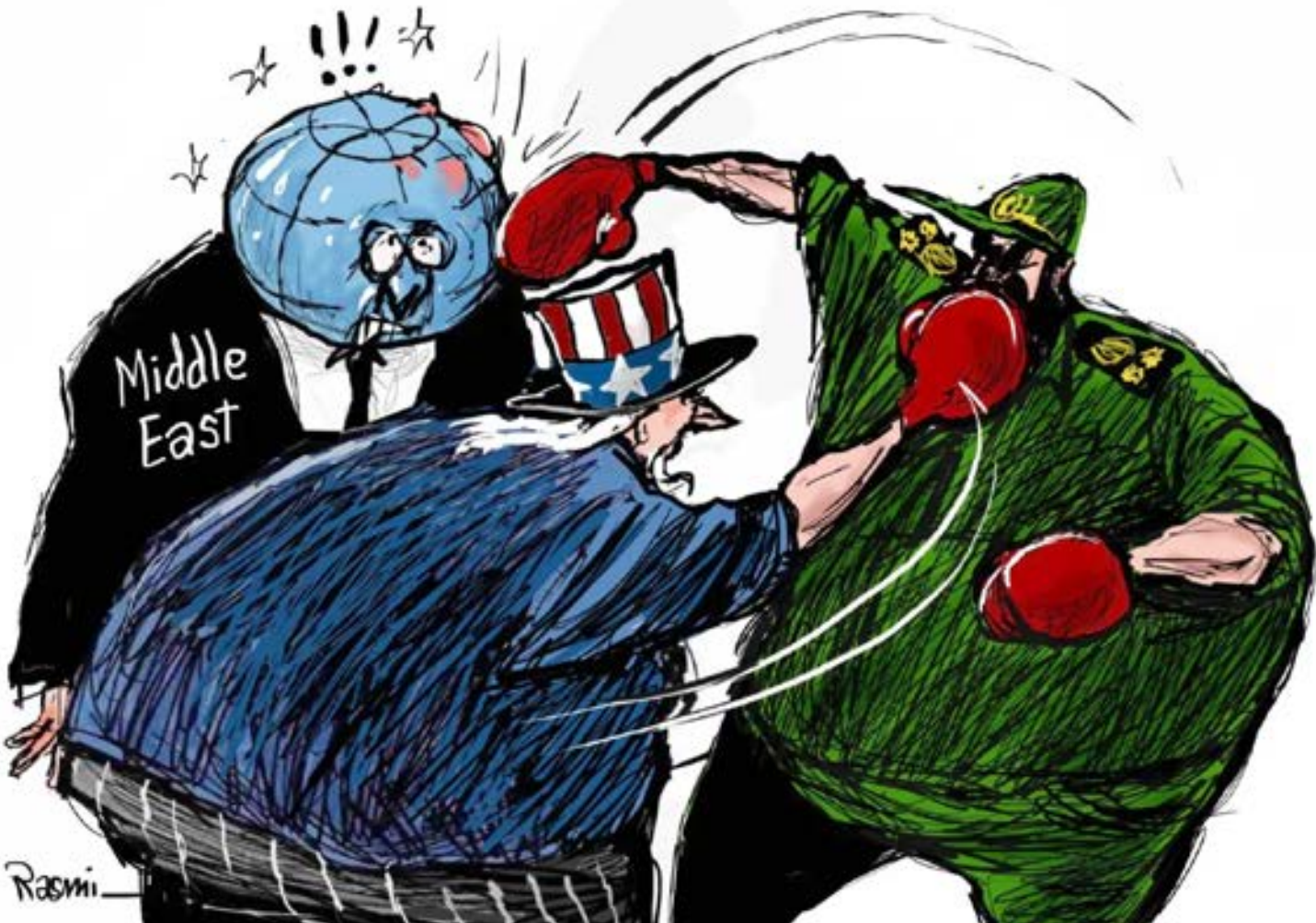
late his criticism, arguing that the president’s ego has blinded him to the catastrophic consequences of his actions. “Any leader of any country who suggests first use of nuclear weapons has forfeited his right to lead,” Carlson said. “He has to be removed immediately. I think that’s just a fair standard.”

The situation facing the world today is what strategists call an “escalation trap.” Each side, fearing that backing down will be perceived as weakness, escalates in the hope of forcing the other to blink first. But in a nuclear context, there is no victory — only varying degrees of annihilation.

This is precisely the dynamic that Carlson has identified. The administration, desperate for a “way out” of the Iran quagmire, has reportedly turned to nuclear planning. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby has publicly stated that officials are working to give the president and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth “credible, rational nuclear options.” The very phrase “rational nuclear options” is an oxymoron that reflects the dangerous thinking that has taken hold in Washington.

Similarly, Russia has publicly rewritten its nuclear strategy to include the use of nuclear weapons against countries acting as proxies for nuclear-armed powers. Under Russian law, this means that Germany — which does not possess nuclear weapons — is now considered a legitimate target. The Russians have sent hypersonic missiles into Kiev not

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

Defenders of the Waves of the Motherland

Sanobar Nadir

There is a different kind of silence at sea.

From the shore, the Arabian Sea may appear endless and peaceful, stretching quietly beneath the morning sun. But for the men and women entrusted with guarding Pakistan’s maritime frontiers, that same sea represents a responsibility that never sleeps. Somewhere beyond the horizon are the routes through which the country’s trade moves, the waters that connect Pakistan to the world, and the approaches from which an enemy could attempt to threaten the nation.

This is where the Pakistan Navy stands.

When the war began in September 1965, the Indian Navy possessed a considerably larger fleet. Pakistan’s naval force was smaller, but its sailors were not prepared to allow that numerical difference to determine the outcome. Their responsibility was clear: protect the coast, safeguard the homeland and prevent the enemy from gaining an advantage at sea.

The Pakistan Army held firm against the aggression on land, and the Pakistan Air Force ruled the skies with a skill that has since become the stuff of military legend. But the story of September 1965 wouldn’t be complete without acknowledging the role of the men in white who guarded the nation’s waters.

Pakistan Navy, known as a four-dimensional force, proved its mettle and lived up to its identity as it brought its wrath upon the enemy from all four directions.

It is often said that the war was decided on 6th September, but that truth is that the fighting did not end with the date. The seas remained an active front, and it was the Pakistan Navy that closed the door on any hope the enemy had of striking Pakistan from the water. Despite being outnumbered by a considerably larger Indian Navy, Pakistan’s naval fleet met every

challenge with courage and skill, successfully thwarting the enemy’s aggressive designs and proving that victory is never simply a matter of numbers.

And then came the night of 7th September. As the war continued on land and in the air, a fleet of Pakistan Navy warships moved toward the Indian coastal town of Dwarka. In the early hours of 8th September, Pakistani warships carried out Operation Somnath, striking shore installations at Dwarka. The operation demonstrated that Pakistan’s smaller naval force was not prepared to remain confined to defensive waters. It could take the fight to the enemy’s coast when the moment demanded it.

For Pakistan Navy, Operation Somnath became more than a wartime engagement. It became a symbol of professional courage, planning and confidence under pressure. The operation remains one of the proud chapters of the Navy’s history and is remembered every year on Navy Day as a reminder of what a determined force can achieve despite numerical disadvantage.

While Pakistan Navy was standing between the enemy and the homeland, central to this defence was the Pakistan Navy’s submarine, PNS Ghazi. PNS Ghazi’s patrol imposed a powerful deterrent on the opposing fleet. Its presence in the Arabian Sea kept the Indian Navy cautious and helped Pakistan maintain the initiative along its maritime frontier despite possessing a much smaller fleet. For the sailors aboard Ghazi, the mission was not simply about patrolling the waters. It was about making the enemy understand that any attempt to challenge Pakistan at sea would be met with a response.

The legacy of 1965 did not end there. When war returned in 1971, the Pakistan Navy once again paid a heavy price for the defence of the nation. PNS Ghazi, the very submarine that had humbled the Indian fleet six years earlier, was lost near Visakhapatnam while on a mission in enemy waters, and her crew were counted

among the shuhada of that war. Yet even in the darkest days of 1971, the Navy’s fighting spirit did not waver. PNS Hangor achieved what no submarine in the region had done since the Second World War, sinking the Indian frigate INS Khukri on the night of 9th December 1971, a moment that remains one of the most proudest chapters in the Pakistan Navy’s history. These sacrifices, spread across two wars, form the backbone of the tribute the nation pays every 6th September.

The lions of the Pakistan Navy gave their lives and fought against impossible odds so that the coastline of Pakistan would remain safe and secure. Their courage did not fade with the passing decades.

Their valor... their courage found a modern echo in Marka-e-Haq, when tensions with India escalated once again in 2025. As the enemy poured resources into expanding its naval power, adding large warships, advanced submarines, long-range surveillance aircraft, and armed drones to its arsenal, the Pakistan Navy answered with the same resolve its forebears had shown in 1965.

Beyond its role in conflict, the Pakistan Navy’s defence of the nation extends into peacetime as well, particularly along the coastline, where the threats are quieter but no less serious. The Navy has taken on a central role in coastal security, conducting anti-narcotics operations to choke off the maritime routes used to smuggle drugs into and out of the region, and anti-human trafficking operations to intercept vessels attempting to exploit Pakistan’s waters for the illegal movement of people. These missions rarely make headlines, but they reflect the same vigilance that defined Operation Dwarka and Marka-e-Haq.

Every officer who joins the Pakistan Navy today inherits the legacy of PNS Ghazi, PNS Hangor, and the squadron that struck Dwarka, a legacy built on the understanding that the sea, like the land and the sky, must never be

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Second to None: A Standard Across Generations

Maliha Mughal

When Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah addressed the fledgling Royal Pakistan Air Force at Risalpur in 1948, his call for an efficient Air Force “Second to None” was remarkable because it came at the beginning, not the culmination, of an institutional journey. It was never a claim of permanent superiority, but a standard of professional excellence that every generation would have to interpret according to the demands of its own time. The history of PAF can therefore be understood as successive generations confronting the same demanding question: what does it take, in our time, to remain Second to None?

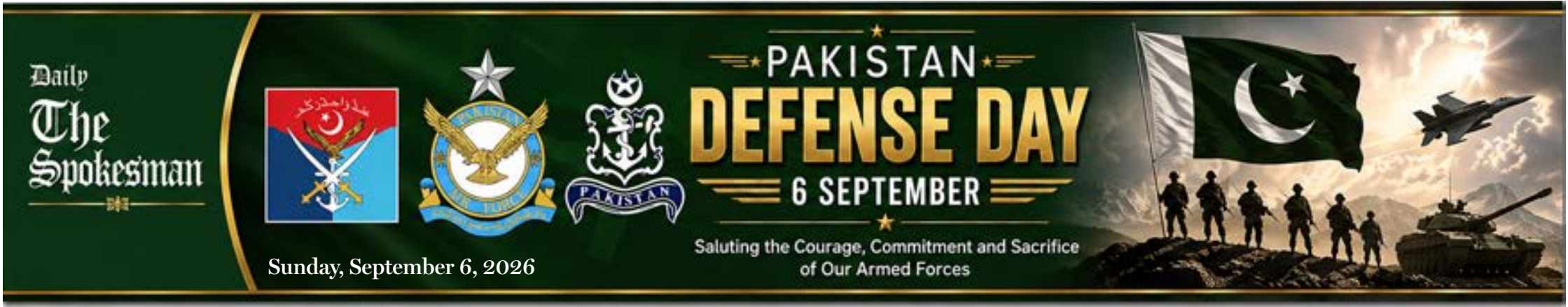
For the generation that fought in 1965, the answer lay in professional skill, combat readiness and PAF’s ability, as a young institution under courageous leadership, to convert individual excellence into collective effect. The F-86 Sabre became inseparable from the memory of that war, while pilots such as MM Alam and Sarfaraz Rafiqi became enduring symbols of courage and skill. Yet no pilot fought alone: controllers, technicians, engineers, planners and Command all shaped every engagement, working under the severe time pressure peculiar to air warfare. Leadership, professionalism and heroism worked in unison in a way that heroism gave the moment its names and faces, while leadership and professionalism turned individual courage into operational success. For that generation, “Second to None” meant showing that dynamic & selfless leadership, rigorous preparation, discipline and institutional cohesion could generate air power greater than individual aircraft and airmen alone.

The generations that followed inherited that standard but could not preserve it by repeating

the methods that first demonstrated it. The Sabre belonged to one era; the Mirage and F-16 shaped others, while indigenous capability through JF-17 marked another stage in national air power. This evolution reflected the foresight required to adapt to changing speed, range, sensors, weapons and doctrine. Here, “Second to None” for PAF could never mean fighting tomorrow by yesterday’s assumptions simply because they had once succeeded; its more demanding meaning was to preserve the qualities that produce effectiveness while continually reinventing the means through which it is achieved.

The present generation, under the visionary leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, has anticipated the demands of this new era through deliberate preparation. While the technological distance between the Sabre and platforms such as JF-17 Block III and J-10C is substantial, the deeper transformation has occurred around the aircraft itself: Airborne Early Warning systems extend awareness beyond a fighter’s own sensors, data links distribute information across platforms and Command Centres, Electronic Warfare contests an adversary’s perception of the battlespace and long-range weapons convert information advantage into operational effect. Cyber, Space, Artificial Intelligence, Unmanned Systems and Electromagnetic Spectrum further complicate air power, making it no longer aircraft against aircraft, but system against system, where a platform’s effectiveness depends on the architecture linking sensors, shooters, commanders and information. A capable fighter strengthens a fleet; one connected to surveillance, air defence and command networks changes how the entire force can fight. Through this foresight, ACM Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu has demonstrated

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President Links 1965 Spirit to Anti-Terror Success, Vows No Compromise on Sovereignty

President Asif Ali Zardari, in his Defence and Martyrs' Day message, paid tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces during the 1965 war, saluting martyrs and veterans on behalf of the nation and calling their courage a guiding light for future generations. He said the unity shown on September 6, 1965 proved that no power can defeat a nation standing firm in defence of its sovereignty.

He linked that spirit to the recent success of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, calling Marka-e-Haq another glorious chapter reflecting the Armed Forces' professionalism and their enduring bond with the people.

Zardari said Pakistan remains committed to peace and dialogue regionally and globally, citing the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement as evidence of its role as a responsible security partner. However, he stressed there can be no compromise on sovereignty and territorial integrity, reiterating that lasting South Asian peace requires resolving Kashmir per UN resolutions. He accused India of sponsoring terrorism through proxies, referencing "Fitna al Khawarij" and "Fitna al Hindustan" and alleged India-Taliban links.



He emphasized that alongside strong defence, economic stability, unity, education and development are key to Pakistan's strength, renewing resolve to build a prosperous, democratic Pakistan per Jinnah's vision, and concluding with tributes to the martyrs.

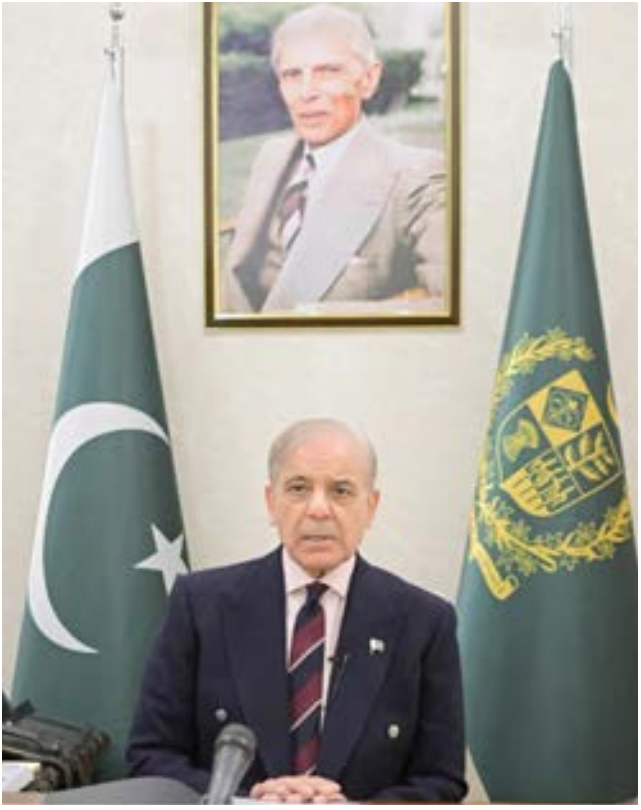
Shehbaz Sharif Hails Defence Day as Symbol of National Unity and Sacrifice in 1965 War

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the martyrs and veterans of the Armed Forces on Defence Day, calling September 6 a glorious chapter in Pakistan's history that reflects the nation's unity and sacrifice during the 1965 war, when Pakistan's forces decisively defeated the enemy despite its numerical superiority.

He praised the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu and Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf, and highlighted the success of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos as another proud military milestone. He warned that adversaries, including "Fitna al Khawarij" and "Fitna al Hindustan," continue hybrid warfare against Pakistan but are facing consistent defeat.

Shehbaz said Pakistan's real strength lies in unity, economic stability and defence capability together, pledging continued efforts toward security alongside economic development and public welfare. He described Pakistan as a "net security stabilizer" globally, citing the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement as reflecting its growing regional security role.

He reiterated that lasting peace in South Asia requires resolving the Kashmir dispute per UN resolutions, criticizing India's continued intransigence. Closing with a call to uphold Jinnah's principles of faith, unity and discipline, he affirmed the Armed Forces as guarantors of national security, ending with "Pakistan Armed Forces Zindabad!"



Gilani Hails Armed Forces on Defence Day, Calls Sept 6 a Defining Chapter of National Unity

Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani paid tribute to Pakistan's Armed Forces, martyrs and ghazis on Defence and Martyrs Day, calling September 6 a defining chapter in Pakistan's history that reflects national unity and sacrifice. He recalled the courage, professionalism and strategic skill shown by the Armed Forces during the 1965 war, noting the nation stood united alongside them.

He said the martyrs' sacrifices form the foundation of Pakistan's freedom, sovereignty and security, saluting them and their families. He highlighted institutions like the Fauji Foundation, which supports martyrs' widows and children through school fees, medical costs and pensions, underscoring the lasting cost of defending the country.

Referring to Marka-e-Haq, Gilani commended the Armed Forces' courage and professional capability, and praised the current military leadership, including Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, for safeguarding national security while contributing to regional peace. He pointed to the Makkah Agreement as reflecting Pakistan's preference for dialogue and diplomacy over force.

Gilani said Pakistan's greatest strength lies in its people and Armed Forces standing together, urging that the martyrs' mission be carried forward through unity, democracy and development. He prayed for Pakistan's peace and security and for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks.



Pakistan's Military Leadership Pays Tribute to Martyrs on 61st Defence Day



Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, General Syed Aamer Raza, NI (M), S Bt, Commander National Strategic Command and the Armed Forces of Pakistan pay profound tribute to the Shuhada of Pakistan and extend their deepest respect and gratitude to the Ghazis and the families of our martyrs on the occasion of the 61st Defence and Martyrs' Day.

The 6th of September remains an enduring symbol of national unity, courage and resolve, reminding us how the Pakistani nation stood as one in defence of the motherland during

the War of 1965.

The Shuhada of Pakistan embody the highest ideals of honour, duty and sacrifice. Across the battlefields, skies and seas, generations of Pakistan's defenders have stood sentinels and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. Their immortal legacy continues to inspire future generations, while the families of our Shuhada remain enduring symbols of fortitude and resilience. We also salute our Ghazis, who continue to guard the nation's frontiers with valour, steadfastness and distinguished service.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan remain fully prepared to defend the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests. Pakistan seeks peace, stability and prosperity in the region and remains committed

to responsible conduct and peaceful coexistence. This commitment, however, must never be mistaken for weakness. Any aggression against Pakistan will be met with a swift and decisive response.

On this Defence and Martyrs' Day, the Armed Forces renew their solemn pledge of unwavering devotion to Pakistan and its people. The supreme sacrifices of our Shuhada, the spirit of our Ghazis and the fortitude of their families will forever remain a source of national strength and pride. Standing united with the nation, the Armed Forces will continue to discharge their sacred responsibilities with honour, professionalism and unflinching resolve.

Pakistan Armed Forces Zindabad
Pakistan Hamesha Paindabad

Acting President AJK Pays Tribute to Armed Forces on Defence Day

Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, said September 6 holds historic significance as the day Pakistan's Armed Forces successfully defended the country against Indian aggression during the 1965 war. In his Defence Day message, he recalled that India launched an unprovoked, undeclared attack across the international border on September 6, 1965, which the Armed Forces, backed by the nation, resisted with courage and determination.

He said officers and soldiers of the Army, Navy and Air Force stood alongside the nation, demonstrating readiness to defend every inch of the country, with their courage, sacrifice, professional expertise and discipline becoming an enduring part of Pakistan's defence history.

Farooq said the sacrifices of the 1965 war would continue to be remembered with pride by future generations. He also said the Armed Forces have remained a source of support for the people of Kashmir,



expressing confidence they would continue to be held in high regard.

AJK PM Pays Tribute to Armed Forces on Defence Day

AJK Prime Minister Barrister Syed Iftikhar Gilani said September 6, observed as Pakistan's Defence Day, holds significant historical importance, commemorating the 1965 events when the Armed Forces defended the country's sovereignty against Indian aggression. He paid tribute to the Armed Forces' sacrifices, saying they have consistently shown resilience and determination whenever Pakistan's security was challenged.

Gilani said the Pakistan Army's strength rests on faith in Allah, dedication to the country, and professional competence, acknowledging the forces' continued service during difficult times.

On Kashmir, he said Pakistan's defence capabilities have remained a source of encouragement for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle



for self-determination, adding that Kashmiris regard the Armed Forces as a source of support and solidarity.

He said Pakistan today possesses strong defence capabilities under PM

Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's command, expressing confidence the Armed Forces' professionalism and sacrifices would keep Pakistan strong, secure and dignified.

Vietnam Ambassador Highlights \$850 Million Trade with Pakistan, Eyes \$1 Billion Target

 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Naseem Ali Shah, Member National Assembly of Pakistan, extended felicitations to the Embassy, government and people of Vietnam, and shared his views on prospects for deeper bilateral economic cooperation, while addressing a reception hosted by the Embassy of Vietnam in Islamabad to mark the 81st anniversary of Vietnam's National Day.

The event was attended by ambassadors of ASEAN countries, other members of the diplomatic corps including Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, along with government officials, members of the business community and media representatives.

The Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H. E. Mr. Pham Anh Tuan, and Mrs. Nguyen Bich Ngoc welcomed the guests at the outset of the ceremony.

In his remarks, Maulana Naseem Ali Shah praised the development and prosperity Vietnam has achieved since independence under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh and President To Lam.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Pham Anh Tuan recalled that President Ho Chi Minh proclaimed Vietnam's Declaration of Independence on September 2, 1945, marking the



birth of what is now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He said generations of Vietnamese have since worked to defend the country's independence and build a better future for its people.

The Ambassador highlighted Vietnam's economic transformation since the 1986 Renovation Policy, noting the country now maintains diplomatic relations with 194 nations and is active in more than 70 international

organizations. He said Vietnam's economy grew by over 8 percent in 2025 — its highest rate in 15 years — with GDP surpassing \$514 billion and per capita income exceeding \$5,000, pushing the country into the upper-middle-income bracket. He added that foreign direct investment reached nearly \$40 billion, while trade turnover crossed \$900 billion for the first time.



Turning to Pakistan-Vietnam relations, now in their 54th year, the Ambassador noted two-way trade reached approximately \$850 million in 2025, with both sides working toward the \$1 billion mark. He cited the 2025 launch of negotiations on the Vietnam-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement, with four rounds of technical talks completed so far, as a key milestone expected to expand market access for both countries.

He described the two econ-



omies as complementary, with Pakistan strong in cotton, textiles, pharmaceuticals and surgical instruments, and Vietnam in agriculture, electronics, chemicals and information technology, and encouraged businesses from both sides to build long-term partnerships.

The Ambassador also refer-

enced recent cultural initiatives, including the Urdu publication of President Ho Chi Minh's Prison Diary, Vesak Day celebrations in Taxila, Vietnam's pavilion at Lok Mela, the "Colors of Culture" fashion show, and participation in the Pakistan Travel Mart Expo, saying these activities have brought the

peoples of both nations closer together.

He concluded by expressing hope that the friendship between Vietnam and Pakistan would continue to grow, bringing greater prosperity to both peoples and contributing to regional peace and stability.

Photo by Imtiaz Ahmed Faizi

Posting Delays Leave Pakistan's Key Missions, Stir Unease in the Foreign Service



ISLAMABAD: A backlog in finalising ambassadorial appointments and senior headquarters postings has begun to unsettle Pakistan's Foreign Service, with several important embassies either vacant or nearing a change of leadership while a number of seasoned diplomats sit at headquarters waiting for their next assignment. Diplomatic sources describe the situation as a routine personnel matter that has been allowed to accumulate into something more serious.

A Growing List of Vacancies

The scale of the problem is not small. Kazakhstan currently has no ambassador after Noman Bhatti moved to

Islamabad to take up the post of Chief of Protocol, and Tunisia is similarly without an envoy following the retirement of Javed Umrani.

More departures are on the horizon. Indonesia's ambassador is due to step down in September, followed by Dublin's envoy in October, Germany's in November, and Madrid's in December. Brazil's ambassador is expected to complete his term in early 2027. Beyond this immediate wave, a broader set of postings — including Kuwait, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Mauritius, Mexico, Cuba, Poland and Belarus — have either finished their standard tenure or are approaching decisions on succession. Sources add that the gap extends past embassies into a number of consulates and consulates general that will also need new heads.

North Korea presents a case of its own — and a more unusual one. Pakistan maintains a purpose-built embassy complex in Pyongyang's diplomatic compound, spread over roughly 4,000 square metres and including an ambassador's residence



Mr. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

and small sports facilities. But like most foreign missions in North Korea, it went dark once the country sealed its borders in 2020: staff were pulled out as Pyongyang imposed sweeping pandemic restrictions that confined even resident diplomats to a handful of designated areas, and the post has effectively sat dormant since. It last operated with any visible activity years earlier, when an acting ambassador was still hosting the small community of Pakistanis working in Pyongyang with UN agencies and international NGOs.

Whether or when the mission reopens has recently become tangled up in broader geopolitics. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has confirmed that Pyongyang has formally asked Islamabad to reopen the embassy, and that the request is "under considera-

tion" — a prospect that drew attention after unrelated remarks by US President Donald Trump linking Pakistan to North Korea, Russia and China over nuclear weapons testing. Dar, however, has downplayed the significance of any revival, telling parliament that sanctions on North Korea make substantive cooperation "not possible" and that trade between the two countries is effectively non-existent, with bilateral contact largely limited to ceremonial messages. India, by contrast, reopened its own Pyongyang embassy in December 2024 after a similar four-year Covid-era closure and named a new ambassador there this year — a comparison Islamabad's own decision is now being weighed against.

The Cross-Posting Question
A related and more sensitive issue is the practice of sending officers from one foreign posting directly into another without a stint back home. Several diplomats currently completing assignments — in organisations and countries spanning the OIC, Bahrain, Senegal, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Rome, Denmark and New Zealand — are reportedly being considered for further postings abroad rather than a return to headquarters.

Consecutive foreign postings are not against the rules, and there can be good reasons for keeping an officer overseas, such as specialised knowledge of a country or region. But diplomats within the service argue such exceptions should rest on clear, defensible criteria. Absent that, the practice risks feeding a sense of unfairness —



Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar
Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

particularly at a moment when a pool of experienced officers is stuck at headquarters with no clear path to a foreign assignment.

Morale Under Strain

Beyond the administrative headache, officials describe a real cost to morale. A foreign posting is not something a diplomat's family can arrange overnight — it involves schooling, housing, relocation and a formal handover, all of which need lead time. When decisions come late, families and missions both absorb the disruption.

What frustrates many within the service is that this crunch was largely avoidable. Retirement dates and the end of ambassadorial terms are known well ahead of time, in some cases a year or more in advance, which should allow successors to be identified long before a post actually falls empty. The pile-up of unresolved cases has, as a result, raised pointed questions about how efficiently the Foreign Office is managing its personnel and how quickly decisions are being made under current leadership.

Headquarters Feels It Too

The strain isn't confined to missions abroad. A number of Director General and Additional Secretary-level positions at the Foreign Office itself need experienced hands, even as qualified senior diplomats remain idle at headquarters. There are also concerns that regional expertise is being overlooked in assignments — officers who

have spent years building knowledge of Europe, Africa or East Asia sometimes end up in unrelated administrative roles, while postings that match their background go unfilled. That mismatch, officials warn, wastes institutional knowledge built up over years of service.

Calls for Action

The uncertainty has fuelled calls for the prime minister and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to step in and push through the next round of appointments without further delay. Diplomats are pressing for a rolling posting plan that looks 12 to 24 months ahead, mapping retirements and expected vacancies in advance, along with transparent criteria — covering merit, performance, regional expertise, prior postings and time spent at headquarters — to guide future decisions. Such a framework, they argue, would preserve the government's flexibility to place the right officer in a strategically important post while cutting down on perceptions of favouritism.

For now, the immediate task is clearing the backlog. With missions falling vacant across Asia, the Gulf, Europe, Africa and Latin America, and experienced officers available to fill them, the risk is that a manageable staffing exercise turns into a lasting institutional problem — and, eventually, a diplomatic cost the country can ill afford.



Ms. Amna Baloch
Foreign Secretary of Pakistan

Pakistan’s 79-year-old administrative system needs a reset: Mohsin Naqvi

Bureau Report

A National Policy Dialogue on “Devolution of Powers and Good Governance in Pakistan,” organized by the Pakistan Political Science Consortium at UMT Lahore, brought together leading political, administrative, legal and media figures to discuss administrative reform.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan’s 79-year-old administrative structure needs a comprehensive reset to improve public service delivery, clarifying this meant restructuring, not a change of government. He questioned why new provinces couldn’t be considered when new districts routinely are, arguing administrative units evolve with changing needs.

Consortium Patron Ibrahim Hassan Murad said Pakistan still operates under a colonial-style structure despite independence, calling for devolution of powers and resources to local governments to address grassroots realities. He noted the population has grown nearly sevenfold since independence without corresponding administrative



evolution, and urged citizens to prioritize national over provincial identity.

Former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi cautioned that new provinces alone wouldn’t solve governance problems, stressing rule of law and constitutional supremacy must come first. Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan called for civil service reforms and clearer division of powers between elected representatives and bureaucracy.

Journalist Mujeeb-ur-Rehman

Shami backed devolution within constitutional bounds, while former minister Khawaja Saad Rafique urged constitutional supremacy, electoral reforms, Provincial Finance Commissions, and restoration of student unions. Hamid Mir noted PML-N’s past support for Bahawalpur and South Punjab provinces and KP’s repeated Hazara province resolutions, suggesting Pakistan could have eight provinces within the constitution. Fahd Hussain highlighted Pakistan’s unmet human development

goals, citing out-of-school children and malnutrition.

Discussions covered administrative restructuring, new provinces, devolution, civil service reforms, and electoral reforms. Participants broadly agreed reform shouldn’t be reduced to redrawing boundaries, calling instead for a comprehensive framework devolving decision-making, finances and authority to lower government tiers while ensuring constitutional safeguards and accountability.

Defence Day honours martyrs’ sacrifice, national unity: Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Chairman of SM Group of Companies, in his Defence Day message, said September 6 remains an unforgettable day in Pakistan’s history, recalling the patriotism and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces and the nation during the 1965 war. He noted the nation stood united with its forces, with martyrs sacrificing their lives and the Ghazis’ bravery creating a glorious chapter in the country’s history.

He said Defence Day is not just about remembering the past war but also about renewing national resolve, urging every citizen to contribute with honesty, hard work and responsi-



bility toward Pakistan’s security, stability, progress and prosperity. Anjum stressed that a strong defence today must be paired with a strong economy, industrial growth, investment, employment and national unity, saying collective progress on economic and industrial fronts could make

Pakistan stronger and more prosperous.

He affirmed the nation would always honour its martyrs and Ghazis and remains ready to make any sacrifice for the country’s defence and development, praying for Pakistan’s peace, stability and prosperity.

British-Pakistani Businessman Hosts Lavish Dinner for Pakistani Parliamentarians in London

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Prominent British-Pakistani businessman Sahibzada Salahuddin hosted a distinguished dinner at Mehak Restaurant in London in honour of Chaudhry Iftikhar Nazir, MNA from Jahani-an, Khanewal, and Waqar Ahmad Cheema, MPA from Wazirabad. The gathering brought together members of the Pakistani community, business figures and friends, including Chaudhry Sikandar Goraya, Ahmad Shehzad Cheema and Sheikh Nadeem, among others. Guests discussed the political and social situation in Pakistan, development affecting Pakistanis in the UK, and various community and personal matters in a cordial atmosphere.

Welcoming the guests, Salahuddin expressed pleasure at hosting the parliamentarians during their London visit and thanked all attendees for joining. Chaudhry Iftikhar Nazir and Waqar Ahmad Cheema thanked their host for the



warm welcome and hospitality, praising the friendly atmosphere and the chance to meet fellow Pakistanis and community figures.

The evening was described by attendees as a pleasant occasion for renewing friendships and strengthening ties between Pakistani public representatives and the British-Pakistani community, highlighting the continuing role of community figures in connecting professionals, business leaders and political representatives in the UK.

The gathering concluded on a warm note, with Salahuddin thanking guests for their time and participation, and guests praising the host for a memorable evening.

Pakistan, Türkiye Leaders Celebrate Defence Day with Show of Strategic Alliance Strength



Spokesman Report

ANKARA: The Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara hosted a grand reception marking Pakistan’s Defence and Martyrs’ Day, highlighting the deep military and strategic ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. Turkish Minister of National Defence Yaşar Güler attended as Chief Guest, alongside strong representation from Turkey’s military leadership, including Chief of General Staff General Selçuk Bayraktaroğlu, and the commanders of Turkey’s land, naval and air forces. Other dignitaries included former Deputy PM Recep Akdağ, Deputy Foreign Minister Hacı Ali Özel, foreign military attachés, senior officials and members of the Pakistani diaspora.

The event opened with Quranic recitation and both countries’ national anthems, followed by performances from Pakistan Embassy International Study Group students and documentary screenings on the significance of Defence and Martyrs’ Day.

Minister Güler paid tribute to Pakistan’s martyrs and veterans, reaffirming Türkiye’s strong support and describing Pakistan as a key strategic partner amid expanding bilateral defense cooperation. He also highlighted the recently formed “Makkah Defence Alliance” between Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, calling it a historic milestone for strengthening strategic synergy, collective deterrence and long-term regional stability.

Sindh Hari Committee Rejects Federal Minister’s Call for New Provinces, Vows to Protect Sindh’s Unity

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Samar Haider Jatoi, Central President of the Sindh Hari Committee, strongly condemned Federal Minister Mohsin Naqvi’s statement on holding a referendum for creating new provinces, declaring that the people of Sindh will never accept the province’s division under any circumstances.

Jatoi asserted that no one would be allowed to undermine Sindh’s unity and integrity, stating, “Sindh is one and will remain one.” He said such statements by federal ministers were fueling concern and resentment among Sindh’s people and urged authorities to refrain from making them.

Defenders of the...

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left undefended. The shuhada of 1965 did not fight so that their names would be remembered once a year; they fought so that Pakistan’s sovereignty at sea would never again be tested and found wanting.

They might not share the same blood, but in their blood runs the same conviction, passion and courage to defend Pakistan against every enemy.

“Hasbuna Allahu wa Ni’mal Wakeel” remains at the core of every generation of the men in white who stand watch over Paki-

stan’s seas.

As the nation marks another Defence Day, the Pakistan Navy’s role serves as a reminder that the war for Pakistan’s dignity was fought as much in the depths of the Arabian Sea as it was on the plains of Sialkot or in the skies over Sargodha. From the shores of Dwarka to the alertness of Marka-e-Haq, from the sacrifice of PNS Ghazi to the daily patrols against narcotics and human trafficking, the Pakistan Navy has carried forward the same vow made by its shuhada and ghazis: that Pakistan’s honor and its waters will never be compromised.

Defence Day: The Spirit That Guards Pakistan’s Tomorrow

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past miscalculations will face a nation prepared with the courage, capability, and determination to defend itself.

The response also reflected Pakistan’s responsible approach as a state. Military strength is not measured only by the ability to respond but also by the ability to exercise restraint, maintain stability, and act with strategic maturity. Pakistan’s armed forces have consistently demonstrated that peace is best preserved when supported by credible defence capabilities.

The bond between Pakistan’s armed

forces and its people remains the foundation of national resilience. Every soldier, sailor, and air warrior represents a commitment to protect the homeland and secure the future of generations to come. The sacrifices of martyrs and the dedication of serving personnel reflect the highest ideals of patriotism and service. Defence Day is therefore not only about remembering the heroes of 1965; it is about celebrating a living legacy. It honours those who defended Pakistan in the past and salutes those who continue to stand guard today. It reminds the nation that freedom is protected through courage, unity, and an unwavering commitment to

national dignity.

As Pakistan raises its flag on 6 September, it celebrates the bravery of its heroes, the professionalism of its armed forces, and the strength of its national resolve. From the historic skies of 1965 to the modern battlefields of today, Pakistan’s defenders continue to prove that the spirit of courage remains alive.

The message of Defence Day is timeless: Pakistan seeks peace, but peace is preserved through strength. Its armed forces remain the shield of its sovereignty, the pride of its people, and the guardians of a future built on resilience, confidence, and determination.

Legacy of the September War

Continued from Page 3

grandparents, but Marka-e-Haq is likely to remain its own living memory of national defence. That is the most powerful connection between the two moments. Sixty years may separate them, but the central message remains unchanged.

India’s repeated calculations that military pressure can produce quick political results have encountered a country that remains determined to protect its sovereignty. Pakistan’s armed forces have fought terrorism, guarded the borders and maintained readi-

ness despite the complexity of the threats surrounding the country. Whether it was the war of 1965 or Marka-e-Haq in 2025, Pakistan’s forces have made one point unmistakably clear: the country may desire peace, but it will always remain prepared to defend itself. The real tribute to the heroes of September 1965 is therefore not simply to remember their sacrifices once a year.

It is to preserve the unity, discipline and national confidence that strengthened Pakistan during those seventeen days. Wars should never be romanticised, particularly between nuclear armed neigh-

bours, but neither should history be forgotten.

1965 belongs to the memory of one generation; Marka-e-Haq belongs to another. What connects them is the enduring readiness of Pakistan to protect its homeland.

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Second to None: A Standard Across Generations

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that for PAF in contemporary changing air warfare, being “Second to None” demands more than sophisticated aircraft; it requires mastery of integration, institutional adaptability and the ability to orchestrate every element of air power into a unified and decisive fighting system.

The May 2025 India-Pakistan confrontation was a real-world vindication of this transformation, proof of what integration delivers in modern warfare. Fighters operated within a networked architecture of surveillance, real-time information, Electronic Warfare, long-range engagement and Command-and-Control, demonstrating that air power today is decided not by a single platform but by how effectively an entire system can sense, decide and strike under pressure. Through the foresight of PAF leadership, Pakistan’s integrated employment of these assets accounted for the destruction of eight Indian Air Force aircraft and the neutralisation of an Indian S-400 air defence system — a result that

stands as validation of its system-of-systems approach to air warfare. The episode underscored the value of integration: information reaching decision-makers, sensors extending awareness and Command-and-Control converting both into timely, decisive action. PAF readiness shapes deterrence not only in combat but in peacetime too. A force maintained at high readiness influences strategic calculations through the capability it is believed able to employ, resting on the relationship between demonstrated competence and the costs an adversary anticipates from escalation. Any adversary must weigh not just aircraft numbers but how effectively they can be generated, networked and employed. The same institutional qualities acquire another meaning during natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies or evacuations, when mobility becomes relief, logistics become humanitarian reach and readiness becomes the ability to respond when time itself is critical. The mission may change, but for PAF, the standard remains the same.

This is why “Second to None” has endured

as a defining aspiration across PAF generations. In 1965, it meant exceptional flying, readiness, discipline and cohesion. Later, it demanded new aircraft, weapons, doctrine and indigenous capability. Today, it increasingly means integrating platforms, information and multiple domains. Its true test is not whether PAF preserves what it has, but whether it can anticipate change and remain effective when the next challenge arrives. Its strength lies in preserving the purpose while continually reinventing the means. Youm-e-Fizaya carries the memory of 1965, but the standard PAF represents belongs to no single war or generation. To be “Second to None” is not a status secured by history but an obligation earned repeatedly through preparation, professional excellence, leadership and the willingness to adapt before necessity demands it. Aircraft will change, technology will evolve and warfare will continue to transform, but the standard must endure. Nearly eight decades later, “Second to None” remains not a legacy inherited from the past, but a standard each generation must earn anew.

How Leaders’ Egoism Pushing The World Toward Nuclear Catastrophe

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to destroy infrastructure but to send a message: if you push us further, the next missile will carry a nuclear warhead.

Carlson’s commentary has also drawn attention to the uncomfortable reality that Ukraine has been a proxy battleground from the beginning. In a revealing clip from a decade ago, Chrystia Freeland, now an economic adviser to Ukraine’s leadership, is shown acknowledging that everyone in Ukrainian leadership has been touched by George Soros’s Open Society. “Everyone she knows in Ukrainian leadership has taken money from George Soros,” Carlson observed. “Everyone running the country is actually employed by this Hungarian billionaire who’s got nothing to

do with the country.”

This revelation, Carlson argues, proves that the war was never about Ukraine’s sovereignty but about using the country as a weapon against Russia. “The purpose of a system is its outcome,” he stated. “The current state of Ukraine was clearly the point all along: destroy the country, depopulate it, change the laws that prevent foreigners from buying its natural resources.”

As leaders on both sides of these conflicts pursue their ego-driven agendas, the people of the world are left to bear the consequences. The people of Ukraine have suffered hundreds of thousands of casualties. The people of Iran face the prospect of nuclear annihilation. And the people of Europe, the United

States, and Russia themselves face the possibility of a war that could destroy civilization.

The question is not whether nuclear weapons will be used but whether we will act in time to prevent it. As Tucker Carlson’s reversal demonstrates, the lines that once seemed unthinkable are now being crossed. The only question that remains is whether the people of the world will cross their own red line and demand that their leaders stop this march toward annihilation before it is too late.

The writer is a former Press Secretary to the President of Pakistan, former Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, former Press Attaché to Malaysia, and former Managing Director of SRBC. He is currently based in Michigan, USA.

Addressed

LAHORE: Minister of State for Finance & Revenue and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani is addressing to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Maryam Nawaz's Crackdown Nets Dozens: Bribery Traps, Arrests, and Dismissals Across Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has launched a decisive anti-corruption crackdown on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directives, resulting in 54 officers and officials suspended or dismissed, with several others arrested and cases registered.

The Food Department is the primary target, with 48 officials facing action, including dismissals of food grain inspectors and assistant food controllers in



Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Sargodha and Multan. Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against 14 food controllers and other officials across districts including Bahawalnagar, Okara, Narowal, Rahim Yar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Mianwali, Sahiwal, Gujrat, Attock and

Chakwal over corruption allegations.

Separately, the Anti-Corruption Establishment has intensified arrests, apprehending officials in Vehari, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Bahawalnagar, Mandi Bahauddin and Gujranwala on charges including bribery, with several caught in trap raids and cases registered against them.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said the anti-corruption campaign would be pursued to its logical conclusion.

Pakistan Embassy in Washington marks Defence Day, honours martyrs

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: The Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D. C. hosted a solemn ceremony to mark Pakistan's Defence and Martyrs' Day, honouring the sacrifices of the Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies. The event brought together foreign diplomats, military attachés, US officials and members of the Pakistani-American community.

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh recalled the courage shown during the 1965 war, saying Pakistan's resolve as a young nation was tested in a full-spectrum war and it defended both its freedom and frontiers. He paid tribute to the Armed Forces' professionalism and courage, and highlighted Pakistan's diplomatic contributions to global stability over the past 16 months, describing diplo-



macy as the country's "first line of defence."

On Pakistan-US relations, Sheikh emphasized the longstanding partnership spanning economic cooperation, counterterrorism, security, disaster relief and joint military training, tracing its conse-

quential history from the Cold War through the fight against terrorism. He called on the Pakistani-American diaspora to help drive Pakistan's economic development, saying that with defence "impregnable" and diplomacy "indispensable," economic independence is

now the "next battle."

Defence Attaché Brigadier Muhammad Abu Bakar also paid tribute to the Armed Forces' professionalism and readiness. The ceremony concluded with prayers for Pakistan's peace and prosperity, and Sheikh's gratitude to attendees.

New provinces issue should be decided with national consensus: Chaudhry Shujaat

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has called on all political parties to address the issue of creating new provinces through serious and meaningful national consultation rather than political confrontation.

In a press statement, Chaudhry Shujaat said the creation of new provinces was not the issue of any single political party, group or region, but was directly linked to public convenience, better governance, administrative efficiency and the country's future. He said that any decision on the matter should be based on ground realities and public needs instead of political interests or temporary slogans.

The PML president said the key question should be how the administrative system could provide greater relief to the people and ensure that their problems were resolved more effectively at their doorstep.

Punjab Activates AI-Powered Child Protection via Safe City Cameras to Combat Child Labour

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA), on directions of the Chief Minister Punjab, has activated an AI-powered Child Protection System on Safe City cameras across Punjab to strengthen child protection efforts.

The system will automatically detect potential cases of child labour and out-of-

school children. During school hours, it will identify children without school uniforms and uniformed children found outside schools, generating automated alerts for concerned authorities.

The system will operate for detecting out-of-school children between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

A Safe City spokesperson said the AI technology will

enable timely identification of potential child labour and out-of-school children, with automated alerts from Safe City cameras promptly shared with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson added that PSCA continues to leverage advanced technology and AI-driven solutions to protect children and promote a safer society across Punjab.

Defence Minister Kh Asif attributes PIMS tragedy to corruption

City Desk

SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the PIMS tragedy in Islamabad, in which 14 newborns died, occurred solely due to corruption. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Social Security Hospital in Sialkot, he said corruption was rampant at PIMS and noted many unregistered hospitals exist in Rawalpindi. He expressed hope that

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's notice of the incident would yield results.

Asif said doctors and paramedics should prioritize serving humanity over making money, and announced upcoming facilities for cancer patients in Gujranwala, along with plans for a burn unit in Sialkot. He noted development projects are underway across Punjab.

Regarding the new

hospital, he said it was built specifically for factory workers, citing the millions employed in factories. He claimed eliminating corruption remains a government priority, praising Punjab's anti-corruption department for working in an organized manner against corrupt elements, and voiced support for Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's anti-corruption measures in the province.

Lahore High Court approves judicial reforms, CJ Aalia inaugurates new 11-storey building

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A full court meeting of the Lahore High Court (LHC) was held under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Aalia Neelum, with judges expressing strong appreciation for her judicial reforms and policies aimed at ensuring timely justice for litigants.

The meeting reviewed the reforms introduced by Chief Justice Aalia Neelum and measures aimed at reducing the backlog of cases and ensuring the timely disposal of matters.

The judges also expressed their confidence in the policies adopted to improve judicial efficiency and facilitate litigants.

A documentary highlighting various projects implemented through the use of information technology was also shown during the meeting.

The judges appreciated the significant reduction in pending cases at both the Lahore High Court and the district judiciary, and paid tribute to the chief justice for her efforts towards improving the judicial system.

Imran Khan must be on board on new provinces issue: Asad Umar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Asad Umar has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan must be taken into confidence on the issue of new provinces in the country.

Talking to media men in Lahore on Saturday, Asad Umar said that a detailed and comprehensive discussion must be held in all the assemblies of the country. The former federal

minister said that "if our judicial system was on track, then Imran Khan must be provided some relief."

He said that the concept of new provinces is incomplete without the inclusion of Imran Khan. Asad Umar said that the government keeps the PTI behind a wall.

He said that the Punjab government should immediately tender its resignation for its failure to fulfill promises.

Asad Umar advised the Punjab government to tender apology to the farmers and warned that if farmers and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers came to the streets, then it would be difficult for the government to resolve the issues.

پاکستان ہمیشہ زندہ باد

6 ستمبر

یوم دفاع

وشہدائے پاکستان

ستمبر 1965 سے لیکر معرکہ حق بنیان مرصوص تک بھارت کو شکست فاش دینے، مکہ دفاعی امن معاہدہ اور حجاز مقدس کے دفاع سے ہماری بہادر افواج پاکستان نے جرات و بہادری کی جولا زوال تاریخ رقم کی ہے

پوری قوم اس پر ہمیشہ فخر کرے گی

ملک و قوم کی سر بلندی اور دفاع وطن کھلتے برس پیکار مسلح افواج پاکستان کو پاکستانی قوم اور لائن آف کنٹرول کے دونوں اطراف کے کشمیری خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں

یوم دفاع پاکستان کے موقع پر پوری قوم اس عزم کا اعادہ کرتی ہے کہ ملک پر جب بھی کڑا وقت آیا تو سب افواج پاکستان کے شانہ بشانہ سیدہ پلائی دیوار بن کر ہر مشکل میں سرخرو ہوں گے

آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں و کشمیر