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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Pakistan Day parade ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan Day marked with resolve to rise above differences, defeat terrorism Nation, armed forces ready to protect motherland; render any kind of sacrifice: President Zardari

*Says we have to rise above differences and work for a prosperous;
Vows to defeat evil intentions of terrorist organisations.*

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday said that they got freedom after immense sacrifices and to protect this freedom was a huge responsibility for which the entire nation and the armed forces were ready to render any kind of sacrifice.

Addressing the Pakistan Day parade, the president said 'Unity, faith and discipline' was the motive given by the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah which would enable them to meet all challenges as in the past, they had given befitting response to all external and internal terrorism.

The president congratulated the nation on the historic day and said March 23 was an important day for the nation as they achieved freedom under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam and the dream of Allama Iqbal dream that had made it possible.

Millions of Muslims who had sacrificed and turned the dream into reality, he said, adding on this day, they paid tribute to their martyrs. The president said the objective behind creation of Pakistan was the establishment of a modern welfare country based upon principles of

equality, justice and rule of law.

On this day, he said they pledged to achieve the same objectives, with the same spirit with which the day was being celebrated.

The president said India had always tried to cast an evil eye on Pakistan while Khawarij and other terrorists' outfits wanted to achieve their evil designs, but he wanted to tell them that the nation and the armed forces were standing in unison and would foil their nefarious designs.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, three services chiefs, top military brass, federal ministers, parliamentarians and members of the diplomatic corps were present during the ceremony.

He further stressed that they should also save their young generation from disappointment and despair. The fifth-generation warfare had turned into a challenge, he said, adding that they had the capacity to overcome difficulties as they were a spirited nation and would not bog down with challenges.

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Some elements attempting to do politics on bodies of terrorists: No immunity to be given to hardcore terrorists, to be dealt with strictly, asserts CM

Says all available resources are being mobilized for establishing durable peace in the province; Government standing by oppressed people and would not tolerate any blackmailing whatsoever

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has asserted that no immunity would be given to the hardcore terrorists and they would be dealt with strictly in accordance with law. The Chief Minister said that all available resources are being mobilized for establishing durable peace in the province.

He was addressing the high achievement awards ceremony in Quetta on

Sunday.

The acting Governor Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai, Commander Balochistan Corps, Lieutenant General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan, provincial ministers, parliamentarians, Inspector General of police, Moazzam Jah Ansari, dignitaries from different walks of life participated in the event.

The Chief Minister and Commander Balochistan Corps distributed awards and commendation certificates among

over 50 persons on remarkable performance in different sectors.

The Chief Minister congratulated the achievers of high performance awards acknowledging their invaluable services in their respective fields.

He vowed that similar measures would remain continued for encouragement of the skilled and talented people. He thanked Pak Army and said that it is conferring awards to the

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PM urges dedicated efforts to make Pakistan a prosperous, welfare-oriented state

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday urged the countrymen to make dedicated efforts in line with Quaid-e-Azam's principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline to achieve the dream of making Pakistan a prosperous and a welfare state.

The prime minister, in his televised video message on Pakistan Day being observed today, thanked Allah Almighty and expressed his gratitude to the forefathers including Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Iqbal and others, whose foresightedness and wise leadership led to the creation of Pakistan as a separate homeland.

He said that the Pakistan Resolution, which was passed on March 23, 1940

stood as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the forefathers to the cause of independence.

The prime minister said that Pakistan's flag symbolized the steadfast resolve and struggle of our forefathers during the Pakistan Movement.

"Today, Pakistan stands as a free and sovereign nation, for which we are thankful to Allah Almighty," he added.

He appreciated the contributions of Pakistan's armed forces, industries, education sector, and sportsmen making their mark on the global stage and bringing fame to the country with the parliament, judiciary, and executive also fulfilling their constitutional duties.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the matters related to Power Division.

CJCSC, services chiefs extend Pakistan Day greetings to nation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Services Chiefs have extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation on Pakistan Day.

According to ISPR, the military leadership said this occasion epitomizes the unwavering resolve of the Pakistani people. They said with steadfast determination and divine guidance; Pakistan remains resolute in fortifying its democratic institutions and safeguarding the well-being of its citizens.

The military brass reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to protecting the sacred frontiers of the motherland and upholding sovereignty.

Grenade attack on police lines main gate in Pishin, no casualties reported

PISHIN (UNA): Unknown assailants carried out a hand grenade attack at the main gate of the Police Lines in Pishin.

According to police sources, the attack did not result in any casualties. Security forces promptly cordoned off the area and launched an investigation into the incident. Further details are awaited as authorities continue their probe into the attack.

No change in govt's policy, priorities about solar energy: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday ruling out any change in the government's policy and priorities regarding solar energy, instructed the authorities concerned to clear all ambiguities among the people regarding the solarization policy through facts and figures.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the matters related to the Power Division, directed the swift settlement of all legal and other matters related to the privatisation of

generation companies, besides expediting the privatization process of power distribution companies, according to a PM Office press release.

He said that a package was being formulated to reduce the electricity tariffs, which would be announced soon to provide further relief to the public. Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the Power Division, Water Resources Division, and Petroleum Division to improve their coordination for a comprehensive strategy in the energy sector.



President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-i-Pakistan (posthumous) upon Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in recognition of his services in the field of public service, at the investiture ceremony to confer the insignias of Civil Awards, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. His award is being received by Ms Sanam Bhutto.

Bakht urges people to reject negative politics for progress and prosperity

QUETTA (ANN): Provincial Health Minister and senior Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Bakht Muhammad Kakar has urged the people of Balochistan to reject negative politics and contribute to the province's development and prosperity.

Speaking at a Pakistan Day rally, he emphasized that Balochistan's youth are playing a crucial role in Pakistan's progress, but some elements are engaged in malicious propaganda to disrupt the ongoing development efforts.

Minister Kakar asserted that the provincial government is committed to eliminating lawlessness and providing employment opportunities to the people. He reassured that all available resources are being utilized to ensure stability and progress in the province.

Reflecting on the significance of March 23, he highlighted that the day marks a historic moment in Pakistan's struggle for independence, as the Lahore Resolution was passed in

1940, laying the foundation for an independent Muslim state under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Kakar alleged that Balochistan is being deliberately destabilized through a well-planned conspiracy, orchestrated by certain forces seeking to please their foreign masters. He stated that such elements are actively trying to halt the province's development and create unrest through misinformation and propaganda.

The minister called upon the people of Balochistan to remain united and work towards the province's progress. He urged them to reject negative politics and divisive narratives that serve external interests.

"The time has come for the people of Balochistan to leave behind negative politics and actively participate in the province's development to secure a better future for themselves and the coming generations," Kakar emphasized.

16 terrorists killed during infiltration attempt at Pak-Afghan border: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security forces killed sixteen Khawarij trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the general area of Ghulam Khan Kallay, North Waziristan District.

"On night 22/ 23 March, movement of a group of khawarij, trying to infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces in general area Ghulam Khan Kallay, North Waziristan District" said an ISPR news release.

"Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. After an intense fire exchange, all sixteen Khawarij were sent to hell" the release said.

Pakistan has consistently been asking the Interim Afghan Government to ensure effective border management on their side of the border.

The interim Afghan Government is expected to fulfil its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by Khawarij for perpetuating terrorism.

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QUETTA: National Party Chief, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch along with others in meeting with delegation Balochistan National Party (BNP) led by Sanaullah Baloch, held in Quetta.

BNP announces to hold Conference on Balochistan situation after Eid

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (BNP) has announced to observe black day against the alleged action of government against Baloch Yekjehiti o raise Committee (BYC).

The BNP also announced to hold Balochistan conference on situation in the province after Eidul Fitr.

These announcements were made by the senior leader of BNP and its former parliamentary leader in the provincial assembly, Malik Muhammad Nasser Shahwani while addressing press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Sunday afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were senior leaders of BNP, Agha Hasan Baloch, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, Sanaullah Baloch,

Ghulam Nabi Marri, and others.

Addressing the presser, Malik Naseer Shahwani said that these days, the situation in Balochistan is alarming. He particularly referred to the BYC saying that it is a peaceful platform of the workers having democratic mindset. It is their right to raise voice for recovery of missing persons and against the "decomposed" body, but their peaceful protest sit-in was subject to teargassing and firing.

He said that the BNP has decided to observe black day against the alleged action against BYC. He also announced that Balochistan conference would be held on the issues of province after Eidul Fitr. He said that different political parties are being contacted regarding Balochistan conference.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing ceremony of High Achievement Awards.

Ensuring peace and public safety is government's top priority; Dummur

QUETTA (UNA): Senior Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader and Balochistan's Provincial Minister for Food, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummur, strongly condemned the killing of four police personnel in Nushki and four innocent laborers in Mangocher. He asserted that no one would be allowed to take the law into their own hands and that maintaining law and order in Balochistan while ensuring the safety of its people remains the government's top priority.

Calling the terrorist attacks cowardly acts, Dummur paid tribute to the martyred police personnel and described the killing of innocent laborers as an inhumane tragedy. He reaffirmed that security forces are conducting full-scale operations against terrorists and that hostile elements would not be allowed to disrupt the province's peace and stability.

The provincial minister further stated that armed groups were engaged in propaganda against the state and sought to spread chaos by targeting innocent individuals. He urged the public to protect their youth from falling into the hands of such groups and emphasized that illegal protests and road blockades were harming ordinary citizens.

Pakistan day celebrated with patriotic zeal across Balochistan

QUETTA (UNA): Pakistan Day, March 23, was celebrated with great national enthusiasm across Balochistan, marked by flag-hoisting ceremonies and rallies in various cities.

The day commenced with a 21-gun salute by the Pakistan Army, followed by numerous events showcasing the public's love and devotion to the country.

According to details, ceremonies were held across Balochistan, including in Quetta, Gwadar, Turbat, Khuzdar, Lasbela, and Zhob.

In Quetta, the day began with the traditional 21-gun salute, followed by flag-hoisting ceremonies at both government and private

institutions. Schools, colleges, and government offices organized special programs where students sang the national anthem and highlighted Pakistan's historical significance.

Security forces, including the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC), and police, took special measures to ensure a smooth and secure celebration. Citizens participated in rallies, carrying Pakistani flags and singing patriotic songs to express their unity and dedication to the country.

Students actively participated in speech competitions, national songs, and cultural programs, further emphasizing the significance of the day.

Seven personalities given posthumous awards: Presidential awards distribution ceremony held at Governor House Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Presidential awards distribution ceremony was held at the Governor House here on Sunday afternoon. The acting Governor Balochistan, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai was the chief guest at the awards distribution, and gave away the Pride of Performance awards to the distinguished personalities serving in different sectors of life.

The awards distribution ceremony was attended by the Provincial Ministers, members of the assembly, senior government officials, representatives of the civil society and personalities belonging to different shades of life.

The receipts of Presidential awards of different categories were included: Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Mir Nadir Khan Magasi, Dr. Muhammad Aslam Mengal, Dr. Muhammad Hanif Khilji, Dr. Zubair Khan, Zabeer Alam, Dr. Junaid Ayub Gichki, Ghulam Ali, Abdul Rasheed Kakar, Shafi Muhammad Bizenjo, Dr. Muhammad Hanif Khilji, Dr. Shafi Muhammad Bizenjo, Dr. Muhammad Aslam Mengal, Zabeer Alam, Dr. Muhammad Zubair, Dr. Junaid Gichki, Ghulam Ali were given posthumous awards, which were received by their family members. Mir Nadir Magasi received his award at the ceremony held in Islamabad.



QUETTA: Acting Governor Balochistan Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai conferring Presidential Awards during the investiture ceremony.

Pakistanis sharing patriotic messages on social media on 85th Pakistan day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 85th Pakistan Day celebrations in Pakistan witnessed a massive show of patriotism and national pride, with people from all walks of life, including politicians and celebrities, sharing their sentiments on electronic and social media platforms.

Beyond social media, the Pakistan Day celebrations were marked by widespread festivities across the country.

According to a report with PTV news channel, the nation's capital, Islamabad was the epicenter of the celebrations, with the national flag hoisted at important government buildings and monuments.

The report also showed footage of people from different walks of life, including students, politicians and common citizens, participating in rallies and events to express their patriotism and love for the country.

In the comments sec-

tion of a popular Facebook post, users shared their thoughts and feelings about the occasion.

"Pakistan is not just a country, it is a dream come true for our ancestors," wrote one user.

"Let us work together to make Pakistan a prosperous and peaceful nation," commented another.

On Twitter, Pakistan Day and Pakistan Zindabad were trending topics, with users sharing patriotic messages and songs.

The comments section of a popular Instagram post was also filled with messages of patriotism and national pride.

"Happy Pakistan day to all my fellow Pakistanis!" wrote one user. "Let us celebrate our independence and freedom with love and unity," commented another.

On YouTube, patriotic songs and national anthems were trending, with users sharing their favorite videos

and play lists.

Politicians joined in on the Pakistan Day celebrations, sharing special messages to mark the occasion and extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation, paying tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and all leaders who rendered great sacrifices for the realization of the dream of Pakistan.

Additionally, politicians took to social media to express their patriotism and national pride.

They shared messages, posts and national songs, using the occasion to remind citizens of the importance of unity and the sacrifices made by the country's forefathers.

Some politicians also shared inspirational quotes from national heroes, such as Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal, to motivate citizens and promote national pride.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai meeting with acting Governor Balochistan Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Balochistan's situation alarming, dialogue is only solution: Ali Mardan

QUETTA (APP): Former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, has expressed deep concern over the current situation in Quetta, urging all parties to seek solutions through dialogue and mutual understanding rather than resorting to force or violence.

In a statement, Domki emphasized that the state must act like a compassionate guardian, addressing the grievances of protestors with patience and empathy to ensure a peaceful resolution. He firmly stated that no one should be allowed to take the law into their own hands, and advised the Baloch Yakjehti Council to remain within constitutional and legal boundaries while addressing their concerns.

"Choosing the path of force and violence, from any side, is not the solution—it will only compli-

cate the situation further," he cautioned. He urged all relevant stakeholders to exercise wisdom, patience, and restraint, and to promote constructive dialogue for a long-term resolution of issues.

Domki reiterated that dialogue and negotiation remain the most effective means of resolving conflicts and called on the government and all involved parties to show tolerance and diplomacy. He acknowledged that peaceful protest is a democratic right, but stressed that it must be conducted within the framework of law and the constitution.

The former Chief Minister also urged the Baloch Yakjehti Council and other stakeholders to approach negotiations with a positive and pragmatic mindset, avoiding any actions that could further widen the gap between the state and the people.

16 terrorists killed during...

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ing acts of terrorism against Pakistan.

The security forces of Pakistan are determined and remain committed to securing its borders and eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari Sunday appreciated the security forces for stopping the attempt of intrusion at Pakistan-Afghanistan border in district of North Waziristan.

He appreciated the security forces for killing 16 Khawarij in a timely operation.

He said the brave armed forces of Pakistan were determined to defend borders of the country around the clock.

The operations against terrorists would continue till the complete eradication

of the menace of terrorism.

He said the whole nation stood with the security forces in the war against terrorism.

Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif Sunday appreciated officers and personnel of security forces for foiling an attempt of intrusion into Pakistan from Afghanistan by Fitna Al-Khawarij in Ghulam Khan Kalay, district North Waziristan.

He lauded the officers and personnel of security forces for killing 16 Khawarij who tried to intrude into Pakistan.

He said terrorists would not be allowed to succeed in their nefarious designs.

He said he and the whole Pakistani nation stood with the brave armed forces which were defending the country with unwavering determination.

PM Shehbaz condemns mosque attack in Niger

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday condemned the terrorist attack on a mosque in the Kokorou town of Niger, causing a "horrific loss" of innocent lives.

"Pakistan stands in solidarity with the people of Niger as they mourn the horrific loss of innocent lives in Kokorou, Niger," he wrote in his X timeline.

The prime minister said that the attack on worshippers, particularly during the sacred month of Ramadan, was a painful reminder that terrorism recognized neither faith nor humanity.

No immunity...

Continued from page 1
people in recognition of their services.

He said that the government has decided not to let anyone to block the highway and roads now.

He said that the provincial government is standing by the oppressed people and would not tolerate any blackmailing whatsoever.

He mentioned that the Supreme Court has also issued clear orders for opening the highways and roads.

The government would implement these orders in true letter and spirit.

Referring the terrorists attack on Jaffar Express, the Chief Minister said that they (terrorists) targeted the innocent and armless passengers. However, they were eliminated as a result of the timely action of the security forces, he added.

He expressed sorrow over that some elements are trying to do politics on the dead bodies of terrorists. But the government would not let succeed these elements at all, he added. He said that the government has decided to take the war against terrorists to the logical end and ensure protection of public anyway.



PANJGUR: Deputy Commissioner Zahid Ahmed Lango hoisting national flag on eve of Pakistan Day.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessing the Pakistan Day parade ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan bundled out for meagre 105 as New Zealand lead T20I series by 3-1

AUCKLAND (INP): Pakistan suffers a humiliating defeat after the green bundled out for meagre 105 against New Zealand in the all-important fourth T20I of the five-match series at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui.

Battling first New Zealand posted a mammoth 221-run target against Pakistan after the green shirts won the toss and decided to bowl first.

In response Pakistan were all out on 105 in 16.2 overs with the speed trio of O'Rourke, Duffy, and Foulkes marching through the batting order with the new ball, making it difficult for the visitors. Duffy took four wickets, Foulkes three, and the remaining three were shared by Neesham, O'Rourke, and Sodhi.

Irfan Khan scored 26 runs and Abdul Samad

scored 44 runs; just two batters reached double digits. It is important to note here that after losing the first two matches, Pakistan bounced back in the third match and decimated New Zealand by nine wickets to keep the series alive.

Pakistan thrashed New Zealand by nine wickets after Hassan Nawaz scored a blistering ton in the all-important clash.

New Zealand were all out on 204 batting first against Pakistan in the third T20I in Auckland, with batter Mark Chapman starring with a 44-ball 94.

In response, Nawaz slammed the fastest T20I century for Pakistan, in 44 balls, as the green shirt chased 205 in 16 overs.

Hasan Nawaz made an unbeaten 105 from 45 balls. Nawaz made ducks in both of the first two matches.

PAF's majestic flypast marks Pakistan day celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Air Force's fighter jets presented a spectacular aerial display during the Pakistan Day parade held at Aiwan-e-Sadr here.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Services chiefs and Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff Pakistan Air Force, were also in attendance on the occasion.

According to a spokesperson of PAF, as a tribute to the historic Lahore Resolution of 23 March 1940 PAF's combat aircraft roared through the skies, demonstrating unmatched precision, professionalism and air superiority. The flypast began with the awe-inspiring performance of Team Sherdils, which executed stunning aerial manoeuvres and aerobatics, showcasing the rigorous training and exceptional skill of the PAF aircrew.

The formation soared

above Aiwan-e-Sadar, spreading the vibrant colours of the Pakistani flag and reaffirming PAF's unwavering commitment to defend the country's airspace. A diverse fleet of Pakistan Air Force jets, including JF-17 Thunders, F-16 Fighting Falcons, Mirages and state-of-the-art J-10C aircraft executed a series of breathtaking aerial manoeuvres. The audience was enthralled as the aircraft performed precision formations, high-speed passes and synchronized flight patterns, reinforcing PAF's operational readiness and combat capability.

This year's Pakistan Day celebrations were held on a limited scale in respect of the holy month of Ramadan. However, PAF's flypast remained the highlight of the event, reflecting the Air Force's unwavering dedication to safeguarding national sovereignty.

Nation, armed forces ready to...

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The president expressed the resolve that despite all challenges, they would continue building the nation.

"Pakistan is facing geopolitical challenges, while their brave armed forces, with support of nation, have been giving unprecedented sacrifices," he added.

The president stressed upon the need of further strengthening of defence, boosting of economic sectors including agriculture, and creation of jobs for the youth.

Terming the youth of the nation as 'an asset of the nation', he stressed upon equipping them with the research-based education and the latest technological training.

Besides he urged all the provincial governments to focus on social welfare initiatives.

He opined that the journey was difficult but not impossible as the nation possessed the real power because determination, hard work and the spirit of patriotism had always steered them.

The president said that Pakistan's foreign policy was based upon ensuring stability and peace and they wanted strong ties with their neighbours and the international community based upon mutual respect and shared goals of prosperity.

President Zardari also paid tribute to the armed forces and the law enforcement agencies for giving unprecedented sacrifices.

He said on March 23, they had not forgotten their Kashmiri brethren and sisters who had been bracing the Indian atrocities, and they extended their full solidarity to them and saluted their unprecedented sacri-

fices.

The president reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue raising its voice at all global fora for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and demanded of the international community to ensure the implementation of the UN resolutions so that Kashmiri should decide their own future.

The president also expressed Pakistan's solidarity with the Palestinians and urged the international community to take decisive actions to stop the genocide, and ensure that without any foreign interference, Palestinians should be given the right to decide their own future and sovereignty.

The president appealed to the nation to work for realization of the true objectives of the motherland and prayed for the nation's prosperity, unity and strength.

He also appreciated the parade commander for arranging the splendid event.

During the ceremony, a marvelous flypast was displayed by the Pakistan Airforce formations.

Different formations of Sherdils, Mirage, F16, JF 17 Thunder and J10C displayed the high-speed past, piercing through sky with spectacular speed.

Earlier, the president reviewed the smartly turned-out contingents of the armed forces that took part in the parade. A presidential salute was given to him while the national anthem was played.

The president had arrived the venue in the traditional presidential chariot accompanied by his bodyguards riding on horses.

On the occasion, the military band also presented musical tunes based upon national songs.

President confers Pakistan's civil awards on 69 recipients

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday conferred Pakistan's civil awards on 69 personalities including the Pakistani nationals and foreigners in recognition of their outstanding services in various fields.

The investiture ceremony was held at the Aiwan e Sadr in which different personalities were decorated with the civil awards in recognition of their services in health, education, literature, journalism, public, research, diplomatic matters and economy.

The ceremony was attended by the federal ministers, Chairman Senate, parliamentarians, members of the civil society, diplomats, media and a large number of people.

Nishan-i-Pakistan (posthumous) was conferred upon Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former prime minister and founder of PPP in recognition of his outstanding services to the country, democracy and people. The award was received by Sanam Bhutto.

The other recipients who were conferred upon with awards in different categories included:- Air Marshal (ret'd) Raja Shahid Hamid (late) Nishan-i-Pakistan (posthumous), Sultan Ali Akbar Allana Nishan-i-Khidmat, SP Muhammad Ejaz Khan Shaheed Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), DSP Allama Iqbal Shaheed Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), DSP Sardar Hussain Shaheed, constables Irshad

Ali and Jahnzaib Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), Additional SHO Adnan Afridi Shaheed Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), SI Taimoor Shahzad Shaheed Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), LHC Mohammad Farooq Shaheed Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), Sepoy Muhammad Asif Shaheed Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), Allah Rakhio (late) Hilal-i-Shujaat (posthumous), Dr Tauqir Hussain Shah Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Capt (ret'd) Khurram Agha Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Ali Haider Gilani Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Khawaja Anver Majidd Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Hussain Daud Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Professor Dr Shaheryar Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Dr Zaryab Setna Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Javed Jabbar Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Mohtarma Sadia Rashid Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Aamir Hafeez Ibrahim Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Jimmy Engineer Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Umar Farooq Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Dr Naveed Shirwani Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Capt. (ret'd) Hamza Anjum Shaheed Sitarai-i-Shujaat (posthumous), Malik Sabz Ali Shaheed Sitarai-i-Shujaat (posthumous), Muhammad Samiur Rehman Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Ahmad Ishaq Jahangir Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Irfan Nawaz Mamoon Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Sardar Muhammad Aftab Ahmed Khan Wattoo Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Dr Hamid Ateeq Sarwar Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Ali Salman Habib (late) Sitarai-i-Imtiaz (posthumous), Waqar ud din Syed Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Ayaz Khan Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Professor Dr

Ziaul Haq Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Imtiaz Hussain Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Jameel Ahmad Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Syed Azhar Hasnain Abidi Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Zafar Waqar Taj Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Muhammad Hussain alias Murad Sadpara (Late) Sitarai-i-Imtiaz (posthumous), Bahrose Hussain Baloch Sitarai-i-Imtiaz, Sana Hashwani and Safnaz Naveed Ahmad Fareed Presidential Prize of Performance Award, Rashid Waheed Khawaja Presidential Prize of Performance Award, Mohtarma Anika Bano Presidential Prize of Performance Award, Barkat Shah Presidential Prize of Performance Award, Haydar Qurbanov Sitarai-i-Quaid-e-Azam, Dr Christine Brunhilde Sitarai-i-Quaid-e-Azam, Agostino Da Polenza Tamgha-i-Pakistan, Professor Valevia Piacentini Tamgha-i-Pakistan, Syed Shakeel Shah Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Ashhad Jawwad Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Amin Muhammad Lakhani Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Rehan Mahtab Chawla Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Syed Jawad Hussain Jafferi Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Professor Dr Usman Qamar Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Mohtarma Dr Sara Qureshi Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Dr Ikram Ullah Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Sarwar Muneer Rao Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Hassan Ayub Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Dr Syed Abid Mehdi Kazmi Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Mir Nadir Khan Maghi Tamgha-i-Imtiaz and Dr Xinmin Liu Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam.



ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Zaka Ullah Durrani hoisting national flag at Quaid-e-Azam Residency on eve of Pakistan Day

March 23 a milestone in nation's history: Dy Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan on Sunday said that March 23 holds immense significance in the country's history as a landmark in the struggle for independence.

In his special message on Pakistan Day, he recalled that it was on this day in 1940 when the Muslims of the subcontinent, with firm resolve and unity, demanded a separate and sovereign state.

"The Pakistan Resolution was not merely a demand but the first decisive step towards the realization of a dream that materialized under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on August 14, 1947," he added.

Syedaal Khan said that Pakistan Day reminds the nation of the unparalleled sacrifices, unwavering struggle, and unity of the forefathers who secured a free and independent homeland for future generations.

"Today, it is our collective responsibility not only to honor those sacrifices but also to contribute to Pakistan's progress, prosperity, and stability," he added.

He underscored the need to foster national unity, brotherhood, and tolerance to overcome the challenges facing the country.

"We must strengthen our institutions, uphold the rule of law, and advance in education and research to transform Pakistan into a modern and prosperous state," he stressed.

PML-N leader emphasizes national unity on Pakistan resolution day

QUETTA (ANN): Paki-

stan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N)

Balochistan's Provincial

General Secretary and

Member of the National

Assembly (MNA) Syed

Jamal Shah Kakar has

stated that every child of

Pakistan is ready to defend

the country. He emphasized

that the true purpose of Pakistan

Resolution Day was to

unite the Muslims of the

Indian subcontinent under

one platform, and today, the

nation needs the same spirit

and commitment.

Speaking to the media,

the former Governor of

Balochistan and MNA

Jamal Shah Kakar high-

lighted that Pakistan was

founded in the name of Islam

and will remain steadfast

till the end of time, as it

was achieved through im-

mense sacrifices. He urged

the nation to revive the spirit

of Pakistan's creation and

honor the martyrs who laid

down their lives for the

country's sovereignty and

security.

He further remarked that

Pakistan's enemies should

take note that every citizen

is ready to defend their

homeland, as Muslims

never fear martyrdom—it is

their pride. He lauded the

security forces, particularly

the unnamed soldiers who

have sacrificed their lives to

ensure peace in Balochistan,

allowing the dawn of stability

to rise in the province.

"Across Balochistan,

children, elderly citizens,

women, laborers, street

vendors, and people from all

walks of life are raising the

national flag, proving their

unwavering love for the

country," he said.

MNA Jamal Shah

Kakar also affirmed that the

PML-N remains committed

to Pakistan's progress and the

prosperity of its people, vowing

that the party will continue

its struggle on every

platform to make Pakistan

even greater.

Azerbaijan's President greets PM on Pakistan Day; says mutual ties to grow through joint efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and people of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the President of Azerbaijan said, "On behalf of myself and the people of Azerbaijan, I sincerely congratulate you and your brotherly people on the occasion of the national holiday of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan – Pakistan Day, extending my best wishes."

The Azeri President expressed great satisfaction over the current level of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan strategic partnership and mutual cooperation, which he said, was "enriched with new content day by day".

"Our successful joint activities in the economy, transport, logistics, energy, investment, defence industry, and several other areas of mutual interest are among the key factors de-

termining our ties," he added.

President Ilham Aliyev said, "At the same time, the alignment of our positions on international issues and our mutual support serve as a clear expression of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan brotherhood, contributing to the fundamental interests of our countries and peoples."

"We attach exceptional importance to the comprehensive development of our relations, which are built on strong foundations such as common cultural values and solidarity, stemming from the deep affection, respect, and trust between our brotherly peoples. The intensity of high-level visits, meetings, and contacts is a clear indication of the dynamic growth of our cooperation," he continued.

The President said, "I highly appreciate our productive meeting held in an atmosphere of mutual trust, understanding, and sincerity during your state visit

to Azerbaijan last month, as well as the exchange of views and discussions we had."

"The agreements we reached on the future directions of Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations in various fields, along with the numerous documents signed during the visit, will contribute to further expanding the scope of our bilateral agenda and realizing our economic and trade potential in different areas," he added.

He expressed confidence that the traditional friendship and strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, strengthened by the time-tested brotherhood and unity of our peoples, will continue to grow and deepen through our joint efforts. "On this significant day, I wish you good health, happiness, and success in your endeavors, and the brotherly people of Pakistan everlasting peace, prosperity, and well-being," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force Karakoram-8 (K-8) aircraft team perform aerobatic manoeuvres during the National Day Parade as they fly past in front of President's House, in Federal Capital.

ICT admin conducts 11,329 inspections; penalizes over 1,600 vendors, seals 42 stores

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a sweeping effort to curb overpricing during Ramadan, the Islamabad's district administration has reported detaining over 1,678 shopkeepers and sealing 42 stores across the Federal Capital between March 1 and 20. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration's officials carried out 11,329 inspections, issuing fines totaling Rs 2.74 million for violations related to sub-standard goods and inflated prices. Meanwhile, six Ramadan bazaars and 20 fair-price shops were established to stabilize costs for essentials like cooking oil, sugar, and poultry, with direct subsidies and discounted produce.

The spokesman of ICT administration said that the authority intensified market checks in the

first 20 days of Ramadan, targeting shops accused of overcharging or selling low-quality items.

To counter price hikes, the administration launched six Ramadan bazaars offering subsidized essentials such as ghee, sugar, chicken, and eggs. Twenty fair-price shops provided discounts of up to 15% on over 15 types of fruits and vegetables. These markets operate under strict monitoring, with daily visits by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon and field teams to ensure compliance, he added.

On the occasion, DC Memon emphasized a zero-tolerance policy toward compromises on quality or pricing. "Our teams are on the ground daily. No exceptions will be made for violations," he stated.

DIG Tariq reviews security arrangements at Duty Points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital police, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Muhammad Jawad Tariq, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Muhammad Shoaib Khan, visited various duty points in the federal capital on Sunday to assess security arrangements and brief police personnel.

An official told APP that the DIG Tariq reviewed security measures at multiple locations, met with on-duty Islamabad Police officers, and encouraged them in their responsibilities. DIG Tariq said that all possible measures were being taken to ensure the safety of citizens.

DIG Tariq further commended the officers and personnel, including female police officers, for their dedication to duty.



The next-of-kin of the martyrs receiving the awards of Hilal-i-Shuja'at from President Asif Ali Zardari at the investiture ceremony to confer the insignias of civil awards, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan expresses deep felicitation to nation on 85th Pakistan day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin on Sunday expressed felicitation expressed his deep felicitation to the nation on the auspicious occasion of 85th Pakistan Day.

On the auspicious occasion of 85th Pakistan day, on behalf of the embassy and people of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "I would express my sincere Congratulations to the brotherly people of Pakistan" Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin said in his congratulatory message issued here.

Interfaith Iftar Dinner: IRCRA promotes unity among diverse communities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The tradition of Interfaith Iftar Dinners is steadily gaining momentum in Pakistan, fostering an environment of dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among different religious communities.

This growing trend, led by influential think tanks and religious organizations, symbolizes a collective commitment towards harmony in a diverse society.

Among the key proponents of this initiative is the International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) that annually hosts an Interfaith Iftar Dinner, bringing together religious scholars and leaders from multiple faiths. This year's gathering witnessed a resounding message of unity, as representatives from various religious communities shared a common platform to promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

This year's event, graced by Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief guest, was held here at the Islamabad Golf Club. On this occasion, he took the opportunity to personally engage with each distinguished guest and present them with traditional gifts as a token of goodwill. Additionally, Chief Minister Gandapur distributed shillings among nominated participants, acknowledging their efforts in fostering religious harmony and understanding.



ISLAMABAD: People watch the skill of Pakistan Air Force (PAF)'s jets over the President's House during the Pakistan Day Parade.

Egyptian envoy greets nation on auspicious occasion of 85th Pak Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan on Sunday greeted the nation on the auspicious occasion of 85th Pakistan Day and wished for prosperity of the country. In a message issued here, he said that with joy and respect, "I extend my congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, its noble people, and wise leadership on the occasion of Pakistan Day." The Ambassador said that this historic day marks a key moment in Pakistan's journey toward independence and unity, reflecting determination of Pakistan.

AIOU offers Russian Language Course

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant step towards promoting international languages, Allama Iqbal Open University has introduced a three-month, face-to-face Russian language course.

According to the AIOU, the course will be conducted under the supervision of an expert and experienced Russian instructor. Classes will be held three days a week, with each session lasting three hours.

To facilitate students, two groups (Morning session 10 am to 1 pm) and afternoon session (2 pm to 5 pm) have been formed. Last date for admission is April 10, while classes will commence on April 14.

Pakistan day reminds for establishment of independent state: Tariq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Sunday said that Pakistan Day reminds us of the historic decision made on March 23, 1940, when Muslims resolved to establish an independent homeland.

In his message on Pakistan Day, the minister stated that this day brings to mind the sacrifices and struggles of our forefathers, which have allowed us to live with freedom, dignity, and prosperity today.

Dr. Tariq emphasized that we must strive to fulfill the dream of Allama Iqbal

and follow the vision of Quaid-e-Azam by upholding the principles of unity, faith, and discipline.

He stressed that political stability, policy continuity, and national consensus are essential for the country's progress. Without peace, brotherhood, and tolerance, national development is not possible.

The minister further urged everyone to pledge on this day to work tirelessly for Pakistan's development, transforming it into a modern, prosperous, and advanced state, moving beyond mere words and slogans.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people are having the Iftar at the broken Former Monal Restaurant Site in on the debris of building at Margalla Hills, in Federal Capital.

Motorway police crackdown on speeding, over 100 FIRs filled for excessive speeds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) have intensified their campaign against overspeeding, registering 112 FIRs against drivers caught exceeding the speed limit of 150 km/h on major motorways. According to the NH&MP spokesperson, 112 FIRs have been registered in the different zones of the motorways so far. The crackdown has been enforced on key motorways, including the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway (M2), Lahore-Multan Motorway (M3), and Motorways M4 and M5. As part of the operation, the Motorway Police have taken drivers into custody along with their vehicles and handed them over to the local police. The registered FIRs include charges of negligence and reckless driving.

According to official data, 8 cases were registered

on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, 43 FIRs were filed on the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway (M-2), 8 cases were registered on the Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Motorway (M-3), 12 FIRs were filed on the Multan-Pindi Bhattian Motorway (M-4), and 41 drivers were arrested on the Sukkur-Multan Motorway (M-5). The NH&MP reiterated that the speed limit for three-lane motorways is 120 km/h for private vehicles and 110 km/h for public transport. Violations of these limits pose a severe risk to public safety.

The department's spokesperson stressed that ensuring the safety of travellers remains their top priority, and they are firmly committed to enforcing traffic laws. Inspector General of Motorway Police Riffat Mukhtar Raja has instructed officials to intensify efforts against overspeeding.

President grants military awards to officers, soldiers of Army, Navy, Air Force

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari granted the Military awards to the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force

According to an ISPR news release, 2 Sitara-i-Basalat, 227 Tamgha-i-Basalat, 82 Imtiaz-i-Basalat, 185 COAS Commendation Cards, 23 Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), 112 Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) and 133 Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) have been awarded.

The following officers and soldiers have been conferred with Sitara-i-Basalat Lt Col Muhammad Ali Shaikat (Shaheed), FF, Sep Soban Majeed Baloch (Shaheed), AK.

Following officers and men have been conferred with Tamgha-i-Basalat Lt Col Syed Kashif Ali (Shaheed), AD, Lt Col Muhammad Hassan Haider (Shaheed), Sigs, Maj Babar Khan (Shaheed), Punjab, Maj Amir Aziz (Shaheed), Punjab, Maj Rameez Imtiaz, FF, Maj Syed Ali Raza Shah (Shaheed), Punjab, Capt Hussain Jahangir (Shaheed), Punjab, Capt Muhammad Ahmed Badar (Shaheed), AD, Capt Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad (Shaheed), NLI, Sub Qaiser Rehman (Shaheed), Sindh, Sub Abid Ullah (Shaheed), NLI, Sub Shahab Ahmad (Shaheed), FC KP (N), N/Sub Muhammad Farooq (Shaheed), AD, N/Sub Qadeer Hassan (Shaheed), Baloch, N/Sub Yasir Shakel (Shaheed), FF, N/Sub Shah Bahram Khan (Shaheed), FF, N/Sub Muhammad Shahzad (Shaheed), AK, N/Sub Zahid Noor (Shaheed), FC

KP (N), Hav Sikandar Hayat (Shaheed), AD, Hav Aqeel Ahmed (Shaheed), Engrs, Hav Shafiq Ullah (Shaheed), Punjab, Hav Muhammad Sajjad (Shaheed), Punjab, Hav Muhammad Zahir (Shaheed), FF, Hav Shahzad Ahmed (Shaheed), AK, Hav Zil Hussain (Shaheed), AK, Hav Khalid Fiaz (Shaheed), AK, Hav Shahid Iqbal (Shaheed), Sindh, Hav Shah Din (Shaheed), NLI, Hav Fida Hussain (Shaheed), NLI, Hav Nisar Ahmed (Shaheed), SSG, Hav Khalid Iqbal (Shaheed), CMI, Hav Abdul Sattar (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), Hav Ahmad Hussain (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Abid Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Hayat Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Muhammad Waheed (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Shaal Akbar (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Rauf Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Hav Shahzad Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Hav Saeed Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Sabir Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Muhammad Hashim Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Hav Roshan Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Hav Muntazir Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Hav Abdul Bari (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/Hav Madsar Mahmood (Shaheed), Arty, L/Hav Aftikhar Hussain (Shaheed), Punjab, L/Hav Basit Imran (Shaheed), NLI, LD Zubair Hussain (Shaheed), AC, LD Asif Ali (Shaheed), AC, NK Muhammad Imran (Shaheed), ASC, NK/VM Shah Nawaz (Shaheed), EME, NK Imran Ullah (Shaheed), Ord, NK Muhammad Majid

(Shaheed), Punjab, NK/Clk Iffran Abbas (Shaheed), Baloch, NK Muhammad Mafrood (Shaheed), Baloch, NK Ghulam Ali (Shaheed), Sindh, NK Abdul Rauf (Shaheed), Sindh, NK Mubasher Sahbeer (Shaheed), AK, NK Muhammad Ishfaq Butt (Shaheed), AK, NK Muhammad Sijad (Shaheed), NLI, NK Shahzad Qamar (Shaheed), NLI, NK Zafar Iqbal (Shaheed), NLI, NK Khan Abbas (Shaheed), FC KP (S), NK Sher Khan (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), NK Farooq Sadique (Shaheed), FC KP (S), NK Khushdil Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), NK Muhammad Khurshid Anwar (Shaheed), FC KP (S), NK Walid Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), NK Asif Nawaz (Shaheed), FC KP (S), NK Haseeb Javed (Shaheed), Arty, L/NK Muhammad Tafeer (Shaheed), Engrs, L/NK Ameer Humza (Shaheed), Punjab, L/NK Abdul Qadir (Shaheed), Punjab, L/NK Waheed Suleman (Shaheed), Baloch, L/NK Wali Khan (Shaheed), FF, L/NK Tahir Naveed (Shaheed), FF, L/NK Afzal Hussain (Shaheed), Sindh, L/NK Syed Danish Afkar (Shaheed), AK, L/NK Purdum Wali (Shaheed), NLI, L/NK Zaman Ali (Shaheed), NLI, L/NK Muhammad Ijaz Khan (Shaheed), SSG, L/NK Mohsan Munir (Shaheed), AMC, L/NK Syed Muhammad Shahenshah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Inayat Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Tahir Abbas (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), L/

NK Tariq Ali (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), L/NK Zulfiqar Ali (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), L/NK Muhammad Adnan (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), L/NK Sher Azam Khan (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), L/NK Rehmat Ullah (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), L/NK Jamshid Ali (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Ihsan Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Ghairat Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Shakir Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), L/NK Sher Nawaz Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), L/NK Zulfiqar Ali (Shaheed), FC KP (N), L/NK Saghir Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Muhammad Ayaz (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Oumar Hayat (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Rafeeq Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), L/NK Abdur Rehman (Shaheed), FC KP (N), L/NK Tabassum Uq Haq (Shaheed), AK, L/NK Sohail Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Abdul Haleem (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Sajid Hussain (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Ihsan Bad Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Wazid Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), L/NK Muhammad Waris Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Swr Aijaz Gul (Shaheed), AC, Swr Mudassar Hayat (Shaheed), AC, Sep Muhammad Javed Iqbal (Shaheed), AD, Spr Muhammad Azam Khan (Shaheed), Engrs, Spr Haroon William (Shaheed), Engrs, Spr Anosh Rufun (Shaheed), Engrs, Spr Hassan Bilal (Shaheed), Engrs, Sep Abdul Hakeem (Shaheed), Punjab, Sep Ali Raza (Shaheed), Punjab,

Sep Muhammad Arif (Shaheed), Punjab, Sep Asad Ullah (Shaheed), Punjab, Sep Muhammad Umer Farooq (Shaheed), Punjab, Sep Zahoor Uddin (Shaheed), Punjab, Sep Altaf Ali (Shaheed), Punjab, Sep Sajjad Hussain (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Muhammad Idress (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Badam Gul (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Sheryar Ahmed (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Tahir Abbas (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Waqar Ahmed (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Muhammad Waseem Abbas (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Sijawal Ali (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Jiaid Ali (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Muhammad Sohail (Shaheed), Baloch, Sep Ausaf Ur Rehman (Shaheed), FF, Sep Azam Khan (Shaheed), FF, Sep Asif Ali (Shaheed), FF, Sep Muhammad Gulfam Maqsood (Shaheed), FF, Sep Abdullah (Shaheed), FF, Sep Shakeel Shafqat (Shaheed), FF, Sep Naheem Akhtar (Shaheed), AK, Sep Qismat Khan (Shaheed), AK, Sep Tamoor Malik (Shaheed), AK, Sep Muhammad Afzal (Shaheed), AK, Sep Abrar Hussain (Shaheed), AK, Sep Ashfaq Hussain Khan (Shaheed), AK, Sep Abdul Hameed (Shaheed), AK, Sep Shahzeb (Shaheed), AK, Sep Abdullah Shah (Shaheed), AK, Sep Kamil Rabbani (Shaheed), AK, Sep Nadir Sagheer (Shaheed), AK, Sep Arsalan Aslam (Shaheed), AK, Sep Toseef Rafique (Shaheed), AK, Sep Jalal Ud Din (Shaheed), AK, Sep Muhammad Yaseen (Shaheed), AK, Sep Mirza

Hussain (Shaheed), AK, Sep Bahar Khan (Shaheed), Sindh, Sep Muhammad Nawaz (Shaheed), Sindh, Sep Muhammad Akram (Shaheed), Sindh, Sep Muhammad Tarique (Shaheed), Sindh, Sep Farman Ali (Shaheed), Sindh, Sep Abdul Saqib (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Shahbaz (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Haji Jan (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Khalid Nasir (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Faiz Ur Rehman (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Muhammad Safdar (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Fida Ali (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Zahid Hussain (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Muhammad Ameen (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Hamza Zaheer (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Syed Mubarak Shah (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Shabbir Hussain (Shaheed), NLI, Sep Muhammad Ahad Zafar (Shaheed), SSG, Sep Sajid Azam (Shaheed), SSG, Cfn Jahan Zaib (Shaheed), EME, Cfn Muhammad Faisal (Shaheed), EME, Sep Saddam Qamar (Shaheed), ASC, Sep Imtiaz Khan (Shaheed), ASC, Sep Imran Ali (Shaheed), DSF, Sep Muhammad Arshad, DSF, Sep Minhail Hussain (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Raja (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Muhammad Sajjad (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Ck Nasir Ali (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Syed Dildar Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Syed Shahab Hussain (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Mafi Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Saif Ullah Khan (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Sharafat Hussain (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Ihsan Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Shahzada Aurangzeb (Shaheed), FC

KP (N), Sep Sher Hayat (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Muhammad Qasim (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Mubarak Jan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Anas Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Tahseen Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Muhammad Shoaib (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Naib Hussaib (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Sajid Ur Rehman (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Ihsan Ullah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Muhammad Ayub (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Rahmat Ullah Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Tariq Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Syed Munazim Mukhtiar Hussain Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Sayed Jamshed Hussain (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Noor Muhammad (Shaheed), FC KP (N), WC Raham Zeb (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Kabeer Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sep Muhammad Shahzib Aslam (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Muhammad Sufyan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Abdul Karim (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Banaras Khan (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Syed Ibn-E-Abbas (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Ahmad Ali (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sep Nadeem Khan (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), Sep Muhammad Bilal (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), Sep Nouman Farid (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Abdul Sattar (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Muhammad Tariq Khan (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Shafi Ullah (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Sunny Shoukat (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Tipu Razzaq (Shaheed), FC Bln

(S), Sep Muhammad Waseem (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Jamshed Hussain (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Shabir Ahmed (Shaheed), FC Bln (S) and Capt Sikandar Ali Khan, TI(M), Navy. Following officers and men have been conferred with Imtiaz-i-Basalat, Lt Col Moeen Ud Din, CMI, Lt Col Anwar Jamshed, Avn, Lt Col Waqas Butt, Avn, Maj Ahmad Adnan Ur Rasheed, Punjab, Maj Junaid Jawaid, FF, Maj Sajjad Ali, FF, Maj Muhammad Haroon Tariq, FF, Maj Syed Shams Ullah, Baloch, Maj Farhan Ahmed, AK, Capt Luqman Asghar, FF, Capt Hamid Bin Haseeb, FF, Capt Muhammad Haris Dilawar, Punjab, Capt Hassan Habib, Punjab, Capt Muhammad Fraz Ilyas (Shaheed), Ord, Capt Ch Muhammad Faraz, Punjab, Lt Haseeb Sajjad, Sindh, Lt Akhlaq Ahmed, Punjab, Lt Abdullah Bin Zubair, Punjab, SM Muhammad Nazir (Shaheed), NLI, SM Muhammad Islam Khan, FC KP (S), N/Sub Sanobar Ali (Shaheed), Baloch, N/Sub Intizar Shah, FC KP (S), Hav Mirza Khan, AD, Hav Aftab Ahmed (Shaheed), Baloch, Hav Muhammad Arif (Shaheed), Baloch, Hav Imran Khan (Shaheed), FF, Hav Muhammad Jamil (Shaheed), FF, Hav Arshad Gul (Shaheed), FF, Hav Shabir Gul (Shaheed), FF, Hav Fazal Subhan (Shaheed), FF, Hav Daud Shah (Shaheed), FF, Hav Riasat Khan (Shaheed), FF, L/Hav Muhammad Imran (Shaheed).

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Judicial disputes

Another day, another spat within the judiciary. It appears that there is still very little realisation within the institution that the damage that has been and is being caused to its reputation may take many years to reverse.

The most recent development pertains to the reconstitution of an Islamabad High Court tribunal that had been hearing a Judicial Service Appeal filed by a judge against the appointment and subsequent elevation of another judge in the subordinate judiciary.

The tribunal, which included Justices Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Babar Sattar and Sardar Ejaz, was reconstituted on March 18 by President Asif Ali Zardari on the advice of acting IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar, reportedly after it had already arrived at a decision on the petition before it. The tribunal has now issued its judgement disregarding the reconstitution order, ruling that the law does not allow that the IHC and its subordinate judiciary be filled with judges borrowed from other courts.

Ordering the IHC registrar “to return all members presently serving in the subordinate judiciary for Islamabad Capital Territory on deputation within six months”, the tribunal has observed that, “any decision by the chief justice or a committee appointed by the chief justice that is not in accordance with the requirements of the law is not sustainable in the eyes of law, including decisions with regard to an appointment on deputations, induction, or promotion, and is liable to be set aside by this tribunal”.

Not only that, but the tribunal has held that neither the president nor the acting chief justice had any authority to reconstitute it without legal justification. It has held the appointment of various deputed judges as unlawful, declared the reconstitution of the tribunal as ‘unconstitutional’ and underlined that the IHC acting chief justice has no authority to interfere with the tribunal’s functions.

Ever since the controversial 26th Amendment, it has been observed that the judiciary has been having considerable difficulty functioning ‘normally’ due to the slew of changes to its operational structure and the government’s expanded role in its internal affairs. It may be recalled that a similar dispute previously arose in the Supreme Court, when an important case was abruptly moved from one bench to another against judicial norms, ostensibly in anticipation of an adverse ruling.

Public perceptions of the institution’s independence and neutrality have taken a hit due to the bitter and often very public spats between senior judges, which continue to signal considerable dissatisfaction within the institution regarding how it is being conducted. This latest dispute, too, will soon land before the Supreme Court, where one can, with quite a bit of surety, expect it to stir further controversy. The judiciary’s fall has been tragic, but only the institution can save itself.

Muhammad Amir Rana

The growing intensity of the Baloch insurgency has led to a debate on how to tackle it. Security institutions vow to address it with force, and want to see Pakistan as a “hard state”. On the other hand, sections of the intelligentsia and the political class insist that political problems should be resolved through political means. These contrasting approaches reflect old and new evidence to bolster the respective arguments. This diversity of opinion is a healthy sign, and can lead to effective, consensus-based strategies — provided that the establishment is not averse to engaging with viewpoints that challenge its own.

In controlled politics, the power dynamics favour those voices that align with its own interests. In Pakistan, it is common for segments of the intelligentsia, academia, media, and politicians across ideological lines to distort or manipulate the facts in order to appease those in power and seek personal or institutional rewards. This needs

to be acknowledged before assessing global best practices for counterinsurgency (COIN).

Too often, in their efforts to justify state policies, so-called intellectuals misrepresent research findings. One unfortunate example is the frequent misinterpretation of a RAND Corporation report titled *Paths to Victory: Detailed Insurgency Case Studies*, authored by Christopher Paul, Beth Grill, Colin P. Clarke, and Molly Dunigan. Anyone familiar with internal security discussions in Pakistan would know that this study is often cited to argue that crushing insurgencies is the key to victory.

Actually, the study deconstructs this argument by analysing 71 insurgencies resolved between World War II and 2010. It acknowledges that every insurgency is unique, and rigorously tests 17 out of 24 counterinsurgency strategies that emphasise brute force. The findings provide strong evidence against the “crush them” approach. Instead, the 286-page report offers a multidimensional analysis of COIN, demonstrating that effective COIN strategies do not rely on a single

method but rather a mix of several best practices.

Identifying common elements in successful COIN campaigns is not difficult. Three key factors emerge. The first is the reduction of tangible support — in every successful COIN campaign, governments effectively cut off material support to insurgents. The second is commitment and motivation — victorious COIN forces exhibit a genuine commitment to defeating the insurgency rather than prioritising personal wealth, prolonging the conflict for external aid, or avoiding combat. The third factor comprises flexibility and adaptability. For COIN operations to be successful, they must adjust to the evolving strategies and tactics of the insurgents.

For Pakistan to address the ongoing insurgency in Balochistan effectively, it is necessary to go beyond simplistic narratives and recognise the complex nature of COIN. Sole reliance on force is hardly effective, and contradicts the lessons of history and empirical evidence.

The study closely examines effective and ineffective COIN practices. In our

context, there is greater focus on maintaining national unity, which comes from ensuring that at least one factor legitimises the government’s authority and reduces corruption. The focus of successful COIN efforts is on engaging the local people, building trust, ensuring the provision of essential services, and fostering a sense of security in controlled areas.

At the other end, ineffective COIN strategies include collective punishment, escalating repression, and corrupt, arbitrary governance. Conflicts persist when ruling elites have incentives to prolong them or insurgents receive external military support. Economic dependence on foreign backers, failure to adapt to tactics, excessive coercion, and a lack of alignment between the government and COIN forces weaken counterinsurgency efforts. Additionally, when insurgents are more skilled or motivated than COIN forces or state forces resort to looting for survival, the chances of failure increase.

A key lesson for countering operations is that counterinsurgency forces often compel insurgents to

adopt guerrilla warfare on reaching the decisive phase of the conflict. While insurgents typically rely on terrorist tactics, sabotage, and the exploitation of political narratives, their strategy evolves in response to state actions. The study also exposes the wide variation in the duration of insurgencies. The median length of the 71 cases examined was around 118 months. The shortest insurgency lasted for about nine months (Bangladesh, 1971); the longest over 35 years (Guatemala, 1960–1996). On average, insurgencies lasted around 128 months, though the median figure — less influenced by extreme cases — provides a more balanced perspective on typical conflict duration.

The study also examined the 1971 insurgency in East Pakistan, identifying two significant factors behind Pakistan’s loss: the denial of a political mandate and the excessive use of force. But despite these lessons, Pakistan applied a similar approach in Balochistan during the 1972-78 insurgency. The Baloch People’s Liberation Front (later the Baloch Liberation Front) had wide-

spread local support and used standard guerrilla tactics, ie, targeting major supply lines and transportation routes between Balochistan and its neighbouring provinces. However, the insurgents couldn’t overcome the more extensive and better equipped COIN force, which consisted of the Pakistan Army and special forces units. By resorting to overwhelming force, Pakistan managed to suppress the insurgency.

However, the ‘crush them’ strategy did not go according to plan. After the decisive phase of the conflict, insurgents established bases in Afghanistan and continued to wage a low-level insurgency across the border. But, their cross-border presence prolonged the conflict instead of leading to a decisive victory for them. The report misses a critical factor: Iran’s military and political support for Pakistan during this period, which played a significant role in countering the insurgency. In contrast, today’s insurgents have found safe havens across the border in Iran, and Tehran’s support for Pakistan is no longer available.

NAP it in the bud

Abbas Nasir

Despite the media focus on the reported ‘hard state’ remarks by the army chief at the Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS) meeting earlier this week, the huddle also saw agreement on a renewal of comprehensive counterterrorism measures such as the National Action Plan (NAP).

The NAP was developed and approved by consensus after the terror attack and massacre of students at the Army Public School in 2014 and, as Baqir Sajjad Syed recalled in his Dawn report on the PCNS meeting, was designed to combat terrorism through judicial reforms, strengthened law enforcement and measures against terror financing. It was revised in 2021.

Item No 14 in the original NAP, and No 10 in the 2021 revised version, calls for reconciliation efforts in Balochistan side by side with all necessary kinetic operations to tackle rising militancy, even terrorism targeting civilians, in the province.

The main difference between the new and old action points is that while

the older version called for the provincial government to take the lead in the reconciliation, the 2021 version did not prescribe who’d lead the process (if it were ever to start).

It is not clear whether the later version was an acknowledgement of the criticism particularly in Balochistan of the set-up seen as foisted on the province via selected rather than elected people, and that would have much to lose if a genuinely elected system were to be ushered in.

The critics’ reference is to the disenfranchisement of the Baloch, which started with the subversion of the provincial government, ahead of the crucial Senate elections in March 2018, by the same intelligence officials who are being blamed today for facilitating the return of TTP militants to the merged districts a little after PTI’s Imran Khan became prime minister in 2018.

Given the civil-military resolve to tackle militancy/terrorism in a multidimensional, structured manner, it is important for all thinking people in the country — including Balochistan — to not just criticise and condemn but

also come up with concrete suggestions.

I have been talking to many such people including Baloch friends and offer my own list of measures that may restore some sanity to the discourse and re-engage constitutionalists such as former Balochistan chief minister Sardar Akhtar Mengal, who stated he had given up hope.

Politicians such as Dr Malik Baloch, a Baloch nationalist, who remains a peaceful advocate of his province’s rights, should be listened to, not just invited to meetings and then ignored. As chief minister, he strived relentlessly to present his constituents’ legitimate concerns, within the confines of the federation, and get them addressed by the centre, the Council of Common Interests and every other institutional forum. The mild-mannered politician failed.

He’d also been tasked, along with his coalition partner PML-N’s retired Lt-Gen Qadir Baloch, to initiate a dialogue with estranged Baloch leaders in a reconciliation attempt, but was made to cut a sorry figure because, despite a positive response from the interlocutors, there was no

follow-up. The state was either never interested or changed its mind.

These politicians and others like them who have placed their faith in the Constitution and federation are unpalatable to the state for one reason: they reflect and articulate the concerns of those who elect them.

As a first step, this has to change. It is time to acknowledge that their master’s voice may serve as dutiful echo chambers but can’t deliver and have zero cred.

As already mentioned in these columns, the question of the missing must be addressed. It would take courage to start our very own truth and reconciliation process. But no more courage than that being displayed by our soldiers who face a hail of bullets every day to do their duty and offer the supreme sacrifice.

One of Pakistan’s brightest minds and foremost public policy expert/intellectual Rafiullah Kakar points out several other issues too. He told Shehzad Ghias Shaikh’s Pakistan Experience podcast that all the goodwill created by the 18th Amendment, the NFC award and Aghaz-i-

Huqooq-i-Balochistan package between 2008 and 2013, which encouraged nationalists to contest the 2013 elections in droves, has evaporated due to the centre’s intransigence and mala fide political engineering. Economic rights present a picture not dissimilar to the political rights of the province. For example, even before the passage of the 18th Amendment, the ownership of all natural resources, minerals (with the exception of gas and oil) belonged to the provinces.

Despite this, the Saindak contract signed in 2002 gave a 50 per cent share of the profit to the Chinese, 48pc to the centre and 2pc (yes, two) to the Balochistan government. The 18th Amendment (2010) awarded 50pc ownership in gas and oil production to Balochistan. This was to cover all new contracts.

In Aghaz-i-Huqooq, it was pledged that Saindak would be handed over to Balochistan in 2012 to decide the terms of contract renewal, etc, but the Balochistan government was arm-twisted into agreeing to a five-year extension, as the then chief

minister Raisani wilted under pressure. The contract was extended twice again in 2017 when Dr Malik’s efforts were thwarted and, unsurprisingly, BAP also relented in 2022 for yet another extension.

Another irritant is natural gas where Balochistan produces at least seven to eight times what it consumes and the consumption is subsidised; here too there is just one loser. The advocates of status quo say the sheer spread of the province renders unviable any infrastructure to deliver gas everywhere. Then what would they say about the remarkably sad statistics from the Benazir Income Support Programme where, as per three different criteria, Balochistan’s population makes up 9pc to 10pc of the country’s poorest but only receives 3pc to 4pc allocation under this widely acclaimed poverty alleviation scheme?

There is a lot more to say and do, but Balochistan can be brought back from the brink into the mainstream. It is not easy to cede control. It will take political will.

Boys to men

Muna Khan

The TV critic at the Guardian, Lucy Mangan, is stingy with praise. It’s why I did a double take last weekend when I saw her five stars — the highest — for Adolescence. I haven’t always agreed with all her reviews but she’s been spot on about the five stars. There was After the Party — “best acting on TV all year” — and Until I kill You — “fearless TV that values intelligent viewers” last year. But to see “the closest thing to TV perfection in decades” in the headline for Adolescence made me reach for the TV remote control instantly. I didn’t even bother with a trailer which is my usual modus operandi. I’m a sucker for trailers.

We were hooked from the get-go. I’m not spoiling it for you by telling you it is a four-episode show about a teenage boy in the UK accused of murdering a teenage female classmate. It is told from four different perspectives — the police, a psychologist, the school and the parents, all trying to understand what happened. It is deeply engaging and equally disturbing.

We watched it in one day and I recommended it to everyone, warning them that it was heavy. Almost all my friends who are parents to children of all ages were rattled. I was deeply moved but also worried.

What are (y)our children really doing online? Adolescence gives us a peek into how easily teenage boys can be swayed by “manfluencers” like Andrew Tate, the content creator, banned on several social media platforms for posting hate speech and misogynistic comments. He has said women are men’s property, should be homemakers and should accept men having mul-

tiple partners. He was banned on Twitter (now X) in 2017 for saying rape survivors bore some responsibility for “putting themselves in that position”. Elon Musk restored Tate’s account. Tate and his brother are facing rape and trafficking charges in the UK, which they deny.

There is plenty of research to show the dangerous impact Tate’s influence has on boys. UK police, for example, last year linked Tate to the “quite terrifying” radicalisation of boys and young men in a 2024 report into violence against women and girls, according to a story in the BBC. Research at Monash University in Australia last year found that Tate promotes a “conspiracy-like matrix” that “tells boys they are disempowered by contemporary feminist movements, such as #MeToo, and that they need to reclaim their masculinity”.

According to the teachers interviewed in the research, they noticed that boys would first bring up Tate in classrooms “in a non-combative way” but his ideology was soon used as a “catalyst to challenge the women”.

Students believed Tate when he said he is a victim of the justice system and boys “know exactly the type of polarising figure he is, but they feel safe enough to put him into the classroom as a joke”.

But it is no laughing matter especially as we watch the story unfold in Adolescence. These are not innocent teenagers who will grow up to become misogynists, they are already there. They think they are entitled to women’s bodies and spaces.

I see this play out every day in Pakistan. Numerous men kill innumerable women for rejecting their advances or proposals. Last year,

HRCP reported 346 victims of gender-based violence, which often gets cloaked as ‘honour’ crimes. There is nothing honourable about killing a woman for exercising agency.

Earlier this week, this paper reported on a man in Gujrat who killed his mother using an iron rod for not making him breakfast. She told him she was fasting and wanted to rest and he killed her. Yet most people get angry at that Aurat March placard which said ‘heat your own food’. These placards tell us everything we need to know about society.

This is men’s entitlement, plain and simple. It comes up when actors like Danish Taimoor go on air and remind everyone, including his superstar wife Ayeza Khan seated next to him, about his right to polygamy. He is trying to clarify what he meant after the (rightful) outrage.

Where are the role models our boys clearly need? I suspect women will have to keep dying until someone figures something out to criminalise misogyny once and for all. Adolescence should be a wake-up call for everyone, especially schools who tend to take punitive approaches after an event. They need to realise it’s Andrew Tate today, it will be another ‘manfluencer’ tomorrow and he will be worse.

Parents can start by checking on what their sons are accessing online. What are you teaching them about how to treat others, especially girls? What kind of a role model are you as a father, husband, etc? I’m also looking at mothers who, unfortunately, favour or protect their sons and teach them that entitlement.

All about respect

Anjum Altaf

The thing about respect is that it has to be earned. It cannot be demanded at gunpoint (literally or figuratively) by issuing threats of punishment or by imposing draconian laws mandating respect. When it is so demanded, it is a dead giveaway that the agent or agency involved does not believe it deserves the respect that is being coerced.

At times this charade becomes pathetic as when those who have broken every rule in the book nevertheless evince a desperation to be thanked and respected. One would note that these individuals rarely have the conviction to make such claims on their own. Rather, they surround themselves with flunkies to reassure them repeatedly that they are dressed in finery when everyone else can see that they are actually naked. In such situations, those who pretend to respect them to curry favour forego their own respect.

It is a telling indicator of the way the world is evolving that we see more and more such individuals even in places that used to look down upon ‘disrespectful’ others. Gone are the days when there was value attached to being known for wisdom, piety, talent, intellect, honesty, or empathy.

People were greatly admired and respected for such attributes. All such aspirations have been decimated by the ideological domination of Homo Economicus. Now all that matters is being rich and powerful with no constraints on the means employed to achieve those ends. From the time when dishonest gains came with loss of societal respect we have arrived at a point where

the honest are derided as simpletons even by members of their own families.

Growing up with such trends has been a depressing experience for many. Recall fondly the sight on television screens of smartly dressed young ball boys and ball girls scurrying efficiently across tennis courts. What a contrast it is to see grown-up men (and the occasional woman) grovelling to be allowed to carry balls while mafiosi who barely know how to wield a racket strut around the courts. All that just to occupy seats of dubious power which nevertheless enable the extraction and accumulation of riches.

And yet, despite, or perhaps because of, such compromises, the desire to be respected increases in proportion. And the fulfillment of such guilt-ridden desires inevitably assumes ostentatious forms. Many take recourse to exaggerated displays of piety with repeated visits to sacred sites or of public exhibitions of generosity by feeding the poor whose poverty they have no intention of eliminating. As a result, society becomes increasingly hypocritical with external piety hiding internal dissolution. Illegal deals are transacted below religious edicts adorning the walls. A rosary in hand elicits doubts and suspicions.

All this is folk wisdom today but a social scientist will caution that respect, like most other things, should not be viewed in a binary framework. Individuals have multiple facets and it is more than likely that the respect they merit varies quite markedly along different dimensions. There has been no lack of remarkable individuals with abominable views

on issues like race and gender — just think of the luminaries with virulent antisemitic biases. And who doesn’t know of eminent scholars plagiarising and incredible sportsmen fixing matches while thanking the Almighty for His blessings.

What this means is that one should be nuanced in giving respect where respect is due even if it is grudging because of inconsistencies of character. There are countries that would be well served by having their honchos fired, em-pires slashed, b o o - n - - - d o g g l e s eliminated, cabinets (or wa---r-drobes as some---one very aptly characterised them) trimmed, and bur---aucrats made accountable. Even if all this is done by a serial deviant, it would be a huge service to future generations for which a certain awed respect would be warranted in retrospect.

There is yet another dimension of respect that deserves attention. Human beings are often loath to confer respect on giants to whom they may be opposed for irrelevant reasons — politics, ideology, religion, ethnicity, or just jealousy — while fawning over pygmies in their own camps.

The unbiased acknowledgement of merit with conferring of the respect due requires an openness of mind that is increasingly falling victim to tribalisation, with each tribe retreating into its private echo chamber.

We are living in a world dominated by accumulation in which earned respect is becoming a scarce commodity. Those who demand it are not respectable and those who offer it to them are not honourable. To vie for respect is to be shunned as quixotic.

Governor Kundi presents Civil Awards to seven heroes

PESHAWAR (APP): A grand ceremony was held at the Governor's House Peshawar on Sunday to mark Pakistan Day, where seven individuals from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were honored with prestigious civil awards.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, conferred Presidential Civil Awards on behalf of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Governor presented the Tamgha-e-Shujaat (Medal of Bravery) to four individuals for their extraordinary courage, and the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence) to three individuals for their exceptional contributions in various fields.

Among the recipients, Saeed Khan (posthumously) was awarded the Tamgha-e-Shujaat in recognition of his bravery, Sahib Khan was also honored with the Tamgha-e-Shujaat for his courageous acts. The Governor further awarded the Tamgha-e-

Shujaat posthumously to Major Mahmood Jan and Samiullah Khan for their bravery and sacrifices in the line of duty.

In addition to these awards, Dr. Akifullah Khan was honored with the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for his outstanding services in the field of medicine. Arshad Aziz Malik received the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for his contributions to journalism, while Bakhtiar Ahmed Khattak was recognized for his remarkable work in the field of music.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including Air Vice Marshal, Air Officer Commanding Northern Air Command (Sitara-e-Imtiaz Military) Taimur Iqbal and Secretary of the Administration Department, Shahid Sohail, as well as the family members and relatives of the award recipients.

The event celebrated the contributions and sacrifices made by individuals in various sectors, highlighting their commitment

to the nation and its progress. Meanwhile, on the occasion of Pakistan Day, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the entire nation.

He described March 23 as a "bright chapter" in Pakistan's history, a day that marks the adoption of the Lahore Resolution in 1940, which laid the foundation for the creation of the Islamic State of Pakistan. In his message, Governor Kundi emphasized the significance of Pakistan Day, saying, "March 23 is a day that reminds us of our commitment to safeguarding our freedom. The Lahore Resolution of 1940 established Pakistan, a moment that continues to shape our national identity." He also reflected on the importance of unity and national cohesion, asserting that Pakistan Day is a reminder to "value our freedom" and reaffirm the nation's dedication to progress, peace, and prosperity.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with distinguished personalities conferred prestigious civil awards on behalf of the President of Pakistan, recognizing their outstanding contributions in various fields at the Governor House.

National unity vital for country's stability: Malik

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has said that the country's stability is directly linked to national unity and unwavering resolve, urging the nation to keep the spirit of the Pakistan Movement alive.

He said this while addressing the central ceremony held in connection with Pakistan Day by the District Education Authority at Government Model High School, Kasur here on Sunday.

The event commenced with a flag-hoisting ceremony, where the distinguished guests raised the national flag, followed by a salute presented by a well-disciplined contingent of

police. Students added a patriotic touch to the event by performing national songs and presenting bouquets to the guests.

Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan reaffirming the nation's stance against terrorism, the speaker declared that the malicious intentions of terrorist organizations would be foiled.

He said, "Entire nation stands united with the armed forces to eradicate this menace of terrorism." He further underscored the importance of adopting the principles of Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for national progress and called on the youth to dedicate their struggle towards ensuring a prosperous future for Pakistan.

Arora announces restoration of 46 Gurdwaras under Punjab govt's initiative

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Ramesh Singh Arora, stated that under the guidance of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the restoration project for 46 historic gurdwaras, which were closed after the creation of Pakistan, has officially begun.

He made these remarks during his participation in the ongoing Bhog Sahib Ardas at the 12th Annual Sammagam at Baba Di Beri Sahib Gurdwara.

He mentioned that after reopening of the 70-year-closed Baba Di Beri Sahib Gurdwara, the land of

the Baba's Pond was retrieved from the land mafia and handed over to the local Sikh community, Sangat. This gesture was part of the provincial government's broader efforts to restore and preserve sacred religious sites for the Sikh community. The provincial minister thanked Federal Minister for Defense, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain Langrial for their support in retrieving the sacred Baba Di Beri Sahib Pond from illegal encroachment.



HYDERABAD: Members of Civil Society hold a protest against Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Nation celebrates Pakistan Day with zeal, leaders reaffirm commitment to progress

LAHORE (APP): The nation celebrated Pakistan Day with great enthusiasm on Sunday, marking the anniversary of the historic Lahore Resolution adopted on March 23, 1940 — a milestone that paved the way for the creation of an independent homeland for Muslims of the Subcontinent.

The day began with a 21-gun salute in the provincial capital, followed by a change of guard ceremony at the mausoleum of Allama Iqbal, where the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) assumed duties from the Pakistan

Rangers. In Islamabad, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and senior civil and military leadership attended the Pakistan Day parade at Aiwan-e-Sadr, reaffirming their commitment to the country's sovereignty and progress.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif termed March 23 a defining moment in South Asian history, recalling how visionary Muslim leaders, under the guidance of Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, stood united with

an unwavering resolve to establish a sovereign state where Muslims could live with dignity, freedom, and self-respect. Pakistan is blessed with immense potential. With the right policies, dedicated efforts, and national unity, the country can achieve economic prosperity, uphold social justice, and secure its rightful place on the global stage.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation, paying tribute to the founding leaders and the sacrifices of martyrs.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi confers Presidential Civil Awards to seven personalities of Kyber Pakhtunkhwa province during a ceremony at Governor House.

Governor inaugurates Calligraphy exhibition

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday inaugurated a calligraphy exhibition at Governor House, emphasizing that calligraphy is a shining tradition of Islamic culture and that introducing the younger generation to its beauty and grandeur is essential.

He highlighted that the exhibition reflects Pakistan-Türkiye friendship and commended Pakistani artists for earning global recognition through their creative talents.

The Governor of Sindh congratulated the organizers on the successful

event, stating that the exhibition not only promotes cultural and spiritual heritage but also serves as an excellent platform to inspire young people with the artistic and aesthetic beauty of calligraphy.

The event was attended by Consuls General from Türkiye, Germany, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Oman, along with Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Irfan Somroo, representatives of Yunus Emre Institute, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's central leader Rashid Somroo, Maulana Zia-ur-Rehman, and other prominent religious figures.

Governor Punjab conferred prestigious civil awards to distinguished personalities

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, conferred prestigious civil awards to distinguished personalities on behalf of the President of Pakistan, recognizing their outstanding contributions in various fields. This solemn ceremony took place at the Governor House Lahore on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

According to the details, the recipients of the Sitara-e-Imtiaz awards included the late Colin David, which was received by his widow Professor Rukhsana David, Ms. Salma Awan, Mian Aziz Ahmed (late)

whose award was received by his son Mian Rafiq and senior journalist Salman Ghani, while the recipients of the Presidential Award for Pride of Performance included Hamid Rana, Sheba Arshad, Ms. Fariha Pervaz and Aamir Ashfaq. The recipients of the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz award included Rafiuddin, Ammad Shakeel Butt, Ms. Rabab Sikandar, senior anchor Muzammil Suhawardi, renowned journalists Kamran Shahid, Nasrullah Malik and Muneeb Farooq. The ceremony was attended by government officials and civil society members.



SIALKOT: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora is addressing to media at Gurdwara Baba Di Beri Sahib.

Kh Salman says: Spirit of Pakistan Movement needed for national development

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that Pakistan Day is a golden chapter in the country's history, and even today, the spirit of the Pakistan Movement is needed for the development of the nation.

In his message on Pakistan Day, observed on Sunday, he paid tribute to the elders of the Muslim League who passed the Pakistan Resolution in 1940, stating that the same determination is required today to steer the country towards progress.

"Quaid PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan invincible by the grace of Allah Almighty. Today, we must pass a new resolution against terrorism, corruption, poverty, and unemployment," he stated, urging leaders to set aside personal interests and work collectively for the nation's

development. He also prayed for strength to follow in the footsteps of the great founders of Pakistan.

Highlighting ongoing efforts for public welfare, Salman Rafique said that the journey of serving the people is continuing under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He also praised the policies of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, stating that they saved Pakistan from default. He further announced that Asia's largest Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research is being established in Lahore, along with state-of-the-art Nawaz Sharif Institutes of Cardiology in Lahore and Sargodha. Additionally, efforts are underway to improve government hospitals to ensure better healthcare facilities for the people.

Pakistan will continue to thrive despite challenges: Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that Pakistan will continue to thrive and progress despite the challenges it faces.

Speaking to media persons on the occasion of Pakistan Day at Mazar e Quaid, Chief Minister Shah reflected on the significance of March 23, 1940, when the All-India Muslim League adopted the Pakistan Resolution in Lahore, which laid the foundation for an independent homeland. He was flanked by Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori and cabinet members.

He emphasised that this year, marks the 85th anniversary of the resolution. On this historic occasion, he prayed for Pakistan's progress in line with the vision of its founder and expressed hope that the country would

continue to thrive as an Islamic democratic state.

The chief minister highlighted Sindh's crucial role in creating Pakistan, recalling that on March 3, 1943, the Sindh Assembly was the first to approve the Pakistan Resolution. He stated that the struggle for independence culminated on August 14, 1947, when Pakistan emerged as a sovereign nation founded on Islamic principles.

Reflecting on the challenges facing the country today, Murad Ali Shah stressed the necessity of national unity against terrorism and the need for collective efforts toward economic development. He urged all citizens to contemplate the forces that threaten Pakistan's stability and reinforced that everyone must stand united against any threat to the nation.

The chief minister also mentioned the tragic

events of 1971 and how former prime minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto played a pivotal role in rebuilding and uniting Pakistan.

He noted that the democratic process was disrupted in 1977 when a military dictator overthrew an elected government, leading to what many regard as the darkest period in the country's history.

Commenting on recent terrorist incidents in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, including the attack on the Jaffer Express and incidents in Noshki, Kalat, and Bannu, Murad Ali Shah underscored the importance of national security.

He criticized political elements, who had previously neglected to attend National Security Committee meetings and reiterated that terrorism must be addressed collectively.

CM praises police for killing dacoits

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has commended the Punjab Police for successfully eliminating two dangerous dacoits, including Shah Mir alias Meera Kosh, who were involved in the martyrdom of 12 police officers in Katcha area.

Expressing her appreciation, the CM acknowledged the bravery and dedication of the police force in their fight against crime. She also extended her best wishes to Punjab Police for continued success in their mission to eradicate criminals and ensure peace in the province.

29 dead, 1507 injured in 1290 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least 29 people were killed and 1507 injured in 1290 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 676 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 831 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 856 drivers, 62 underage drivers, 146 pedestrians, and 534 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

Rickshaw driver killed in Police chase on Indus Highway

HYDERABAD (APP): A rickshaw driver hit during a police chase on the Indus Highway in Jamshoro district of a car smuggling counterfeit items succumbed to his wounds in Liaquat University Hospital on Sunday.

The Jamshoro police informed that Ashfaq Asmat Ali Gopang, son of Nazakat Ali Gopang who is a retired employee of the Sindh University, died during treatment in the hospital.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori talking to media persons along with Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah after laying floral wreath on the grave of Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of Pakistan Resolution Day held at Mazar-e-Quaid.

Pakistan shining like a bright star on globe: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that the separate homeland pledged on March 23, 1940, is now shining like a bright star on the world map. In her message on the occasion of the 85th Pakistan Day, observed on Sunday, she emphasised that the Muslim League created Pakistan, and it is the Muslim League that is shaping it. Under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, she said, the Pakistan envisioned by Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal is achieving milestones in development.

"Pakistan Day represents a new vision, new determination, and renewed passion. March 23 reminds us of our identity as a

unique and great nation," she added.

Highlighting Pakistan's strength, she stated that Pakistan is the only nuclear power in the Islamic world, holding a distinct and unparalleled identity. She affirmed that Pakistan was created to progress, and it will continue to do so. Despite internal and external conspiracies, the nation is moving towards prosperity.

Azma Bokhari also paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces for their invaluable services in ensuring national security and defense. She acknowledged the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the homeland, calling them the pride of the nation.



HYDERABAD: President PTI Sindh Haleem Adil Sheikh speaks during an Iftar-Dinner at Latifabad.

CS chair Peshawar's Beautification meeting

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the beautification and development of Peshawar, focusing on enhancing its cultural and historical significance as the face of the province.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including the Director General of the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), representatives from the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) unit of the Planning and Development (P&D) department, and the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) programmed team.

A detailed feasibility study, to be completed within three months, will

assess various aspects of the city's beautification. This includes landscaping, landscaping, urban design, and green spaces to enhance Peshawar's physical appearance.

The plan also includes developing open spaces, parks, and recreational areas for residents while highlighting the city's historic and cultural attractions to boost tourism.

The study will further examine the beautification of entry and exit points, roads, chowks, and roundabouts, along with the development of a waterproof canal, outdoor advertising regulations, traffic and transportation improvements, and infrastructure upgrades. Measures to remove encroachments and enhance underpasses and bridges were also discussed.



GUJRANWALA: Participants are holding a celebration demonstration on the occasion of Pakistan Resolution Day, organized by District Administration and led by Deputy Commissioner.

Economic stability vital for country's future: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that addressing Pakistan's dual challenges of economic stability and climate change requires a strategic, coordinated, and results-oriented approach aligned with "URAAN" Pakistan – National Economic Transformation Plan 2024-2029. In a telephonic conversation with senior trade leader Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday, Prof.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the plan's focus on strengthening industry-academia linkages, modernizing the economy, and promoting environmental sustainability to ensure long-term national prosperity. He stressed that bridging the gap between academia and the private sector was essential for fostering innovation, technological advancement, and skill development, which were key to industrial productivity and global competitiveness. The

planning minister reiterated his ministry's commitment to policy reforms, research incentives, and institutional partnerships to facilitate this collaboration. He also praised Iftikhar Ali Malik's contributions to the business community, acknowledging his pivotal role in driving industrialization and supporting Pakistan's economic and environmental resilience.

He expressed his appreciation for Iftikhar Ali Malik's thoughtful propos-

als, acknowledging his leadership in the business and industrial sectors as a driving force behind Pakistan's journey toward self-reliance. He added that he looked forward to collaborating closely with him and other stakeholders to implement progressive policies that foster national growth and sustainability. Iftikhar Ali Malik thanked Prof. Ahsan Iqbal for his recognition and assured his full support in advancing Pakistan's economic growth, prosperity.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on by Khyber Chamber of Commerce & Industry Loya Jirga delegation at Governor House.

Governor visits Pindi food street

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited the famous food street at Chandni Chowk on Sunday and surprised the locals by having a Sehri meal along with them.

Seeing him among them at earliest morning hours, the people felt much amazed. He mingled with ordinary visitors and took his fasting meal with them. The governor enjoyed Sehri with chicken chana, pai (mutton trotters) nihari, lassi and hot naan (bread).

His presence as an ordinary citizen turned the food street environment into more rejoicing for the people. They enjoyed tak-

ing selfies with the governor. Sardar Saleem distributed Eid gifts among the children, which furthered their entertainment.

"The people of Rawalpindi are also fond of food like the people of Lahore", he said.

He informed them that he loved to visit the streets and neighbourhoods to enjoy sitting among the people.

He said that as governor he would go to every district of Punjab to meet the people and try to solve their problems.

The governor thanked the people of Rawalpindi for extending him great honour.

Shahid Imran calls for establishing warehouses abroad to boost global trade

LAHORE (APP): Convener Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food Shahid Imran stressed the urgent need to establish warehouses in other countries to enhance global trade, optimize supply chains, streamline cross-border logistics, and mitigate risks.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists from South Punjab, led by Zia-ur-Rehman from Multan, here on Sunday, he highlighted the crucial role of warehouses in international trade. He noted that strategically placed warehouses reduce transportation costs, improve order fulfillment times, and enhance competitiveness in local markets by bringing products closer to consumers.

Shahid Imran further explained that international

and domestic warehouses facilitate cross-border trade by ensuring smooth customs processes, including inspections, documentation, and regulatory compliance. Warehouses near ports and border crossings help simplify logistics operations, ensuring uninterrupted trade flows.

He also underscored their importance in mitigating supply chain disruptions, stating that multiple warehouse locations help businesses minimize the impact of unforeseen events such as natural disasters, political instability, or transportation issues. These facilities also provide value-added services like packaging, labeling, and product customization, enabling businesses to adapt to market-specific requirements and improve customer experience.

Governor KP assures to continue cooperation for resolving trade-related issues

Faisal Kundi meets delegation of Pak-Afghan Loya Jirga

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation led by Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi, head of the Pak-Afghan Loya Jirga and patron-in-chief of the Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House Peshawar on Sunday.

During the meeting, the delegation expressed their gratitude to the governor for his sincere and timely efforts in reopening the Torkham border. They highlighted that the prolonged closure of the bor-

der had severely impacted traders, industrialists, and the general public, with approximately 6,000 cargo vehicles stuck on both sides for 25 days, leading to significant financial losses.

Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi briefed the governor on the successful negotiations, emphasizing that the closure not only harmed businesses but also resulted in billions of rupees in losses to the national exchequer. He appreciated the collaborative efforts that led to the resolution of the issue. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi acknowledged the

importance of reopening the border, particularly in light of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations. He commended the collective efforts of Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi and his team, stating that such joint initiatives are essential for addressing similar issues in the future. The governor assured the delegation of continued cooperation for resolving business and trade-related concerns. The delegation included tribal elders from merged districts and representatives from the Khyber Chamber of Commerce.



HYDERABAD: Members of Lower Sindh Rice Mills Association hold a protest against construction of six new canals on River Indus outside HPC.

Magsi emphasizes science and technology for national progress on Pakistan Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi, has highlighted the significance of innovation, education, and research in shaping Pakistan's future, reaffirming the government's commitment to technological advancement and national progress.

In his Pakistan Day message, Minister Magsi paid tribute to the sacrifices of the nation's forefathers, who laid the foundation of Pakistan with the passage of the historic Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940.

"It was their unwavering determination and

unity that turned the dream of Pakistan into reality. Their struggle reminds us that great nations are built on resilience, hard work, and an unshakable belief in a better future," he said.

The minister underscored the importance of equipping the youth with modern skills to compete in the global arena.

"A strong, self-reliant nation is built on education, research, and scientific advancement. In line with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision of a progressive Pakistan, we are committed to uplifting underdeveloped areas by ensuring access to technological

and other opportunities," he added.

He urged the nation to reaffirm its commitment to unity and progress, emphasizing that Pakistan's strength lies in collective efforts toward prosperity. "On this Pakistan Day, let us pledge to work together for a prosperous, united, and progressive Pakistan. Our future depends on the choices we make today," he concluded.

Pakistan Day commemorates the resolution that paved the way for the country's independence, serving as a reminder of the nation's enduring commitment to growth and development.

Mango bloom marks start of season, ACS visits MRI

MULTAN (APP): With the arrival of spring, the mango orchards of South Punjab — known for their unmatched sweetness — have begun to bloom with the fragrant scent of budding fruit. To review progress on mango production, exports, and research, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, paid a visit to the Mango Research Institute (MRI) in Multan.

During the visit, the ACS inspected the high-density experimental farm, mango nursery, and the post-harvest laboratory. He was accompanied by Special Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Sarfraz Khan Magsi, Principal Scientist Dr. Asif-ur-Rehman, Direc-

tor Cotton Research Center Dr. Ghulam Sarwar, and Director Agriculture Extension Shehzad Sabir.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rabbani remarked that South Punjab's mangoes have become Pakistan's identity in international markets. "Mangoes from this region are unmatched in flavor and sweetness globally," he said. "They are more than just a fruit — they are a symbol of culture, tradition, and love."

He stressed the need to enhance mango exports to ensure economic prosperity for orchard owners.

"Value addition in mango production must be a priority to access high-end markets," he emphasized.

Non duty paid cigarettes seized

SARGODHA (APP): Inland Revenue Enforcement Network (IREN) squad of the Regional Tax Office, Sargodha, conducted a major crackdown on the illegal cigarette trade under the special directives of Chief Commissioner Mr. Faridullah Jan.

The operation, led by Deputy Commissioner Inland Revenue Ali Saleh Hayat Kialar, targeted various areas, including Bhalwal and Kotmomin, resulting in the seizure of non-tax paid cigarettes worth Rs. 100 million.

According to sources, this was the largest single-day seizure by the IREN Squad in Sargodha, underscoring the authorities' firm commitment to enforcing tax laws and curbing illicit trade.

Officials emphasized that the sale of non-taxed cigarettes causes significant revenue losses to the national exchequer and warned traders and distributors to comply with tax regulations.

Chief Commissioner Mr. Faridullah Jan reiterated that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in the illegal cigarette trade.

Inland Revenue officials also reaffirmed their commitment to intensifying efforts against tax evasion in the tobacco sector.

The public has been urged to report illegal cigarette sales to the relevant authorities to help safeguard the country's economy and ensure fair market practices.

17 Shopkeepers fined for overpricing in Ramzan

NAWABSHAH (APP): Under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shehryar Gul Memon, the revenue officers continued their crackdown on profiteers for the 22nd consecutive day.

Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtarkars from all the four tehsils in sudden raids inspected various markets to monitor the prices of essential commodities.

During the inspection, fines amounting to Rs. 11,900 were imposed on 17 shopkeepers and vendors on the charges of selling groceries, vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, and other essential goods at inflated prices.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displays traditional Peshawari sandals to attract the customers at his roadside setup.

Saif-ur-Rehman says: Peace, stability vital for economic growth

LAHORE (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Coordinator Saif-ur-Rehman emphasized that peace and stability are essential pillars for economic growth and national prosperity.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that the entire business community stands united with the armed forces in their efforts to combat the wave of terrorism with an iron hand. The business community fully supports all measures taken by security forces to eliminate terrorism and ensure a safe environment for investment and trade.

The coordinator expressed confidence in the capability of Pakistan's valiant armed forces and law enforcement agencies to counter any threat to national security.

He urged all segments of society to play their role

in promoting harmony and resisting elements that seek to destabilize the country. He also highlighted the economic losses caused by terrorism and stressed the need for collective efforts to restore investor confidence.

Saif-ur-Rehman reiterated that the business community has always supported national security institutions and will continue to do so, ensuring that Pakistan moves forward on the path of progress. He called for unity and resilience in the face of challenges, reaffirming unwavering support for the country's defenders. He warned that terrorism not only endangers lives of unarmed innocent citizens but also undermines South Asia's economic potential, urging regional stakeholders to adopt a cohesive approach against militancy.



RAWALPINDI: Large numbers of people visiting the Bank Road Sadar as the Eid ul-Fitr shopping start accelerate.

Sino-COMSTech collaboration expands scientific ties with China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech) has further strengthened its scientific, technological, and health collaborations with China, reinforcing international cooperation in these fields.

During a ceremony at the COMSTech Secretariat in Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, emphasized the growing partnership

between COMSTech and China in advancing science and technology.

He lauded Prof. Dr. Xinmin Liu, a distinguished Chinese scientist, for his 25 years of contributions to Sino-Pakistan scientific collaboration.

Dr. Liu has played a key role in training Pakistani researchers and establishing the Pakistan Centre for Traditional Medicine. In recognition of his contributions, he has been awarded Tamgha-e-Quaid-e-Azam, one of Pakistan's highest civilian honors for foreign nationals.

Formal campaign being conducted to promote early cotton sowing

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo has said that for the first time in Punjab a formal campaign is being conducted to promote early cotton sowing.

He presided over the review meeting on the target for early cotton sowing here on Sunday. Punjab Agriculture (Extension) DG Chaudhry Abdul Hameed briefed the meeting on the progress of early cotton sowing.

The secretary said that with the grace of the Allah Almighty, target to achieve early sowing of cotton on one million acres would be achieved. He further announced that financial assistance would be provided to farmers who would complete early cotton sowing by March 31. Under this initiative, farmers cultivating early cotton on five acres or more would receive cash assistance of Rs 25,000.

HCSTSI members urged to ensure timely renewal of Membership

HYDERABAD (APP): The Secretary General of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) has announced that HCSTSI is the only officially registered and licensed chamber in Hyderabad under the Ministry of Commerce and the Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO).

He stated that the membership for the year 2024-2025 is set to expire on March 31, 2025.

As per the Trade Organizations Act 2013 and in accordance with Clause No. 9(A) of the Chamber's Memorandum & Articles of Association, it is mandatory for all members to renew their membership by March 31, 2025.

A large number of esteemed members have already completed their membership renewal.

However, those who have not yet submitted their renewal fees are urged to complete the process before the deadline of March 31, 2025.

The renewal requires the payment of the prescribed fee along with a copy of the Income Tax Return for the year 2024.



LAHORE: A worker prepares hand-made stools at his workplace.

Aamir Ibrahim conferred Hilal-e-Imtiaz for advancing Digital, Financial Inclusion

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a landmark recognition of his contributions to Pakistan's digital and financial landscape, Aamir Hafeez Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz and Chairman of Mobilink Bank, has been conferred with the Hilal-e-Imtiaz, one of the nation's highest civilian honors, by the President of Pakistan.

This honor celebrates his visionary leadership in promoting digital inclusion, financial empowerment, and national resilience. Under his guidance, Jazz has evolved from a telecom company into the country's leading digital operator, serving over 100 million Pakistanis and expanding access to fast, reliable mobile broadband across the country, according to a company news release. Through Mobilink

Bank and JazzCash—now Pakistan's leading digital wallet with over 48 million registered users—Aamir has championed the cause of financial inclusion at scale, ensuring that women, youth, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have the tools and access they need to thrive in today's economy. By digitizing everyday transactions and enabling participation in the formal financial system, these efforts are powering Pakistan's transition toward a cashless, digitally empowered economy. Beyond access, Aamir has played a key role in addressing Pakistan's industry-academia gap, enabling future generations to gain the digital skills and exposure needed for sustainable economic participation.



LAHORE: People are busy in Eid shopping ahead of Eid-ul-Fitar during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, at Anarkali Bazar in Lahore.

Chinese premier calls for 'dialogue' as US senator visits Beijing

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China's number two leader on Sunday called for "dialogue" with Washington, during a meeting in Beijing attended by prominent US business executives and a key congressional ally of President Donald Trump.

Relations between the world's two largest economies have plunged in recent weeks, as blanket tariffs imposed by Trump threaten China's trade prospects.

Premier Li Qiang's comments came during a meeting with Trump supporter Steve Daines, a Republican senator from Montana.

His visit has been viewed as a bid to ease strained relations, with an eye toward setting up a summit between Trump and Chinese President Xi

Jinping.

"Our two sides need to choose dialogue over confrontation, win-win co-operation over zero-sum competition," Li told Daines.

CEOs of major firms including FedEx, Pfizer and Qualcomm were also present.

Li said he hoped Washington would "work together with China to promote the steady, sound and sustainable development" of relations.

Earlier on Sunday, Li told the China Development Forum that Beijing would pursue economic globalisation despite "fragmentation", a thinly veiled reference to trade turmoil sparked by Trump.

Chinese leaders have been attempting to steer a shaky economy onto a more stable path since the

end of the pandemic, particularly by boosting consumption.

They are seeking to position the country as a defender of the multilateral economic system, as Trump wages tariff wars with major US trading partners including China, Canada and Mexico.

"China will firmly stand on the correct side of history, that of fairness and justice, and act in a righteous manner amid the rough waters of the times," Li said at the annual forum, attended by business leaders including Apple CEO Tim Cook.

Beijing will "adhere to the correct direction of economic globalisation, practice true multilateralism and strive to be a force for stability and certainty", Li said.



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets US Senator Steve Daines in the Fujian Room at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Istanbul court formally arrests mayor in graft probe amid protests

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: A Turkish court formally placed Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu under arrest as part of a graft investigation on Sunday, after a fourth night of mass protests sparked heavy clashes with riot police. The decision was confirmed by one of Imamoglu's lawyers, with the court also due to rule in a second "terror-related" probe into the popular opposition CHP party on X, denouncing it as "a political coup d'etat".

The move against him sparked protests in Istanbul that have since spread to more than 55 of Turkey's 81 provinces, unleashing running battles with police, who arrested 323 people overnight, officials said.

The news came as voters cast their ballots in a

CHP primary to name Imamoglu the party's candidate for the 2028 presidential race. The long-planned vote was the event which triggered the arrest of Imamoglu, who is widely seen as the only politician capable of challenging President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He was detained in connection with two probes alleging graft and "aiding a terror organisation" — accusations which he on Saturday told police were "immoral and baseless".

The move against him sparked protests in Istanbul that have since spread to more than 55 of Turkey's 81 provinces, unleashing running battles with police, who arrested 323 people overnight, officials said.

Venezuela agrees to again accept US deportation flights

Monitoring Desk

CARACAS: Venezuela announced Saturday it had reached an agreement with Washington to accept additional deportation flights from the United States, one week after more than 200 Venezuelans accused of being gang members were sent to El Salvador.

The flights were suspended last month when US President Donald Trump claimed Venezuela had not lived up to its promises, and Caracas subsequently said it would no longer accept the flights.

But then Washington deported 238 Venezuelans accused of belonging to the Tren de Aragua gang, which Trump has designated a foreign terrorist organization, to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador, a move deeply criticized by Caracas.

"In order to ensure the return of our countrymen with the protection of

their human rights, we have agreed with the US government to resume the repatriation of Venezuelan migrants with a first flight tomorrow," Venezuelan top negotiator Jorge Rodriguez said in a statement.

"Migrating is not a crime, and we will not rest until all those who want to return are home, and until we rescue our brothers kidnapped in El Salvador," said Rodriguez, who is also the president of Venezuela's National Assembly.

Sunday's trip will be the fifth flight of migrants arriving in Venezuela since Trump took office in January. Since February, about 900 Venezuelans have been repatriated, most from the United States and some from Mexico.

Last month, Trump revoked permission for oil giant Chevron to operate in Venezuela — a blow to Caracas's wobbly economy.

UK PM Starmer says Trump has a point on European defense commitment

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said US President Donald Trump has a point that European countries must bear a greater burden for their collective self-defense, the New York Times said on Sunday.

"We need to think about defense and security in a more immediate way," he told the newspaper in an interview.

Starmer is trying to assemble a multinational military force that he calls a coalition of the willing to keep Ukraine's skies, ports and borders secure after any peace settlement, the report said.

On Trump, Starmer said, "On a person-to-person basis, I think we have a good relationship."

Wildfires force mandatory evacuation order in western North Carolina

Monitoring Desk

CAROLINA: Wildfires in North Carolina have forced an evacuation in one county as emergency crews work to bring the flames under control in an area of the state still recovering from Hurricane Helene.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety announced a mandatory evacuation starting at 8:20 p.m.

Saturday for parts of Polk County in western North Carolina about 80 miles (128.7 kilometers) west of Charlotte.

"Visibility in area will be reduced and roads/evacuation routes can become blocked; if you do not leave now, you could be trapped, injured, or killed," a social media post by the agency warned residents of specific roads.



Palestinians gather at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Afghan Taliban say US has lifted \$10m reward for information on Sirajuddin Haqqani

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: The United States has lifted a \$10 million reward offer for information leading to the arrest of a major Taliban leader, Sirajuddin Haqqani, an Afghan interior ministry spokesperson said on Saturday. Sirajuddin was wanted by America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for questioning, with the US offering the \$10m reward.

He heads his own group called the Haqqani network, which has been designated a terror outfit by the US for carrying out several major attacks on foreign and Afghan forces during the 20-year-long war in

Afghanistan. However, the Taliban insist that there is no separate faction within the group. The US State Department did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment. The FBI still lists the reward on its website, saying Haqqani was "believed to have co-ordinated and participated in cross-border attacks against United States and coalition forces in Afghanistan". This development comes after the Taliban on Thursday freed an American citizen detained in Afghanistan for over two years following direct talks between US hostage envoy Adam Boehler and Taliban officials in Kabul.

Iran unveils missile systems on strategic Gulf islands

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards have unveiled new missile systems on three strategic islands in the Gulf, saying they can target nearby "enemy bases, vessels, and assets", state media reported on Saturday.

The weapons were deployed on Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa near the Strait of Hormuz, a globally vital shipping lane.

The Guards recently held military manoeuvres in

the area. Saturday's announcement comes with Iran poised to respond to a letter from US President Donald Trump urging a resumption of nuclear talks and warning of possible military action if Iran refuses.

"We have a tactic that we must arm" the island group "and make it operative", said Alireza Tangsiri, naval commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological branch of Iran's military.



US official Adam Boehler and former US envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad attending a meeting with Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Kabul.

Under threat from Trump, Canada set to hold snap elections

Monitoring Desk

OTTAWA: Canada's new prime minister Mark Carney is expected to announce snap elections on Sunday, seeking a stronger mandate as his country fights off a trade war and annexation threats from Donald Trump's United States. The former central banker was chosen by the centrist Liberal Party to replace Justin Trudeau as prime minister, but he has never faced the broader Canadian electorate.

That will change on April 28, if, as expected, Carney announces he is bringing parliamentary elections forward several months from October. Government sources told AFP that he would announce the decision at 12:30pm in Canada (4:30pm GMT) (9:30pm in Pakistan time) in a speech to Canada's 41-million-strong nation. In power for a decade, the Liberal government had slid into deep unpopularity, but Carney will be hoping to ride a wave of Canadian patriotism to a new majority — thanks to Trump's threats.

Appeal of Vietnam death row tycoon to begin in separate case

Monitoring Desk

HANOI: The appeal of a Vietnamese property tycoon convicted of money laundering will begin next week, state media said on Saturday, three months after losing her appeal against the death penalty in a separate case.

Property developer Truong My Lan was found guilty of swindling money from Saigon Commercial Bank (SCB) in April 2024 and sentenced to death for fraud totalling \$27 billion.

Lan appealed that verdict, and the court determined there was no basis to reduce her sentence, but said she could still escape

the death penalty if she returned three quarters of the stolen assets.

Now, she is appealing the verdict from a second trial in October, in which she was sentenced to life in prison for three crimes.

The appeal is scheduled to begin on Tuesday and last until April 21, and Lan will be defended by eight lawyers, state-run news site VNExpress said Saturday. The 68-year-old was found guilty of laundering \$17.7 billion and illegal cross-border trafficking of \$4.5 billion.

She was also found guilty of bond fraud to the tune of \$1.2 billion.

Putin not a 'bad guy', Trump envoy says

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: White House envoy Steve Witkoff has praised Vladimir Putin in glowing terms as trustworthy and said the Russian leader told him he had prayed for his "friend" US President Donald Trump when he was shot.

Witkoff met with Putin over multiple hours last week in Moscow and told US media the talks — which involved discussions about forging a path towards ending Russia's war in Ukraine — were constructive and "solution-based." In an interview with right-wing podcast host Tucker Carlson, the envoy said he has come to regard Putin as not a "bad guy," and that the Russian president was a "great" leader seeking to end Moscow's deadly three-year conflict with Kyiv.

"I liked him. I thought he was straight up with me," Witkoff said in the interview aired on Friday. "I don't regard Putin as a bad guy. That is a complicated situation, that war, and all the ingredients that led up to it." He also described a "personal" element of the discussion in which Putin recalled his reaction to the assassination attempt on Trump in July 2024 as the Republican held a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Putin "told me a story... about how when the president was shot, he went to his local church and met with his priest and prayed for the president," Witkoff said.

Israeli airstrike kills Hamas political leader in southern Gaza, Hamas says

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: An Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza killed Hamas political leader Salah al-Bardawee on Sunday, officials of the militant group said, as residents reported an escalation in Israel's six-day-old military campaign. The group said the airstrike on Khan Younis killed Bardawee, a member of the Palestinian group's political office, and his wife. Israeli officials had no immediate comment.

After two months of relative calm in the war that began more than 17 months ago, Gazans were again fleeing for their lives after Israel effectively abandoned a ceasefire, launching a new all-out air and ground campaign on Tuesday against Hamas. Explosions echoed throughout the north, central and southern Gaza Strip early on Sunday, as Israeli

planes hit several targets in those areas in what witnesses said was an escalation of the attack that began on Tuesday. At least 30 Palestinians had been killed in Israeli strikes on Rafah and Khan Younis so far on Sunday, health authorities said. Those killed included three municipal employees, medics said. In a statement, Hamas described Bardawee's death as an "assassination." "His blood, that of his wife and martyrs, will remain fuelling the battle of liberation and independence," said the group.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee issued an evacuation warning on X for residents in the Tel Al-Sultan neighbourhood in western Rafah in the south of the strip, saying the military was launching an onslaught there to eradicate "terrorist organizations".

Russian drone attack on Kyiv kills two, injures several, Ukrainian officials say

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: A Russian drone attack on Kyiv killed at least two people and injured several, sparking fires in high-rise apartment buildings and throughout the capital, Ukrainian officials said early on Sunday.

"A massive enemy drone attack on Kyiv," Mayor Vitali Klitschko posted on the Telegram messaging app.

The scale of the overnight attack was not immediately clear. Reuters witnesses heard several blasts in what sounded like air defense systems in operation. The state emergency service posted photos showing firefighters fighting blazes at night, including high in an apartment building.

A woman died after drone debris sparked a fire in a high-rise residential building in Dniprovsykyi

district, the emergency service said on Telegram, while at least 27 people were evacuated from the building.

Another person died in the Holosivskyi district, the service said.

The United States is pushing for a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia, and hoping to agree on a partial ceasefire that would halt strikes on energy infrastructure. But both sides have been reporting continued strikes.

At least seven people were injured throughout Kyiv and emergency services were dispatched to several districts of the city where fires were reported, Klitschko said.

Two were injured and several houses damaged in the region surrounding the capital, regional Governor Mykola Kalashnik said on Telegram.

Trump targets lawyers in immigration cases, lawsuits against administration

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Legal advocacy groups sounded alarms on Saturday after US President Donald Trump threatened new actions against lawyers and law firms that bring immigration lawsuits and other cases against the government that he deems unethical.

In a memorandum to US Attorney General Pam Bondi late on Friday, Trump said lawyers were helping to fuel "rampant fraud and meritless claims" in the immigration system, and directed the Justice Department to seek sanctions against attorneys for professional misconduct. The order also took aim at law firms that sue the administration in what Trump, a Republican, called "baseless partisan" lawsuits. He asked Bondi to refer such firms to the White House to be stripped of security clearances, and for federal contracts they worked on to be

terminated. Ben Wizner, a senior lawyer at the American Civil Liberties Union, said the new directive sought to "chill and intimidate" lawyers who challenge the president's agenda. Trump has separately mounted attacks on law firms over their internal diversity policies and their ties to his political adversaries. "Courts have been the only institution so far that have stood up to Trump's onslaught," Wizner said. "Courts can't play that role without lawyers bringing cases in front of them." The ACLU is involved in litigation against the administration over immigrant deportations, including the expulsion of alleged Venezuelan gang members. The Trump administration has been hit with more than 100 lawsuits challenging White House actions on immigration, transgender rights and other issues since the start of the president's second term.

Congo M23 rebels say they will withdraw from seized town to support peace push

Monitoring Desk

CONGO: Rwanda-backed M23 rebels staging an offensive in east Congo said on Saturday they would withdraw forces from the seized town of Walikale in support of peace efforts, having previously said they were leaving troops there as they pushed on to the capital.

The government said it hoped the move would be translated into concrete action, after M23 this week pulled out of planned talks with Congolese authorities at the last minute due to EU sanctions on some of its leaders and Rwandan officials. It would have been their first direct engagement with Congo's government

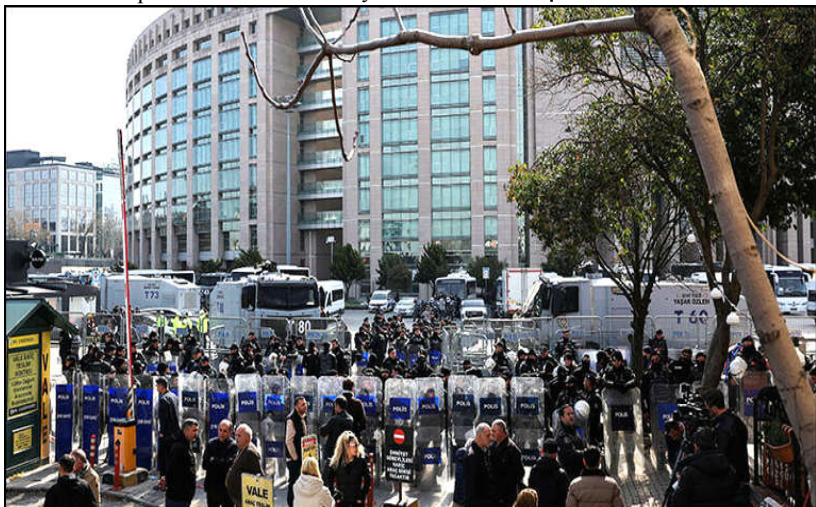
cism by army officers. A senior member of the alliance who did not wish to be named said repositioning meant withdrawing to "give peace a chance." The source declined to say where M23 rebels would withdraw to.

"We are asking for Walikale and surroundings to remain demilitarised," the source said. "If the FARC (Congo's army) and their allies come back, this means they want to relaunch hostilities."

Foreign Affairs Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner told reporters: "We are going to see whether M23 will withdraw from Walikale and whether M23 will give priority to dialogue and peace... So we hope that this will be translated into concrete action."

Congo's army did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

An army officer said he was skeptical about the announced withdrawal. Another officer said M23 was advancing toward Mubi, another town in the area, after the army and pro-government militia bombed Walikale's airport and cut off some of M23's road access.



Supporters of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu gather in front of police officers holding riot shields, on the day Imamoglu was jailed as a part of a corruption investigation, in front of the Istanbul Justice Palace, known as Caglayan Courthouse, in Istanbul, Turkey.



President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the awards of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz during the investiture ceremony to confer the insignias of civil awards, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

CM extends Pakistan Day greetings to nation State is taking all possible measures to address challenges currently faced by country

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has extended Pakistan Day greetings to the nation, stating that March 23rd reminds us of resolve, unity, and sacrifices for the protection of the country. In his message on Pakistan Day, Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the nation, emphasizing that March 23rd symbolizes determination, unity, and the sacrifices that led to the creation of Pakistan.

He highlighted that this day serves as a reminder of the nation's journey towards independence and the shared commitment to its future. The Chief Minister emphasized that the state is taking all possible measures to address the challenges currently faced by the country.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti also

assured that the nation will thwart the malicious intentions of enemies. "We will crush the nefarious designs of hostile elements and safeguard the integrity of our beloved homeland," he added. Reflecting on the core values of the nation, Bugti noted that Pakistan Day teaches the people of the country the significance of unity, sacrifice, and patriotism. "On this important day, we must renew our pledge to offer every sacrifice necessary for the security and progress of our country," he said.

The Chief Minister firmly declared that there is no place for terrorists and their facilitators in Balochistan. He praised the people of Balochistan for their unwavering support in the fight against terrorism. "The people of Balochistan have always stood by the state in its war against ter-

rorism, and their sacrifices are invaluable," he stated.

Bugti reassured that the sacrifices made by the security forces and citizens will not go in vain. "The bravery and dedication of our security forces, along with the support of the public, will ensure that peace prevails," he affirmed. The Chief Minister reminded every citizen of Pakistan that each individual has a crucial role to play in the survival and prosperity of the nation. "For the survival and development of Pakistan, every citizen must contribute towards the collective goal of peace, security, and progress," he concluded.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti's remarks on Pakistan Day highlight the ongoing commitment of both the government and the people of Balochistan to uphold the values of unity, sacrifice,



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Asim Kurd Gallo and Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran meeting with acting Governor Balochistan Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Sanjrani emphasizes need for national unity, brotherhood, tolerance to address challenges

D A L B A N D I N (Online): Former Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Chagai, Mir Sadiq Khan Sanjrani, highlighted the significance of Pakistan Resolution Day, stating that March 23, 1940, marked a milestone in the nation's history. He emphasized that it was the day when the Muslims of the subcontinent declared their determination to establish an independent and sovereign state.

He further stated that the Pakistan Resolution was not just a demand but the first step toward realizing a dream that materialized on August 14, 1947, under the leadership of Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This day serves as a reminder of the unparalleled sacrifices, struggles, and

unity of our forefathers, who selflessly fought to gift us an independent homeland.

Mir Sadiq Khan Sanjrani urged the nation to honor these sacrifices by contributing to the country's progress, prosperity, and stability. He emphasized the need for national unity, brotherhood, and tolerance to address Pakistan's challenges. Strengthening institutions, ensuring the rule of law, and advancing education and research are essential to transforming Pakistan into a modern and prosperous state.

He extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire nation on Pakistan Day and prayed for the country's continued peace, prosperity, and stability, urging everyone to work diligently for its development.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti offering Fataha on sad demise of senior leader of JUI Hafiz Hussain Ahmed. Provincial Ministers and MPAs are also present.

Kohyar Domki highlights significance of March 23 for national solidarity

B A K H T I A R A B A D (Online): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) and Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Sardar Kohyar Khan Domki, emphasized that Pakistan Day is a day of renewal, national unity, and reaffirmation of commitment.

He stated that the freedom of the motherland was achieved through the unparalleled sacrifices of our forefathers, who stood together in their struggle and turned the dream of an independent and sovereign nation into reality.

Highlighting the importance of national days, he said that living nations not only remember the sacrifices and struggles of their ancestors but also pass this sacred legacy on to future generations. Observing such occasions serves as a

pledge of loyalty to the homeland and a renewal of national unity and patriotism. It also aims to educate the younger generation about the sacrifices, struggles, and great achievements of their predecessors, fostering a sense of patriotism and national awareness.

On this historic and joyous occasion, Sardar Kohyar Khan Domki paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, security forces, and the martyrs who made unmatched sacrifices for the country's independence, defense, and stability. He also acknowledged the invaluable sacrifices made by the Pakistan Army, security forces, and law enforcement agencies for the restoration of peace in Balochistan, which has paved the way for a peaceful and progressive province.

PAF contingent takes charge of guard duties at Mazar-e-Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Day was celebrated with traditional zeal and fervour at all Pakistan Air Force (PAF) bases and installations across the country on Sunday.

According to a spokesperson of PAF, the day-long celebrations started with special prayers after Fajr for the solidarity, progress and prosperity of Pakistan and the Muslim World.

To commemorate this auspicious day in a befitting manner, a Guard Mounting and Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the Mausoleum of great poet and philosopher Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

A smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force took over guard duties from Satluj Rangers.

Air Vice Marshal Akhtar Imran Saddozai, Air Officer Commanding, PAF Airmen Academy, Korangi Creek laid a floral wreath and offered Fataha at the grave of Allama Iqbal on behalf of Chief of the Air Staff, Officers, Airmen and Civilians of Pakistan Air Force.

Khalid Baath stresses for unity to build prosperous Pakistan

QUETTA (APP): The Chairman of Kisan Ittehad Khalid Hussain Baath stressed for the unity to build Pakistan a prosperous and peaceful country.

He urged all the stakeholders to prioritize national interests and set aside personal and political differences for the sake of the country and play their positive role for the development of the country.

Leading a Pakistan Day rally, he extended warm greetings to the nation and emphasized the importance of unity among all political stakeholders to ensure peace and security in the country.

Khalid Hussain Baath highlighted the historic Lahore Resolution of March 23, 1940, which laid the foundation for an independent homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman Kisan Ittehad Khalid Hussain Baath emphasized that March 23 is not only a day to reminisce about the past but also a day to recall the vision of Allama Iqbal and the sacrifices of our forefathers.

Pak Day symbolizes unity, resolve for progress: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Sunday said that March 23 holds immense significance in Pakistan's national history, marking the day when the Muslims of the subcontinent united with a resolute pledge to establish an independent and sovereign state. In his message on Pakistan Day, he said the Pakistan Resolution, passed on March 23, 1940, galvanized the Muslims of the subcontinent toward a common goal.

"This historic day serves as a reminder of our collective commitment to make every possible effort for the development, prosperity, and stability of our beloved country," he remarked.

Embassies celebrate Pak Day across the world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's embassies and high commissions in different parts of the world celebrated Pakistan Day with traditional zeal and fervour.

The day began with graceful flag hoisting ceremonies in embassies and high commissions in Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Egypt, South Africa, France, Afghanistan, Norway, Iran and at other places.

On this occasion, messages of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar were read out. In Malaysia, High Commissioner Syed Ahsan Raza Shah paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the nation's forefathers in the struggle for Pakistan's independence. He honored the legacy of the founding father, Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and emphasized that the day served to reinvigorate the spirit of the nation.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan Ahmed Farooq in his remarks paid profound tribute to the founding fathers of Pakistan whose services and sacrifices led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the South Asian Sub-continent.

In Cairo, Charge d' Affaires Dr. Raza Shahid met with the Chamberlain of the Presidency and delivered a congratulatory message from Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of Egypt on the National Day of Pakistan. In South Africa, Acting High Commissioner Fahad Amjad highlighted the significance of this historic day in the history of the Muslims of the subcontinent. Faraz Zaidi, Charge d' Affaires in Brussels reflected on the enduring importance of the Lahore Resolution of 1940.



QUETTA: Participants are holding are holding celebration demonstration on the occasion of Pakistan Resolution Day, organized by District Administration and led by Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, held in Quetta.

Dr. Rubaba honored with Presidential Award 'Sitara-e-Imtiaz'

QUETTA (APP): Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, a distinguished parliamentarian from Balochistan, has been awarded the prestigious Presidential Award 'Sitara-e-Imtiaz' in recognition of her outstanding contributions to public service. In a grand ceremony held at the Governor House in Quetta, the award was received on her behalf by her brother, Mir Asadullah Khan Buledi. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi hails from the esteemed Buledi tribe of Balochistan and is a renowned politician, medical expert, and social activist. She currently serves as the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for the Women Development Department, actively working for women's empowerment and development.

She was conferred this honor for her remarkable services in Balochistan Healthcare Commission, Balochistan Mental Health Bill, contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and her extensive efforts in women's welfare. Throughout her career, she has also made significant contributions to the Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department, the Health Department, and the Science & Information Technology Department.

As the Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has played a pivotal role in mobilizing female parliamentarians on human rights legislation, advocating for women's protection, equal rights, and progressive policymaking. She has worked extensively on the mental health and welfare of prisoners, particularly female inmates in Balochistan's jails, and has spearheaded hepatitis vaccination programs in correctional facilities. Apart from being a successful politician, Dr. Rubaba Buledi is a highly qualified medical professional with multiple degrees in MBBS.



QUETTA: Central Chairman Kissan Ittehad leading a rally in connection with Pakistan Day.

China-Pak strategic cooperation to further enhance mutual benefits: Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong on Sunday said that strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan will further boost the mutual benefits.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the "Esthetic Bridge" exhibition at Silkroad Culture Center, the ambassador said, "We are ready to work with Pakistan to implement this important initiative, appreciating the beauty of each other and sharing it together, to promote the exchange and mutual learning of Chinese and Islamic civilizations."

He said President Xi Jinping attaches great importance and actively advocated for exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, proposing the global civilization initiative to make the world's garden of civilizations flourish with color and vitality, reflecting a profound sense of care and responsibility for the

whole world.

He said, "Today is Pakistan's National Day, and we extend our warmest congratulations to our Pakistani brothers and sisters." He said, "We stand firmly together, continuing and passing down the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan."

Jiang Zaidong said on this day, the resolution to establish an independent Muslim country was adopted, marking the beginning of the Pakistani people's great journey towards development and prosperity. He said, "Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan in 1951, we have always stood together and supported each other through thick and thin."

He added from then, Pakistan was the first Islamic country to recognize the People's Republic of China. In 1966, China helped Pakistan build the Karakoram Highway, hailed as the "Eighth Won-

der of the World".

Jiang Zaidong said that during the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, China witnessed the touching story of Pakistan's all-out assistance with tents. In 2010 and 2022, Pakistan received full support from all sectors of Chinese society in fighting floods.

The traditional friendship between China and Pakistan has been continuously consolidated and elevated as we move forward together. "This ironclad friendship has taken root, flourished, and will surely be passed down through generations and remain steady and enduring," Zaidong said currently, the Pakistani government is advancing its reform agenda in full force, stabilizing and improving the economy, achieving growth in both exports and investments, reaching new highs in foreign reserves and remittances, with an expected GDP growth of more than 3%.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessing the Pakistan Day parade ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ambassador Munir holds farewell reception

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan's outgoing Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, gave a largely attended farewell reception at his official residence.

Heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations, senior UN officials, prominent citizens and senior journalists attended the event.

Ambassador Akram, a well known figure at the UN, will be replaced by Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad as permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN

CM Bugti condoles death of Hafiz Hussain Ahmed

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited the Jamia Matlaul Uloom, Brewery Road here on Sunday evening.

During the visit, Chief Minister condoled death of the senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and former parliamentarian, Hafiz Hussain Ahmed with his family members and others.

He offered fatha for the departed soul praying that May Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family members to bear the

loss of his death.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti on the occasion also paid rich tributes to Hafiz Hussain Ahmed on his remarkable services in the field of politics and promotion of religious education.

He said that the political, social and religious services of Hafiz Hussain Ahmed are unforgettable. He said that late Hafiz Hussain Ahmed was the advocate of unity and supporter of democratic values. He also said that the country is deprived of an acclaimed religious leader and a visionary politician with death of Hafiz Hussain Ahmed.

Govt committed to national security and regional stability: Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik on Sunday has reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's national security and promoting regional stability.

Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized that the government is actively engaging with neighboring country to address mutual concerns and maintain peace.

Barrister Aqeel highlighted the government's clear stance on protecting

Pakistan's sovereignty. "We have repeatedly conveyed to Afghan authorities that their land is being used for attacks against Pakistan. He reiterated the government's decision to repatriate illegal foreign nationals, stating that all undocumented individuals must leave Pakistan by March 31, while those with valid documents have until June. The Minister assured that law enforcement agencies are investigating security threats and will take stern measures to prevent unlawful activities.



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi hoisting flag during a ceremony to commemorate Pakistan's National Day at the Embassy.

Pakistan Day celebrated with traditional fervour at Pak HC in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (APP): The High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi on Sunday held a ceremony to commemorate the Pakistan Day with traditional zeal and fervour.

Chargé d' Affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich raised the national flag to the tune of national anthem at the ceremony held at the Chancery lawns. The messages of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as well as Deputy Prime Minister were read out. Extending his warm felicitations on the National Day, the Chargé d' Affaires said that the historic Lahore resolution of March 23, 1940 charted the path for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

This was a manifestation of the nation's consensus towards an Islamic welfare state built on the can-

ons of justice and equality for all, he said.

Paying glowing tribute to the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Chargé d' Affaires said that the nation must continue to strive towards fulfillment of the ideals envisioned by our forefathers. He said that the indefatigable spirit of the people of Pakistan had proven itself on every front by achieving significant milestones in the fields of innovation, industry and technology.

He said that being a nuclear power, Pakistan's defense was impregnable, and its armed forces were an unshakable shield against internal and external threats.

The Cd'A underlined that Pakistan firmly believed in the principles of peaceful coexistence and collective wellbeing in the region and beyond.