



September 06 stands as a defining moment in the nation's history, when the indomitable Armed Forces exhibited unparalleled resilience, valour and unwavering determination in the defence of the country

Chief of the Naval Staff
Admiral Naveed Ashraf

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Pakistan Army conducts over 130 counter-terrorism operations on daily basis: DG ISPR



ISLAMABAD: Director General, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Thursday said the Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies were conducting more than 130 operations on daily basis to combat terrorism across the country.

Addressing the press conference, the DG ISPR highlighted the military's relentless efforts to maintain peace and security amid terror threats, particularly in Balochistan.

The briefing comes after a series of deadly terror attacks in Balochistan on August 26, which claimed the lives of 50 people, including 14 security personnel. In response to these attacks, security operations have been intensified across the region.

He said that security forces had carried out 32,173 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) so far in 2024, with 4,021 conducted in the past month alone. During these operations, 90 terrorists, referred to as "khawarij," were neutralized. He reiterated the resolve of the Pakistan Army, police, and intelligence agencies to continue the fight against terrorism, stating "The war against Fitna al-Khawarij and terrorism will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated."

The DG ISPR also paid tributes to the sacrifices of 193 soldiers who embraced martyrdom in the last eight months, calling them real heroes of the nation. He assured their families that their sacrifices would not be in vain.

Highlighting a recent operation in the Tirah Valley against the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups, DG ISPR Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that since August 20, 37 terrorists had been killed, including a top commander, Abuzar, also known as Saddam. Four soldiers were martyred during the operation, he added.

"These successful IBOs are a testament to the bravery and commitment of our security forces to eradicate terrorism," he added.

Referring to the August 26 attacks in Balochistan, reportedly orchestrated by Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), the DG ISPR attributed the violence to "internal and external enemies" hell bent upon destabilizing the province's peaceful environment. He pointed out the military's swift response, during which 21 terrorists were eliminated.

Acknowledging the challenges in Balochistan, he noted that certain elements exploited some sort of 'deprivation' among the local population. He stressed the military's commitment to development and peace in the province despite these 'adversities.'

Continued on Page 4

Deepening Our Commitment Digitize education via Google for Education



ISLAMABAD: President Asia Pacific of Google presents locally manufactured Chrome Book to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

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

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

VOM Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said the government had hired a new Secretary for Ministry of IT and Telecommunication through a transparent way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Despite their numerical advantage, the prime minister said the enemy designs were thwarted by the valiant Armed Forces and were handed an unforgettable defeat, on all fronts.

"The courage and dedication of our soldiers coupled with preparedness of the Armed Forces ensure that we live in a free and sovereign country. We salute the families of Shuhada, whose immense resilience and strength continues to inspire us to commit to the defence of the country," he said adding "Our Armed Forces, equipped with modern day combat capability, are constantly enhancing their prowess to defend our territorial integrity and sovereign identity".

He stressed that the Government of Pakistan believes in dialogue over conflict and in cooperation over confrontation. "Our aim is to create an environment where all nations can prosper, and address issues like poverty, health, and education." Unfortunately, he said non-resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is hampering the pace of positive development in the region.

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

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

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

In that era, he added, Pakistan had achieved the landmark development through sincerity, dedication and clarity of thought. Without security there cannot be progress and first and foremost attention was focused on creating a safe and secure environment in the country.

He recalled that when the PML-N came into the power in 2013, Pakistan was facing challenges of energy crisis and poor law and order situation.

At that time, the national economy was losing approximately Rs 500 billion per annum due to energy shortage, he added.

The minister said that security situation of the country was also not good. After coming to power, the PML-N regime under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif embarked on projects to rid the country of energy crisis and within four years, 20 hours loadshedding was brought to zero.

He said in 2013, Karachi—the hub of business was unsafe, but the government with iron resolve and help of the security forces embarked on National Action Plan and carried out operations to improve security situation. Tarar said during the previous tenure, the government faced threat of default and due to fluctuating currency rates, no businessmen were willing to open LCs.

By pursuing prudent policies, the country was able to avert the default, he said, while lauding the PML-N leadership for sacrificing its political capital for the betterment of the country and the people.

"Our priority and slogan now has been that the government has no business being in business," he said while giving credit to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the policy. "During past few decades we have seen that public sector organisations, public sector corporations and state owned enterprises were not able to deliver," he said, ruling out any blame game in this regard.

He said that in this era of 5th generation war, the main job of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was to counter misinformation and fake news. He said that anyone in any part of the world could damage Pakistan's economy through misinformation and timely countering such news was very important. Tarar said that the government had also launched the initiatives of rightsizing and downsizing for the current bureaucratic set up in order to ensure swift public service besides saving the tax payers money. e concluded. APP

Finance minister briefs global investors on Pakistan's economic progress



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday held a virtual meeting with Johanna Chua, Head-Global Emerging Markets Economics, Citi Global Markets, its partners and investors from different parts of the world.

During the meeting, the minister presented a comprehensive overview of the Pakistan economy with focus on the stabilization and growth trajectory achieved over the last one and a half

year that had brought back the interest of investors and lenders into Pakistan, a news release said.

He said Pakistan's economy was moving in the right direction with serious and significant reforms undertaken in various sectors to ensure permanence to macroeconomic stability.

He said the decision to go for a \$ 7 billion program with International Monetary Fund (IMF) was also aimed at ensuring permanence to macroeconomic stability and executing structural reforms.

The minister also answered questions from participants about the state of economy, ongoing economic reforms, including privatization, taxation, energy sector and the government's efforts for promoting various sectors, including IT and agriculture. APP

Ishaq Dar underscores importance of a strong Pak-UK partnership for furthering the two countries' shared interests

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

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar congratulated Ms. Rayner on her appointment as the British Deputy Prime Minister. He underscored the importance of a strong Pakistan-UK partnership for furthering the two countries' shared interests in the bilateral and regional domains. The Deputy Prime Minister lauded the contributions of British-Pakistani diaspora towards further enriching the longstanding ties between the two countries. Recalling Deputy Prime Minister Rayner's visit to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2022 floods, Ishaq Dar expressed Pakistan's desire to work with the UK on climate action and mobilizing international assistance for climate-vulnerable countries. He noted that creating opportunities for young people, and enhancing bilateral trade and investment were other shared priorities of both countries. He also appreciated the UK's continued duty-free access facility for Pakistani exports. (Picture on page 4)

Sept 06 a defining moment in nation's history: Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday said that September 06 stands as a defining moment in the nation's history, when the indomitable Armed Forces exhibited unparalleled resilience, valour and unwavering determination in the defence of the country.

In his message on Defence Day, the Naval Chief said, "This chapter, etched in glory, fills every heart with pride as we honour the profound patriotism, unmatched professionalism and immense sacrifices made in the face of enemy's sinister designs. This day sends a powerful message: defence of our motherland is impregnable and as united people, we are resolute in our ability to safeguard the sovereignty of this land."

Admiral Naveed Ashraf said, "Today, we pay tributes to the courageous heroes who were audacious in their planning, undaunted in their action and instilled fear in the hearts of our enemy. Pakistan Navy's Operation 'SOMNATH' remains a shining example to this unflinching resolve, as PN Task Group destroyed Indian radar station and shore installations at Dwaraka,

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

He further stated that "As we commemorate this venerated occasion to honour the feats and sacrifices of our brave sentinels of sea, our Navy stands vigilant and unflinching in its commitment to defend maritime borders and secure our vital sea routes—the lifeblood of our economy."

"The latest additions to Pakistan Navy Fleet are ushering in a new era of deterrence, underscoring our relentless pursuit of formidable defence to ensure vibrant economic activities and national prosperity. We resolve to build a strong Naval presence that not only protects our interests but also propels our nation to an elevated and rightful stature in the comity of nations."

On this day of national cohesion and enthusiasm, we pledge ourselves anew to the noble cause of securing Pakistan's maritime frontiers and economic interests. INP

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, speaking as the Chief Guest at the launch of the book "Pakistan's 100 Most Successful CEOs and Diplomats," highlighted the essential role of private institutions and civil society in collaboration with the government to achieve national development.

Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the significance of this gathering, calling it a milestone in shaping the future of Pakistan. He noted that the event brings together visionary and influential individuals who are playing a pivotal role in the country's economic and social progress.

The Minister lauded the contributions of these individuals in modernizing national institutions. He referred to them as the architects of society who lead in productivity, innovation, lead-

Govt committed to turn country into strong economy, FM Planning

CEO Summit launch the best-selling book 100 CEOs & Diplomats of Pakistan, CEO Award Ceremony 2024

ership, and quality, propelling the nation towards a path of sustainable growth. He also extended his gratitude to Ejaz Nisar and his team for uniting leaders from various sectors on a common platform. The Minister underscored that this collective effort is a vital step toward economic stability and securing a brighter future for the nation.

Reflecting on Pakistan's 77 years of independence, Ahsan Iqbal acknowledged the economic and social challenges the country faces. Despite abundant resources, the lack of stability and policy continuity has hindered Pakistan's progress. He stressed the need for economic revival, strategic vision, and consistent policies to set the country back on the path of growth.



Recalling the challenges of 2013, when the Pakistan Muslim League (N) government came to power, the Minister said the nation was struggling with terrorism, prolonged power shortages,

and an economic crisis. Within a few years, the government resolved the power shortage, restored law and order, and launched projects like CPEC with China's assistance, which rebuilt investor confidence. However, the Minister expressed regret that the CPEC projects were stalled after the 2018 change in government, leading to diminished investor confidence and halting economic progress. He criticized how the previous government tarnished Pakistan's image globally by labeling the nation's people as corrupt nation.

Minister stated that once again, his government has taken the reins of the country and worked tirelessly to prevent it from defaulting. He shared that the government is now focused on

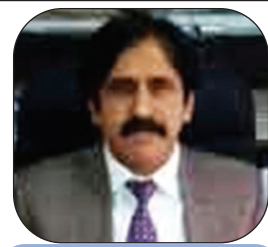
economic revival, presenting a new roadmap for development under the '5Es' framework: Exports, Digital Development, Environment, Energy, and Equity. He highlighted the government's success over the past 16 months in controlling inflation, stabilizing the economy, and restoring the confidence of international financial institutions.

In conclusion, Ahsan Iqbal stressed that policy consistency is the key to putting the country back on track toward progress. The government is committed to transforming Pakistan into a strong and stable economy. The CEO Summit awards ceremony organized by the CEO Club Pakistan. Ijaz Nisar (Founder & President, CEO Club Pakistan).

CEO Club Pakistan congratulates to Ms. Amna Munawar Awan (President Center of Pakistan and International Relations – COPAIR) received a souvenir by the Federal Minister during the CEO Summit, to appreciate and recognize the tireless efforts and outstanding leadership of Pakistani CEOs diaspora who have significantly contributed to the country's development through its highly professional, innovative, and dynamic approach, has been creating a momentous impact in the country.

Participants of the ceremony, Guest of honor caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Energy Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ata Tara, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Ambassador of Portugal, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, and many other honorable guest were present at the ceremony.

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964



Hassan Baig

Connect the region

Economic Corridor, which links China with the Arabian Peninsula through Central Asia, fosters economic and trade cooperation, bringing countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey closer together for mutual benefit. Similarly, the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor connects China with Singapore through Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Malaysia, strengthening the shared future of China and ASEAN countries. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a 3,000 km-long flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), connects western China to Pakistan via the deep seaport of Gwadar. This corridor ultimately benefits nearly three billion people across South Asia, Central Asia, and North Africa. Another significant project is the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, which links South, Southeast, and East Asia, enhancing regional connectivity to boost trade and commerce. These Chinese-led economic corridors have garnered significant attention and political responses, leading to the development of alternative projects such as the Build Back Better World (B3W) proposed by the G7 countries in 2021, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) announced by the G20 countries just a few months ago in New Delhi. The B3W, rebranded as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, is an initiative by the G7 countries aimed at providing an alternative to the BRI for the infrastructure development of low- and middle-income countries. This initiative seeks to address the \$40-trillion infrastructure gap in developing economies, connecting them to developed countries, led by the US, in a manner similar to the BRI led by China. To further counterbalance Chinese influence in global trade and commerce, the G20 countries introduced another economic corridor, the IMEC, in September 2023 during their meeting in New Delhi. This corridor aims to promote and enhance economic cooperation and integration by linking India to Europe through the Middle East. The world is undergoing significant transformations in commerce and trade, with economic corridors and infrastructure development playing a crucial role in determining the domi-

nance of the world's leading economies. The US and its allied democracies are poised to compete with China's supply chain, particularly in the critical sectors of chips and semiconductors used in emerging battery technologies. The concept of the BRI has spurred the creation of economic corridors, prompting the US to respond with initiatives like the Build Back Better World (B3W), the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, and most recently, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) to counterbalance China. The politics of economic corridors is intensifying, with the new reality being that the global leader will be the one who commands the AI-backed global supply chain through these corridors. In South Asia, trade and commerce can expand and bring widespread benefits, particularly if the focus is on cooperation among Saarc countries. This region, home to nearly 22 per cent of the world's population, holds enormous market potential. Trade within Saarc can foster prosperity and growth through cost-cutting measures, reducing carriage and transportation costs. The current economic recession in South Asia and elsewhere could be mitigated through greater regional integration and cooperation. Hyperinflation and food security challenges can also be better addressed through regional trade if India is willing to promote a development-oriented paradigm rather than pursuing hegemonic designs. It is also evident that mutual trade and commerce between India and Pakistan could play a significant role in reducing inflation across the South Asian region. A new economic corridor is needed to promote trade through Pakistan, involving India, Afghanistan, and the Central Asian states, complementing CPEC and positioning the region as a key trade hub for Central, South, and Middle Eastern Asia. Pakistan and China could engage India to tap into its vast market while benefiting from the corridor's route through the mainland, creating a win-win situation for Pakistan. Pakistan could also consider pursuing a no-war pact and a friendship treaty with India to ensure long-term peaceful coexistence with its neighbors, including Afghanistan, while

addressing the Kashmir issue separately. Reviving the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline would further enhance this economic corridor, potentially generating nearly \$15 billion annually for Pakistan. Overall, revenue from this trade route could exceed \$50 billion, significantly boosting Pakistan's economy. The critical question regarding global supply chain vulnerabilities is how to mitigate geopolitical and geo-economic tensions that disrupt international trade. While the UN could offer long-lasting peace and stability, this largely depends on the actions of the P5 (the five permanent members of the Security Council) and Germany in stabilizing the global trade market. The Ukraine conflict and the emerging trade war with China are serious threats, with the potential to disrupt global supply chains in the near future. The US and its allies must recognize that unresolved geopolitical and geo-economic disputes could lead to significant harm and pose an existential threat to the world, especially with the potential use of nuclear weapons. Now more than ever, easing geopolitical tensions is essential for the broader interest of international trade and the stabilization of global supply chain networks. Enhancing regional connectivity for shared prosperity requires a clear understanding of geo-economic and geopolitical realities. Infrastructure development is fundamental to achieving this connectivity. Building railways and roads is crucial, as several projects are already underway to link China, India, and Pakistan with South and Central Asia to boost trade and commerce. For instance, the proposed rail link between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, which would eventually connect to Pakistan, could play a pivotal role in promoting regional trade. Similarly, infrastructure projects like CASA-1000 and the TAPI gas pipeline are vital for linking South and Central Asia, aiming for economic integration and shared prosperity. Promoting these projects is essential to facilitate the free flow of goods and services, with the potential to drive regional economic growth beyond 6 per cent.

The writer is a former additional secretary and can be reached at: hassanbaig2009@gmail.com

How to prosecute terror

KASHMALA ISMAIL

In 2023, the conviction rate for terrorism-related cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was dismally low, reflecting several complex challenges which have to be addressed to overcome the root cause of terrorism that has led to long-term instability in the region. Despite all the headline measures the authorities have taken, the result of the court trials is still an indication of the limitations of our legal and procedural frameworks, impeding the path to justice. Understanding these issues is important to devising operative strategies to enhance the prosecution of terrorism cases in the region. The entire procedure is challenged by the lack of substantial proof. The criminal investigation often faces problems such as insufficient evidence, largely because of the practice of old methods of evidence collection and the documentation of crime scenes. Many cases presented in the court are marred by either inadequate or improperly handled evidence. Either way, it inevitably leads to acquittals. The issues with evidence handling and presentation that give rise to such ineffective practices are highly indicative of the needed modification of the process. Despite the existence of training institutes for preparing police personnel, they learn mainly on the job which leads to gaps in their knowledge and their intervention in modern investigative techniques. Proper and regular training programmes are vital to impart the police force with the necessary skills for better investigation of terrorism cases. Spearheading training units inside the police, which are well-trained in handling terrorism cases, will upgrade the investigation standards of other cases also. Moreover, ensuring that these units are well-equipped with the latest technology and forensic tools is essential for building airtight cases against terrorists. One of the main coordination issues that needs more development is the link between the security agencies and the police. Off-and-on collaborative efforts create situations where the evidence is broken and in court, it becomes difficult to make a coherent case. The chain of custody has gaps in it and suspects have given different dates for their detention; this way even the positioning of the prosecutor is further weakened. The improvement of the relationship between different state or police department bodies is one of the keys to registering these cracks and establishing a more solid and consistent legal process. Their difference necessitates the existence of an uninterrupted data flow and information on the evidence presented by various agencies, to make a case. The essence of accountability in the case of terrorism still operates as a significant obstacle to the witnesses and it remains a serious issue to the judicial system. Witnesses' lives remain at risk and in some cases, people can be killed even before the trial starts. The climate of fear that prevails is a key factor that inhibits the due legal process, and the refusal or inability of witnesses to testify deprives the prosecution of vital firsthand accounts. Expanding witness protection programmes is the most important thing here to ensure safety for those who come to the aid of justice. In KP, this area should not be underestimated. Ensuring that the witness protection programme is solid and kept confidential is a way to reduce the fear and make sure that justice is done. The latest figures from 2014 to the present reveal a bleak situation. Out of 5,417 terrorism incidents, only 2,822 were prosecuted in court, whereas a significant 2,637 cases are still under investigation. Of the 6,747 suspected persons, only 486 had been proven guilty, which makes the conviction rate as low as 17.22 per cent. It should be noted here that the criminal statistics mentioned above include some very serious crimes such as suicide bombings, IED blasts, improvised explosive device attacks, hand grenade attacks, assassinations, kidnappings for ransom, and the like. Moreover, areas that add to the difficulty include the non-existence of investigative culture and the authorities near the department such as the lack of willingness and guidance from the prosecution to the judges in the identification and subsequent formation of the examination of the case the judges have to do to see the cases through to the end. The province's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) serves as the main force whose responsibility it is to handle terrorism cases yet it is often short of cultural skills and capacity which can make it the main reason behind incomplete and unsatisfactory investigations. The majority of the cases – 93 per cent – are still under investigation. The CTD needs to be invested with enough financial and human resources, training, and a plan to conduct fast investigations along with prosecution. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's legal fight against terrorism is a bundle of a range of problems, from the shortage of proof and procedural faults to coordination issues and judicial inefficiencies. The most fundamental part is the ATA amendment and it is supported by strengthening law enforcement through better training and resources, improved protection for witnesses and judicial reforms. By doing so, the region can have a chance to increase its conviction rates in terror cases. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Strengthening legal institutions, improving security measures for judicial personnel and witnesses, enhancing evidence collection and presentation procedures, and ensuring the effective implementation of anti-terrorism laws are crucial steps. Additionally, amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), improving prosecution strategies, and addressing issues in investigations and judiciary processes are necessary to increase the conviction rate in terrorism cases.

The writer is an advocate.

Modern economic theorists emphasize the promotion of trade corridors through regional economic integration. Both inter-regional and intra-regional trade corridors are crucial for progress and development. Regional connectivity is vital for promoting trade and commerce, which, in turn, drives economic growth. Air, land, and sea connectivity – through airports, seaports, and rail/road networks – are particularly important within this regional connectivity framework. The Asian century has just begun its journey to dominate the global economy, with China and India, along with other partners such as Pakistan, playing leading roles. South and Central Asia hold special significance in the global economic landscape, with regional connectivity emerging as a key driver of progress and prosperity. This region, with a market of nearly 1.9 billion people, has immense potential for trade, leveraging comparative advantages across countries. However, the total trade volume remains far below potential due to regional conflicts and a lack of interest, challenges that must be overcome to unlock economic growth. The primary need is to build essential infrastructure, such as railways and roads, modeled after the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to facilitate trade. The BRI offers an ideal framework for enhancing regional connectivity and boosting inter-regional trade through cost-effective methods. Infrastructure connectivity can significantly reduce both carriage costs and delivery times. Estimates suggest that freight costs could decrease by as much as two-thirds to three-fourths, with a similar reduction in delivery times for goods transported to destinations like Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states from Pakistan, and vice versa. The same applies to China and, potentially, India, where reduced freight costs and delivery times can greatly benefit trade. The China-Central Asia-Western Asia

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



He therefore initiated a plan for "basic democracies," consisting of rural and urban councils directly elected by the people that would be concerned with local governance and would assist in programs of grassroots development. Elections took place in January 1960, and the Basic Democrats, as they became

known, were at once asked to endorse and thus legitimate Ayub Khan's presidency. Of the 80,000 Basic Democrats, 75,283 affirmed their support. Basic democracies was a tiered system inextricably linked to the bureaucracy, and the Basic Democrats occupied the lowest rung of a ladder that was con-

nected to the country's administrative subdistricts (tehsils, or tahsils), districts, and divisions. It was soon clear that the real power in the system resided in the bureaucrats who had dominated decision making since colonial times. Nevertheless, the basic democracies system was linked to a public-works program

that was sponsored by the United States. The combined effort was meant to confer responsibility for village and municipal development to the local population. Self-reliance was the watchword of the overall program

To be continued....

Showbiz

Shailene Woodley shares parents' three 'rules' when she started acting at 5

Shailene Woodley's parents had three 'rules' for 5-year-old starting career in acting

Shailene Woodley's parents, who although supported her as she began acting at age 5, had some rules that they asked the actress to follow. The Three Women star got candid on the September 2024 cover of Virgin Atlantic's Vera magazine, about her career and how her psychologist parents were always there for her since she started a career in acting at age 5. "My parents had three rules when I was starting out," said Woodley, 32. "In order to be an actor, I had to stay the person they knew I was, do well in school and have fun." "I love that they included having fun because I am a fun machine," she



said about mother Lori Woodley and father Lonnie Woodley. "I'm really good at playing." The Divergent actress listened to her parents' school rule, but made it help her progress in her career goals. "I got the equivalent of my GED when I was 15 so that I could work legally as an adult during my junior year of high school," she told Vera. However, because Woodley "loved school so much and took pride in being an overachiever," she didn't cut herself completely from the academic elements of high school. "I ended up staying to get a real diploma and go to prom," she said.

Tech

Elon Musk launches 'Colossus' supercomputer to take on GPT-4 in AI showdown

Elon Musk's latest AI startup, xAI, has already brought its new supercomputer, "Colossus," online. Launched over the Labor Day weekend, Colossus is designed to train xAI's large language model (LLM), Grok, which aims to rival OpenAI's GPT-4. Musk, known for his rapid execution and ambitious goals, announced that Colossus is "the most powerful AI training system in the world." He also revealed plans to double its capacity in the coming months by acquiring 50,000 of Nvidia's advanced H200 chips, which are twice as powerful as the H100 models currently used. The supercomputer is located in Memphis, a site selected by xAI this June. The speed of the project's completion is remarkable, considering the fierce competition among tech giants like Microsoft, Google, and Amazon to secure Nvidia's Hopper series AI chips during the current AI boom. Musk has committed to spending \$3.4 billion on Nvidia hardware this year for both xAI and Tesla, which gave xAI a head start by

providing its AI chips. Colossus will be used to train Grok-3, Musk's third generation AI model, which is expected to be the most powerful AI in the world upon its release in December. An early beta version of Grok-2, trained on 15,000 Nvidia H100 chips, was recently rolled out and is already being recognised as one of the most capable AI models. The project has raised concerns in Memphis, particularly regarding the strain on the city's resources, as Colossus requires up to 1 million gallons of water per day for cooling and could consume as much as 150 megawatts of power. However, Musk's commitment to speed and scale has been a key driver in xAI's operations, as he emphasised in a recent discussion with podcaster Lex Fridman. To further bolster xAI's capabilities, the company raised \$6 billion in a Series B funding round in May, backed by major investors such as Andreessen Horowitz, Sequoia Capital, Fidelity, and Saudi Arabia's Kingdom Holding.

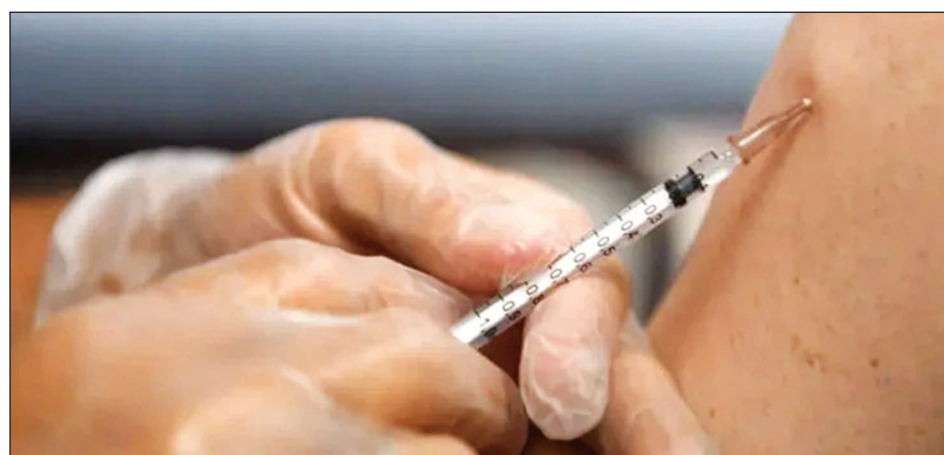
Health

Mpox epicentre DRC receives first vaccines to contain outbreak

KINSHASA: The Democratic Republic of Congo, the epicentre of an mpox outbreak, on Thursday received its first vaccines – almost half of 200,000 doses donated by the European Union and due to arrive by the end of the week to fight its spread. "The vaccines have arrived in the DRC. They are now on their way to storage areas and the vaccination campaign should begin at the end of the month," Laurent Muschel head of the EU's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) told AFP. Congolese Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba and Muschel were present at Kinshasa airport when the plane carrying 99,100 vaccine doses landed, an AFP journalist said. The doses left the Danish capital Copenhagen on Wednesday evening. DRC has recorded more than 19,000 cases and over 650 deaths, according to the latest figures from the health minister.

Mpox is caused by a virus transmitted to humans by infected animals but can also be passed from human to human through close physical contact. Sometimes deadly it causes fever, muscular aches and large boil-like skin lesions. "It shows the solidarity between the European Union with Africa and also our capacity to react quickly," Muschel said. The remainder of the 200,000 doses donated by the EU are set to arrive in Kinshasa on Saturday. The World Health Organisation declared an international emergency on August 14, concerned by the surge in cases of the new Clade 1b strain in the DRC that spread to nearby countries. Muschel said 560,000 doses will be given by the EU and some of its member states to the DRC and other affected countries. Mpox is now present in 13 African countries, including Burundi, Congo-Brazzaville and the Central African Republic,

according to the Africa CDC. The vaccines arriving in the DRC this week come from the Danish pharmaceutical laboratory Bavarian Nordic. It is the only vaccine approved in Europe and the United States and is only intended for adults. Trials are currently being conducted for potential use on children over the age of 12. Another mpox vaccine is authorised in Japan, which has promised a significant number of doses to DRC. Some 3.6 million mpox vaccine doses have been secured for African countries, according to the Africa CDC, with the DRC, by far the most affected country in the world, being a priority for international health authorities. Sixty two per cent of the mpox cases in DRC have been registered in children, four out of five deaths.



Turkish Ambassador calls on Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday called on Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the Ministry of Interior to discuss Pakistan-Turkey relations and matters of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of counter-terrorism, police, and civil armed forces, as well as to increase the number of flights between Pakistan and Turkey.

Turkish Ambassador Dr Mehmet Pacaci strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Balochistan, saying that Turkiye had also faced terrorism in the past but had overcome it and now the situation is much better. He offered Turkiye's full cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. The Interior Minister stated that Pakistan as a nation has made immense sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

He said that Pakistan's Army, Police, Rangers, FC, and every segment of the nation has made history by rendering invaluable sacrifices. He said that Pakistan would welcome Turkiye's cooperation in counter-terrorism. Mohsin Naqvi said that he will visit Turkiye in October at the invitation of the Turkish Government and will propose measures to further strengthen bilateral cooperation during the said visit.

He said that Pakistan wants to further strengthen its brotherly relations with Turkiye. He highlighted that Pakistanis consider Turkiye as their second home. The Interior Minister appreciated Dr Pacaci's services in strengthening Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations. He congratulated him on his appointment as Special Envoy of the OIC for combating Islamophobia and expressed good wishes for his new assignment and future endeavours.

Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his cooperation during his tenure as ambassador in Pakistan.

Jam Kamal assures to address compensation issue

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday assured that he would convey the matter of compensation for the victims of the cylinder blast in Hyderabad to the Prime Minister. Responding to a point raised by Wasim Hussain in the National Assembly, the minister said, "I will convey to the Prime Minister regarding the compensation and the process will be expedited."

He also noted that, as advised by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), individuals involved in the sale of gas are required to strictly follow the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). DNA

Digitalization of official work to enhance NA's productivity: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has complete digitalization of National Assembly's official work would enhance its productivity.

Addressing the recently promoted employees of the Secretariat here on Thursday, he extended heartfelt congratulations and assured them that promotions were carried out in strict adherence to laws and regulations.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq urged the employees to perform their duties with dedication underscoring that dignity and respect for the Parliament are paramount. He added, "Allah Almighty rewards those who work hard." Highlighting the government's commitment to austerity, the Speaker

announced that over one billion rupees would be saved this year by implementing cost-cutting measures. He mentioned that non-essential posts had been eliminated and that no further recruitment would take place in the National Assembly Secretariat.

"A strong Parliament is essential for the development and prosperity of the country," he remarked, stressing the importance of Parliament's role in Pakistan's progress.

Later, Ayaz Sadiq and the employees recited Fatiha for the deceased son-in-law of former Speaker Dr. Fahmida Mirza, and prayed for the departed soul's highest place in Jannah and patience for the grieving family. INP



ABU DHABI: Chief Guest His Excellency General Salem Saeed Al Jabri, UAE's Assistant Foreign Minister for Military & Security Affairs, H.E ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Commodore Shahid Wasif SI (M), Mission Commander, Pakistan Navy and Brigadier Abdullah Al Mohairbi, Deputy Commander UAE Navy at the cake cutting ceremony held in connection with Pakistan Defense Day in.

Spread of epidemic diseases among prisoners is result of cruel tactics of enemy: Hamas

GAZA: The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said that the spread of epidemic diseases among prisoners is the result of the cruel tactics of the enemy. Hamas has expressed its deep concern over the spread of epidemic diseases among Palestinian prisoners in the prisons of the occupying Israeli army.

Hamas said in a statement that this dangerous situation was revealed during the decision of the prison administration of the occupying enemy to stop the meetings of the lawyers of the prisoners. It reflects new tactic of ill-treatment of prisoners and a clear violation of international law. Hamas said that prisoners were subjected to torture, denied access to lawyers, deprived of food, drink and sleep, as well as deliberate medical neglect. Crimes like isolation and oppression have led to the martyrdom of many prisoners. Hamas explained that this practice reflected a

systematic policy of killing of prisoners by the occupation government. This policy cannot be tolerated. The occupiers will bear the brunt of the crimes committed against the prisoners. The statement called on international human rights organizations to fulfill their responsibilities regarding the conditions faced by Palestinian prisoners. Hamas also appealed to the Palestinian people to step up their movement in support of the prisoners, as continued confrontation is the only way to stop the occupying forces from committing crimes and violations against the prisoners.

Meanwhile, Al-Qassam Brigades, released the messages of two more Israeli prisoners. They include a video message from an Israeli male and female prisoner. They are among the six prisoners whose bodies were found by the occupying forces inside a tunnel in Rafah city. SABAH



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

Israeli attacks on refugee camps breach of int'l laws; peace can't be achieved through aggression: FO Spox

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the assault by the Israeli occupation forces on refugee camps in Jenin and Tulkarm cities of the occupied West Bank, calling it a breach and contempt for international laws.

"Targeting individuals sheltered in refugee camps is yet another breach of international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupation forces, demonstrating their contempt for international law and basic tenets of decency and acceptable international behavior. Pakistan calls for an immediate cessation of these raids masquerading as military operations in the West Bank. We believe that the path to lasting peace cannot be achieved through aggression," Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. The spokesperson also urged the UN Security Council to play its role to prevent Israeli occupation forces from further attacks against civilians, hold Israel accountable for war crimes, and take measures to protect the Palestinian people.

Apprising the media of the recently held 50th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Cameroon and attended by Foreign Secretary Muhammad Sajjad Qazi, she said the forum reaffirmed its consensus on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute by declaring that the final settlement of the dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and a UN-supervised plebiscite was indispensable for durable peace and stability in South Asia. The Yaoundé Declaration also renewed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expressed full support to their right to self-

determination, she added. Similarly, she said the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met on the sidelines of the CFM, also reaffirmed support for the Kashmiri people's struggle and called for an early and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. "We welcome the pronouncements of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Contact Group on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," she remarked. She told the media that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, who was currently in the UK on an official visit, met with Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs, David Lammy and discussed the importance of a strong Pakistan-UK partnership, advancing the wide-ranging bilateral agenda, and promoting Pakistan-UK cooperation in the context of the United Nations and Commonwealth. On Thursday, she said the DPM would meet with the UK's Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner besides engaging with members of the UK Parliament and representatives of the Pakistani community in the UK.

Spokesperson Baloch told the media that the 23rd meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade Activity of the SCO member states would be held in Islamabad on September 12. Pakistan has extended invitations to the heads of relevant ministries of all SCO member countries.

Responding to a query on the recent statement made on Jammu and Kashmir by India's Minister

for External Affairs, the spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's unequivocal rejection of any narrative that suggested that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been or can be settled unilaterally. She said that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was an internationally recognized dispute that must be resolved in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

She told the media that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was expected to attend the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly, and like every year, Pakistan would highlight the issue of Indian atrocities in the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, among others. Responding to a statement by Bangladesh Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, Spokesperson Baloch said that Pakistan always wished to have robust and multifaceted relations with Bangladesh. There existed an immense goodwill between the people of both countries and the extended cooperation would further contribute to regional peace and friendship in the region, she added.

She said Pakistan and China were all-weather strategic partners with multifaceted cooperation. Pakistan remains committed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. Commenting on the new set of laws on women's rights introduced by Afghan Interim Government, she said Pakistan's position on women's and girls' right to education was consistent. Every man and woman has a right to education. As Pakistan's constitution guarantees rights to women, we wish similar rights for every woman.

Sacrifices of martyrs & their families would always be remembered: President Zardari

Visits family of martyred Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi



LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari paid a visit on Thursday to the family of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi, who was recently martyred in Balochistan. During his visit, he expressed his profound condolences to the grieving family. He prayed for elevation of ranks of Captain Muhammad Ali in Jannah. He paid tribute to Captain Qureshi's courage and dedication, recognising his invaluable contributions to the nation's fight against terrorism.

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

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

Kh Asif says planners, facilitators of May 9 riots have to face the music

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the planners and facilitators of May 9, can't escape the punishment and will have to face the music.

Speaking to a private news channel on Thursday, he clarified that besides facilitators and beneficiaries of May 9, the convicts of riots would also be awarded severe punishment. Khawaja Muhammad Asif stated that all main-power for May 9, mayhem was provided by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Responding to a question about issues faced by Balochistan, he said that some elements were causing main hindrance in the development of Balochistan region. The minister assured that all possible measures would be taken to put the province on the path of progress. INP

Rana Mashhood assures of PMYP's full support for young athletes

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan Thursday assured of PMYP's full support for young athletes saying that with right platform, Pakistan youth having immense talent can achieve international recognition and success.

Speaking during a meeting with Pakistan's rising wrestling star Athar Zahid, who will represent the country at the Wrestling World Championship scheduled on October 2024 in Nepal, the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) expressed his best wishes to Athar, acknowledging his commitment and determination to bring the championship title home.

Zahid, who is set to face Indian wrestler Singham Dubey in a much-anticipated bout, vowed to give his best performance and win the title for Pakistan.

Athar Zahid conveyed his gratitude to the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and its chairman for their unwavering support and encouragement. INP

Pakistan Army conducts over 130 counter-terrorism...

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During the press conference, the DG ISPR also addressed the court martial of former spymaster Faiz Hameed. He emphasized the Pakistan Army's strong and transparent self-accountability process, stating that any violations of laws or regulations were addressed promptly and without discrimination.

"This self-accountability process works on solid proof and evidence rather than allegations," Lieutenant General Chaudhry said, adding the matter concerning Faiz Hameed was referred to the army for investigation through the defense ministry.

The country has seen a rise in terrorist attacks, with 59 incidents reported in August, up from 38 in July, according to the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS). The majority of these

attacks occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, he added.

In response, he said Pakistan's military had ramped up its counter-terrorism operations, particularly in the most affected regions of KP and Balochistan. The military leadership, during a recent Corps Commanders Conference, vowed to safeguard the country's "hard-earned successes" against terrorism.

Following the attacks, he said the federal government had expressed full support for Balochistan's fight against terrorism. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announced financial assistance worth Rs 5 million to strengthen security efforts in the province, he added. He said: "The Pakistan Army and the nation's leadership have made it clear that the fight against terrorism will continue until peace and stability are fully restored across the country."

CM Punjab launches 'School nutrition programme' in DG Khan

DG KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the country's first and the largest school nutrition programme in the province by personally distributing milk packs among children in every class at the Government Primary School, here on Thursday.

She distributed milk cartons among students at their seats and opened the milk packs for the children and supervised the consumption. She asked students their names and praised them, and sat amongst them, leaving them surprised and overjoyed.

CM Maryam Nawaz inquired about the children's health and education and asked them about the problems they faced in their studies. A student told the CM about his father's unemployment, and she directed the authorities concerned to arrange for a job for the young student's father.

Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat briefed the CM about the pilot project. "Chief Minister's School Nutrition Programme" has been launched in three districts of south Punjab including Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, and Muzaffargarh. Over



400,000 students suffering from malnutrition would be given nutritious milk packs under the programme. Students in 3,527 schools in Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh would receive a 175-milliliter milk pack daily. Students will return empty packs of milk at school. Revenue from recycling the empty packs will be spent on the respective schools, he explained. Students were given an opportunity to have photographs with CM Maryam Nawaz, and she also gave

them autographs. Later, upon arrival at the Commissioner's Office, Maryam Nawaz was saluted by a smartly dressed Border Military Police squad. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, provincial ministers Azma Zahid Bukhari, Rana Sikandar Hayat, MPA Saniya Ashiq, Nosheen Adnan, Sher Ali Gorchani, Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, schools secretary, commissioner, RPO and other officials were also present.

AJK prepares to celebrate Pakistan's Defence Day

MIRPUR-AJK: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is all set to commemorate Pakistan's Defence Day on September 6 with great enthusiasm here on tomorrow (Friday). According to official sources, the day will be marked by a renewed commitment to stand united with the country's armed forces and protect the nation's borders against all threats.

This day holds historical significance as it marks the anniversary of the 1965 war when Indian forces attempted to infiltrate Pakistan under the cover of darkness. The Pakistani military and nation successfully repelled this attack. In AJK, the day will begin with special prayers for the stability, defense and prosperity of Pakistan as well as for the success of the Kashmir freedom movement and economic development in the region. Fateha and Quran Khawani will be held in honour of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the war. Ceremonies will take place across all ten district headquarters including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Bagh although they will be conducted with simplicity in light of recent flood damage in the country. Speakers at these events will pay tribute to the bravery of Pakistan's armed forces. In Mirpur, special ceremonies and rallies will be organized to express solidarity with the nation and the armed forces. Various social and political organizations will host these events and attendees will visit the mausoleums of martyrs to offer prayers and lay wreaths. DNA