



Gilani urges unity, aid for flood victims, says Pakistan's defence is in safe hands



Bilawal wants agriculture emergency to support farmers amid floods



Pakistan's defence will remain impregnable: Religious Affairs Minister

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Saturday 06 September 2025

Rabi ul Awwal 12, 1447 A.H VOI No: 05 Issue No. 244 Pages 4 Rs.20

PM meets Advisor to President of Palestine, assures unwavering support of Pakistani people

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Advisor to the President of Palestine on Religious Affairs and Chief Justice of the Shariat Court, Mahmood Siddiqui Alhabash who is leading the Palestinian delegation to attend the Seerat Conference here flanked by Imam of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian Ambassador.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards to Dr. Mahmood Abbass, President of Palestine. He reaffirmed the unwavering support of the people of Pakistan to the Palestinian cause and assured the Palestinian side that Pakistan would continue to lend its full support for the brotherly people of Palestine, who have rendered enormous sacrifices and bravely faced Israeli brutal aggression, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. The Prime Minister further assured that he would continue to raise his voice with full force for the rights of the Palestinian people at every diplomatic forum. On the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Prime Minister reassured the Palestinian delegation that Pakistan would continue to dispatch humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza, who had been subjected to a man-made famine by Israeli occupation forces.

The Advisor to the Palestinian President conveyed the deepest gratitude of the Palestinian people to the people and Government of Pakistan for their consistent and unflinching support.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Palestinian President on Religious Affairs and Chief Justice of the Shariat Court of Palestine, H.E Mahmood Siddiqui Alhabash calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif holds interactive session with students in Murree



SAMRA ATHAR

MURREE: Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry visited several educational institutions in Murree, where he held an interactive session with students.

Students from Army Public School, Convent of Jesus and Mary, and Presentation Convent School participated in the session, which focused on national awareness, youth engagement, and the role of the armed forces.

During the session, students asked insightful questions, engaging in a candid conversation with the DG ISPR.

They appreciated the initiative, calling it a much-needed effort to strengthen the bond between youth and the armed forces.

Southern Punjab reels as India's water release triggers embankment collapses

SAIDRA SADOZAI

LAHORE: The water released by India into the rivers has caused devastation in the southern regions of Punjab — several embankments collapsed, and dozens of more villages submerged — with two people reportedly drowned.

Severe flooding in the Sutlej, Ravi, and Chenab rivers continued to threaten villages. Two young men reportedly drowned in Mandi Bahaudin.

In Shujabad, near Sher Shah, the protective embankment of the village Gagra developed a 200-foot-wide breach that allowed water to flood nearby villages. In the village of Graywala in Multan, water levels continue to rise, submerging crops over hundreds of thousands of acres.

In Jhang, a moderate-level flood occurred in the Chenab River at Shorkot. A flow of



260,000 cusecs passed through the Sultan Bahu bridge. The floodwater struck the railway bridge at Darkhana, causing the Shorkot-Khanewal railway section to remain closed for a second day.

A high flood alert has been issued in Pindi Bhattian, where a flow of 557,000 cusecs is passing. In Ahmadpur Sial, a breach occurred in the Samandwana

embankment, submerging several areas and damaging crops. In Liaquatpur, floodwaters from the Chenab and Indus Rivers wreaked havoc.

Many villages in Moza Noorwala were swallowed by floodwaters, and crops across large areas were submerged. In Chiniot, rescue teams continued operations in Thatta Hashmat and Moza Dom, relocating 25 people

to safe places. So far, 1,312 people have been rescued.

Floods have also caused destruction in Khanewal, with water entering dozens of villages. In Uch Sharif, due to the surge in the Sutlej River.

Floodwaters entered 20 more residential areas, submerging thousands of acres of crops.

Rescue teams and district administration are actively carrying out relief operations in the affected areas; however, the intensity of the water is making access to several locations difficult.

At Trimmu, the Chenab River is facing a high-level flood. Water inflow at the Trimmu Barrage is recorded at 331,000 cusecs. There are concerns about a dangerous flood situation in the Sutlej River near Arifwala. Several feet of floodwater has accumulated in Chak Yasin.

TTP kills two border troops as group increases presence

PEAK POINT

SWAT: The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) shot dead two border troops in a remote region next to Afghanistan, an official said on Thursday, after the militant group scrawled graffiti throughout villages. A senior local government official in Swat, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity, said security forces launched an operation on Wednesday night. "Following reports of wall chalking by the TTP and that they were patrolling in the area, security forces launched an operation," he said. "An overnight exchange of fire ensued.

FO spokesperson says future of refugees 'up to Pakistan'

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Ambassador Shafiq Ali Khan on Friday said that Pakistan will decide what to do with the refugees it is hosting, such as those from Afghanistan.

Last month, Pakistan started deporting up to 1 million documented Afghan refugees ahead of its deadline for them to leave, following the interior ministry's July 31 announcement that Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders — the last category of Afghans legally residing in Pakistan without visas — became unlawful residents after their cards expired on June 30. Addressing a press briefing today, Khan said, "Those Afghans waiting to



travel to Germany should be deported promptly," referring to 2,400 Afghan refugees who were promised refuge by Berlin, before its approach to migrants hardened under a new government. Germany has since announced it is considering an appeal to take in 200 refugees.

"Germany should take in these refugees as soon as possible," the spokesperson added. "Pakistani law will apply to those Afghans living here. We will decide what to do with refugees in Pakistan." Khan also referred to an August statement from the German foreign ministry on X, which

said that Berlin takes the issue "very seriously". "I have seen the German foreign minister's statement," Khan said. "Germany will have to take the issue of Afghans in Pakistan seriously."

Pakistan is not a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention. Instead, it operates under the Foreigners Act, which empowers the authorities to arrest, hold, and deport foreigners, including refugees and asylum seekers, who do not possess valid documentation.

Additionally, the spokesperson said that the issue of terrorism in Afghanistan seriously, stating, "Terrorist safe havens still exist in Afghanistan.

Powerful quake aftershocks cause more injuries in Afghanistan



SHUMAILA CHAUDHRY

JALALABAD: A series of strong aftershocks from a deadly earthquake that hit eastern Afghanistan at the weekend injured at least another 10 people and caused further damage, Taliban authorities said on Friday.

Five shallow aftershocks, the strongest measuring at magnitude 5.6, were recorded by the US Geological Survey on Thursday night and Friday morning, with some rattling Kabul and the Pakistan capital, Islamabad.

National disaster authority spokesman Mohammad Hamad told AFP 10 people were injured across eight provinces jolted by the aftershocks, including the hardest hit Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman, adding to the more than 3,700 already injured in the initial quake. More than 2,200 people were killed.



SPORTS



Fakhar, Abrar guide Pakistan to tri-series final



ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Fakhar Zaman's unbeaten half-century and Abrar Ahmed's four-fer led Pakistan to a 31-run win over UAE in the fifth match of the tri-series at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on late Thursday.

According to details, opting to bat first, Pakistan got off to a swift start as they raced to 28 after 2.4 overs. Sahibzada Farhan then perished after a quick-fire 16 off 11 balls including two boundaries and a six. Saim Ayub (11) and skipper Salman Ali Agha (7) were dismissed in quick succession, leaving Pakistan 50-3 after the

powerplay. Fakhar and Mohammad Harris (14, 17b, 1x4, 1x6) put on another 24 runs before the latter was trapped leg before wicket on the final delivery of the 10th over by Haider Ali, who also got rid of Hasan Nawaz (4) nine balls later. Mohammad Nawaz (37 not out, 27b, 3x4s, 2x6s) then added an unbeaten 91-run partnership for the sixth wicket with Fakhar, lifting Pakistan to a respectable total of 171-5 in their 20 overs. Regaining his form, Fakhar topped with an unbeaten 77 off 44

towering sixes, while bringing up his 12th T20I fifty in the process. For UAE, left-arm spinner Haider led the charge, finishing with 2-17 in his four overs. In pursuit of a steep target, UAE got off to a strong start, scoring 41 in the first six overs, without losing any wicket. However, their joy was short-lived, as mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed dismissed skipper Muhammad Waseem on the first delivery of the seventh over. Nawaz, backing up his batting prowess from the first innings, contributed with the ball as well, dismissing youngster Ethan D'Souza in the 11th over with the scoreboard reading 72 for

2. Abrar Ahmed left a dent in UAE's chase with a double-wicket 13th over, removing Asif Khan (7) and Rahul Chopra (0), with hosts reeling on 84-4. He then weaved his magic to dismiss Harshit Kaushik on the final delivery of his spell, finishing with his T-20i career-best figures of 4-0-9-4. Opening batter Alishan Sharafu put up a valiant fight with a 51-ball 67, but Pakistan saw his back in the 17th over courtesy of Shaheen Shah Afridi's slower delivery. UAE could not manage to build a partnership and were restricted to 140 for 7 in their 20 overs.

Pakistan team begins preparations for AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The training camp for the Pakistan national futsal team has officially commenced at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Jinnah Sports Complex, Islamabad, in preparation for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, set to be held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The camp is being led by Head Coach Sakhawat Ali, who is guiding the team as it prepares to make history by participating in an international futsal tournament for the first time ever, said a press release. Pakistan has been drawn into Group D, which includes Chinese Taipei, Iraq and host nation Saudi Arabia. The national futsal team will kick off its campaign against Iraq on September 20, followed by a match against Saudi Arabia on September 22 and conclude the group stage with a fixture against Chinese Taipei on September 24.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has announced that Punjab Sports Department will organise Punjab's largest sports event for women in the last week of October.

Punjab to host Khleta Punjab Pink Games in Oct: Faisal Khokhar

SEHRISH NAZ

Messi shines in his final home World Cup qualifier, Paraguay and Colombia clinch spots



PEAK POINT

ARGENTINA: Lionel Messi signed off in style by scoring twice in his final World Cup qualifier on home soil as Argentina beat Venezuela 3-0 on Thursday, while Paraguay and Colombia

World Cup qualifier sure in the second half, with Messi the reigning focal point of their attack, but the hosts had to wait until the 76th minute for a second goal. Nico Gonzalez delivered from the left for Lautaro Martinez to score with a diving header. Four minutes later, Messi capped off another excellent performance with a third goal, assisted by keeper Rafael Romo. Messi broke the deadlock in the 39th minute, the Argentine captain latching onto a pass from Julian Alvarez on a swift counter-attack and firing home into the top-right corner of Barcelona fans and Romo's net. My dream was to have it here in my country too." Argentina maintained their relentless pres-



PESHAWAR: Ex Provincial Minister Syed Aqil Shah inaugurating Wheel chair Tennis Training Camp.

Ultra-Marathoner Jamal Said conquers historic 700km trek from Skardu to Islamabad

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: In an extraordinary display of human endurance, Ultra-Marathoner Jamal Said has successfully completed a grueling 700-kilometre journey on foot from the mountainous terrain of Skardu to the federal capital, Islamabad.

Said and his 15-member support team were greeted upon their arrival at the Rudun Enclave head office in Bahria Town by Director of Sales and Marketing Muhammad Rashid and staff. Rashid warmly congratulated Said on his historic achievement, which commenced on August 25.

"Jamal Said has created history by completing this monumental marathon," stated Rashid.

He emphasized Rudun Enclave's commitment to nurturing talent, adding, "We will work to develop the skills of our youth and sup-

port our athletes, players, and all talented individuals from our platform."

Muhammad Ishtiaq, Sports Ambassador of Rudun Enclave, praised the feat, saying, "Jamal has written his name in the history of

he shared. He expressed deep gratitude to Rudun Enclave for their sponsorship and encouraged them to organize more such events.

Demonstrating immense dedication, Said revealed he covered approximately 70



Pakistan by covering this immense distance on foot."

For Jamal Said, the run was about more than personal accomplishment. "I want to inspire people by watching me run and to encourage them to lead healthier lives,"

He viewed this achievement as a testament to his capabilities as an endurance athlete, consistent with his storied history in ultra-marathon events.



SYDNEY: Powerhouse Australia said it was "up for the challenge" Friday of winning an unprecedented eighth Women's Cricket World Cup.



Pakistan's IT Sector Hits Record \$3.8 Billion Exports, \$158 Million FDI; 5G Auction and AI Policy in Focus

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Information Technology and Telecommunication sector has posted historic growth in exports, secured major foreign investment, and launched ambitious infrastructure and policy initiatives under the leadership of Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja. A detailed disclosure in the National Assembly of Pakistan highlights achievements in ICT exports, digital infrastructure, telecom expansion, and artificial intelligence, while also addressing regulatory challenges and service quality concerns. The IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) sector remains one of the fastest-growing contributors to Pakistan's economy. ICT export remittances surged to an all-time high of US\$3.809 billion in FY 2024-25, up by US\$586 million from US\$3.223

billion a year earlier. The sector has maintained an average export growth rate of 21.17 percent over the past two years. Foreign Direct Investment in ICT also jumped by 69.3 percent, reaching US\$158.1 million compared to US\$93.4 million in FY 2023-24. At the Digital FDI 2025 conference, Pakistan secured pledges worth US\$700 million. To boost international exposure, the government facilitated 294 IT companies in 20 global events, generating over US\$60 million in leads. Despite Microsoft's exit from Pakistan as part of its global restructuring, the ministry emphasized that entry and exit of firms is normal business practice. It underlined the continued strong presence of multinationals such as Huawei Technologies and Zong, which remain heavily invested in the local ICT ecosystem. On infrastructure, the flagship IT Park in

Islamabad is nearing completion, with 70 percent of work done and full readiness expected by October 2025. Funded at a cost of US\$88.3 million, largely through a loan from the Korean Exim Bank, the park will host 120 IT company offices, a start-up incubation center, a data center, research labs, and parking for 1,200 vehicles. Meanwhile, the Universal Service Fund (USF) continues to expand connectivity in rural and under-served areas, with 128 projects awarded so far, including 102 for high-speed mobile services and 26 for optic fiber expansion. Preparations for Pakistan's first 5G spectrum auction are also underway. An advisory committee chaired by the Finance Minister is supervising the process, with 606 MHz of new spectrum allocated across six bands. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

has engaged U.S.-based firm NERA to design the auction strategy, covering spectrum valuation and investment attraction. However, the process awaits a policy directive and resolution of pending issues, including the PTCL-Telenor merger and a court case over the 2600 MHz band. Pakistan's telecom subscriber base has now surpassed 200 million, including 150 million broadband users. Of these, 146.6 million are mobile broadband users and 2.1 million are Fiber to the Home subscribers. Internet speeds, however, remain below global averages, with Pakistan ranked 98th for mobile broadband (25 Mbps median speed) and 144th for fixed broadband (17 Mbps). The ministry clarified that recent disruptions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi were localized due to flooding and rains, and services have been

restored in over 98 percent of affected areas. The GSMA Gender Gap Report 2025 shows progress in digital inclusion, with Pakistan's mobile internet gender gap narrowing from 38 percent to 25 percent. In 2024 alone, 8 million women and 5 million men began using mobile internet services. On regulatory matters, the ministry reaffirmed that social media companies with over half a million users must register with PTA, appoint local representatives, and set up offices in Pakistan under the "Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content Rules, 2021." Since 2022, platforms including Snack Video, Bigo Live, Likee, YoHo, and MICO have complied. However, there is still no legal requirement for local data storage or data centers. The National AI Policy 2025 was another milestone, aiming to train one million AI

professionals by 2030. Initiatives include establishing AI Councils and Centres of Excellence, a high-tech internship program, and dedicated inclusion streams for women and Persons with Disabilities. A National AI Fund is also being launched to support local startups. The government has also acknowledged concerns raised by the Asian Development Bank on fragmented governance, declining investment, and regulatory overlaps in Pakistan's digital ecosystem. Policy interventions are being formulated to address these structural challenges. This comprehensive disclosure was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan, highlighting both achievements and challenges in steering the digital transformation of the country.

A Vanishing Empire: Pakistan Railways Loses Land Worth Rs 8.25 Billion to Encroachments

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways (PR) is rapidly losing control over its most valuable asset—land—due to encroachments and decades of neglect. An official audit has revealed the illegal occupation of 46.6 acres of prime railway land in Sukkur and Karachi, valued at Rs 8,257.17 million. The land has been absorbed into expanding katchi

abadies, exposing systemic failures in land management and enforcement. The problem is not limited to recent encroachments. The report highlights the long-standing issue of land mismanagement, citing the example of 18 acres transferred to Shalimar Hospital nearly half a century ago. Despite the passage of decades, no alternative land has been provided in exchange, leading to an

estimated asset loss of Rs 6,670.08 million at present value. Auditors squarely blamed "negligence and poor land management" for the escalating crisis. They noted that a decision was taken 24 years ago to construct boundary walls around sensitive land parcels to prevent encroachments, but the directive was never implemented. This prolonged inaction has allowed illegal set-

tlements to expand unchecked, permanently eroding the value of Pakistan Railways' asset base. The findings underscore a deeper crisis in governance within Pakistan Railways. As losses from theft, financial mismanagement, and operational inefficiencies continue to mount, the unchecked seizure of land deprives the state-owned enterprise of billions in potential revenue.

MSO to celebrate Defense Day with great enthusiasm across the country

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: MSO to celebrate Defense Day with great enthusiasm across the country. On this occasion, rallies and seminars will be organized in various educational institutions to pay tribute to the martyrs of the 1965 war. Sharjeel Ahsan, Nazim of MSO Northern Punjab, said that September 6 is a day in our national history when the entire nation demonstrated unity, sacri-

ifice, and bravery. It is essential to acquaint students with the sacrifices of martyrs and Ghazis so that the spirit of patriotism and defense of the country can be nurtured in the new generation. He further said that Defense Day reminds us that we all have to play our role in the security and survival of our beloved country. MSO Pakistan will celebrate this day with national spirit and renew its pledge to keep the mission of the martyrs alive.

Opinion & Editorial



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Afghanistan's Composed Comeback, UAE Let Victory Slip Away

By Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Islamabad



The Sharjah Cricket Stadium once again witnessed a thrilling contest. In the sixth match of the T20I tri-series, Afghanistan defeated the United Arab Emirates by just four runs, reinforcing their growing reputation as a team that thrives under pressure. Although the match was technically a "dead rubber" with little impact on the points table, the players turned it into an unforgettable encounter. Batting first, Afghanistan set a competitive total of 170 runs. The opening partnership provided a solid foundation. Ibrahim Zadran, leading the side in the absence of Rashid Khan, looked confident with both his captaincy and his batting. His knock of 48 was a mixture of technical precision and controlled aggression. Alongside

him, Rahmanullah Gurbaz added 40 valuable runs, ensuring momentum at the top. The turning point, however, came when Haider Ali outsmarted Zadran with a clever delivery that rattled his stumps. In the later overs, Karim Janat helped steady the ship with brisk hitting, pushing the score to 170. Dropped catches by UAE's fielders proved costly, as Afghanistan could have been restricted closer to 150. In reply, UAE stunned many with an aggressive start. Captain Muhammad Waseem played with remarkable flair, including a memorable six off Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Asif Khan further raised UAE's hopes with a blazing 40-run knock that carried the chase deep into the final over. However, lack of experience and failure to hold their nerve at key moments turned the tide. The climax came in the final over. Afghanistan's left-arm quick Fareed Ahmad had 16 runs to defend. The first two deliveries disappeared for a four and a six, and suddenly UAE looked favorites.

But Fareed kept his composure, delivered perfect lengths on the next balls, and even picked up a wicket. His recovery not only saved Afghanistan but also broke UAE's resistance at the most critical stage. For Afghanistan, this win was significant as several senior players, including captain Rashid Khan, were rested. The youngsters seized the opportunity to prove themselves. Ibrahim Zadran's calm leadership and Fareed Ahmad's nerve under pressure highlighted that Afghanistan is no longer reliant solely on its big names. Although UAE ended up on the losing side, their fighting spirit left a lasting impression. With sharper fielding and more composure, the result might have been very different. This Sharjah thriller was more than just a cricket match; it was a reminder that the game is no longer reserved for elite nations. Afghanistan's young guns demonstrated they are ready for the global stage, while UAE proved that passion and talent can bridge the gap with experience.

The long road to excellence

Sarang Aamir

A few months ago, I attended a meeting discussing the inauguration of a new educational institution, an ambitious project aimed at creating something of lasting value for academia in Pakistan.

The man chairing the session, a mentor whose insights I value deeply, spoke not in years but in centuries. Referencing Oxford's first conferred degree in the 13th century, he reminded us that institutions of real worth are not built hastily. They are shaped over decades and centuries, often by people who never live to see their final form. "Every decision we make today," he said, "must carry within it the weight of the future".

The idea lodged itself in my mind. I began to see that building an institution mirrors building a life. Both take patience, intention, failure and revision. Who I am today is not separate from who I will become. Every decision I make now shapes a version of myself that doesn't yet exist, but will. That future self depends on me. And while we may share a name and a body, we aren't quite the same person.

This reflection has stayed with me, especially as I've begun to notice how much of our society orients itself not toward the long term, but the immediate. We live in a culture of shortcuts. The Punjabi word 'jugaarh', once used to describe creative problem-solving, has taken on a new and worrying tone. Today, jugaarh isn't just ingenuity born out of necessity; it is the justification of cutting corners and seeking results with minimal effort or understanding.

From slipping a five-thousand-rupee note to the excise clerk, to downloading guess papers a week before exams, to rigging electricity lines during summer loadshedding, jugaarh has become a symbol of success. We don't just tolerate it; we admire it. The clever trickster who 'gets things done' is celebrated; the one who insists on doing things properly is often dismissed as naive or idealistic.

But when every task becomes something to 'get around', we erode the very idea of quality. Jugaarh, when overused, becomes intellectual laziness dressed up as resourcefulness. It reduces education to performance, skill-building to hacking one's way through, governance to manipulation and enterprise to mere imitation.

It discourages depth of understanding, engagement and craft. Worse still, it detaches the present from the future. When our goal is merely to "make it work for now", we abandon any responsibility to and for what comes next.

Courtesy The News

Gilani urges unity, aid for flood victims, says Pakistan's defence is in safe hands



SIDRA SADOZAI

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Yusef Raza Gilani on Friday urged all political parties to set aside their differences and extend support to flood-stricken people in these testing times.

Speaking at a Secrat Conference and Defence Day ceremony at Women University Multan (WUM), he also called on philanthropists to

come forward and join hands with the government by contributing generously to ease the hardships of flood-affected masses. He disclosed that the next 24 hours were very crucial for Multan and Muzaffargarh due to the flood. "We should not forget flood-hit people while celebrating the 1500th birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (SAW) tomorrow, for which the

Senate has unanimously passed a resolution to mark the day at the state level," the Chairman Senate said.

Pakistan's defence is in safe hands, Gilani affirmed, adding that India was left stunned by Pakistan's befitting response in Marka-e-Haq this May after its attack and false accusations. "Our armed forces, including Army, Air Force and Navy, defended the homeland with gallantry alongside national unity," he recalled, adding that Pakistan, as a responsible state, first exercised restraint and later responded with unforgettable might.

"Our country became the ruler of the skies within no time after the Indian attack," he stated. "Pakistan followed the Chinese motto 'Speak less, do more' in Marka-e-Haq," he said. He further noted that the political and military leadership proved Pakistan to be a responsible nuclear power when India attacked after challenging the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

Pakistan's defence will remain impregnable: Religious Affairs Minister

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Friday said that Defence Day is the day to pay homage to the martyrs, acknowledge the heroes unmatched contributions and renew the pledge that Pakistan's defence will always remain impregnable.

Paying rich tributes to the martyrs, the federal minister reaffirmed that Pakistan will always remain undefeatable and said "Defence Day is a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and unity when the people of Pakistan and its armed forces together safeguarded the sovereignty of the motherland".

He said that every year, the nation commemorates September 06 as Defence Day to recall the 1965 war when India attacked Pakistan and the armed forces, with the support of the entire nation, defended the homeland with unmatched bravery.

In an exclusive talk with APP, he said that

Pakistan's armed forces deserve the highest tribute for their eternal sacrifices. Referring to the Marka-e-Haq of 2025, he said that once again the enemy attempted aggression against Pakistan but the armed forces, under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, gave a historic response that illuminated Pakistan's name across the world.

"We are thankful to Allah Almighty for this great achievement which has now become part of national history," he remarked. The minister said that the purpose of observing Defence Day is to remember the martyrs, pay them homage, and unite the nation for the country's security-just as the people of Pakistan stood together during the Marka-e-Haq and in 1965.

Congratulating the nation, he said, "If the people remain united in the same spirit, no one will ever dare to cast an evil eye on Pakistan." Meanwhile, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level Bangladeshi delegation led by Bangladesh's Advisor to the President of Religious Affairs A.F.M Khalid Hussain called on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf.

Govt ready for dialogue with Balochistan political leader, NA told

AYESHA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Friday reaffirmed the government's readiness to engage with Balochistan's leadership and political representatives to find practical solutions to the province's longstanding issues as the Opposition's PTI staged a walkout from the House.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister said that although a protest is ongoing on a major road in the Red Zone in front of National Press, authorities have been providing security and necessary facilitation for

several days.

"The government, along with the district administration, has been in continuous contact with the protesters, trying to address their concerns through proper channels," he added.

He said, that while the protest was initially meant to highlight specific issues, some individuals have at times misused it for personal or political point-scoring. "We remain in dialogue with the protestors and are ready to engage with them on a comprehensive plan to address their lawful demands," he said.

He highlighted previous efforts by political parties,

including discussions with Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) and other leadership, as well as the Prime Minister's Committee on Balochistan, where these issues were addressed openly.

On the issue of missing persons, he clarified that nearly 2,000 registered cases exist under the law, and the relevant commission monitors these matters strictly according to rules. "The government does not allow any one to act beyond legal boundaries, and the issue of missing persons should not be politicized or used for ulterior purposes," he added.

Responding to another point, he said, "Holding

political gatherings without proper clearance creates soft targets, whether school buses, markets, mosques, or other public spaces. Terrorists exploit these vulnerabilities."

He said that security assessments must be completed before any event proceeds to ensure public safety.

He said that National Action Plan, developed in coordination with all provincial governments and political parties, will significantly reduce terrorism.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has said all available resources will be utilized with the cooperation of the provinces for the reha-

bilitation of flood affected people.

Winding up discussion on a motion regarding the situation arising out of the recent floods, in the National Assembly, Tarar said one point three billion rupees have been released to the NDMA for rescue and relief efforts. The Law Minister said according to the latest data, eight hundred and 84 people have died and 1181 others injured in the floods. He said evacuation of 2.1 million people was carried out in the flood affected areas.

Giving details of the compensation package, he said that two million rupees each

have been given to the families of the deceased, five hundred thousand rupees to severely injured and two hundred thousand rupees to other injured people. Participating in the discussion on the motion, Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal emphasized the need for empowering and strengthening local government system in order to effectively deal with disasters such as floods. He also called for construction of dams to enhance water storage capacity. Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri emphasized the need for provision of timely relief to the flood affected people.

Bilawal wants agriculture emergency to support farmers amid floods

PEAK POINT

KASUR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday urged the prime minister to declare the agriculture emergency, stating that farmers have been devastated by the recent floods.

The PPP chairman visited the flood-affected areas in Punjab's Kasur district, where he was received by PPP leader Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed.

During his visit, he toured the Talwar Post flood relief camp and met with flood victims.

Bilawal Bhutto was accompanied by Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Hassan Murtaza, Nadeem Afzal Chan, Qamar Zaman Kaira, and other party leaders. Bilawal expressed solidarity with the affected people during his visit to the relief



camp.

He was briefed by the District Police Officer (DPO) and Deputy Commissioner (DC) on the situation and relief efforts. Talking to media, Bilawal stated that Punjab has suffered the most damage from the floods, with widespread devastation across many areas. He emphasised that both the federal and provincial governments must step up to support the affected communities. Bilawal acknowledged the efforts of the provincial government, saying, "The Punjab government is working hard.

Pakistan targets \$600m in seafood exports for FY 2025-26; says Junaid Anwar Chaudhry

SHUMAILA CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani seafood exporters met with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry in Beijing and updated him on discussions with their Chinese counterparts as Islamabad intensifies efforts to expand its fisheries exports.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized that signing memorandums of understanding and fostering business-to-business agreements will play a crucial role in enhancing fisheries exports, strengthening aquaculture collaboration, and elevating Pakistan as a key seafood hub in the region. "Pakistan aims to reach \$600 million in seafood exports in the upcoming financial year," he stated.



ed. Among the exporters, Tariq Memon, International Sales Manager at Arabian Sea Products, shared that his company is developing an advanced aquaculture and holding systems to cultivate and preserve live mud crabs and lobsters for export. He said this initiative, in partnership with Chinese firms, seeks to extend the survival time of live seafood to two or three weeks, enabling access to distant markets such as China. Memon highlighted that success would depend heavily.

Govt ready for dialogue with Balochistan political representatives: Talal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Friday reaffirmed the government's readiness to engage with Balochistan's leadership and political representatives to find practical solutions to the province's longstanding issues.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that although a protest is ongoing on a major road in the Red Zone in front of National Press, authorities have been providing security and necessary facilitation for several days.

"The government, along with the district administration, has been in continuous contact with



the protestors, trying to address their concerns through proper channels," he added. He said, that while the protest was initially meant to highlight specific issues, some individuals have at times misused it for personal or political point-scoring. "We remain in dialogue with the protestors and are ready to engage with them on a comprehensive plan to address their lawful demands," he said.