

DAILY MIRROR

Quetta
Karachi

mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

Saturday, September, 07, 2024

Rabi-Al-Awwal, 02, 1446

Defense Day Commemorates to keep Collective National Spirit For Defense of Country: CM Bugti

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday said that September 6 commemorated us keeping the collective national spirit and resolve for the defense of the country.

In a statement issued here on the occasion of defense day, he said that on September 6, 1965, the bravest forces repulsed the enemy and became a leaden wall to defend the motherland. Sarfraz Bugti lauded that our bravest forces have rendered immense sacrifices for the protection of the country and the nation since the creation of the Pakistan. The Chief Minister said that the Pak Army has all the potential and capability to defend the country under any circumstances and respond to any kind of aggression from the enemy. Bugti said Defense Day was a renewal of the pledge that we will not let the sacrifices of our great martyrs go in vain. He

confidently expressed that patriotic Pakistanis will always play their role collectively for the defense, development, integrity, and stability of the country.

The people of the province have always stood shoulder to shoulder with their brave forces and other security agencies to establish peace and order in the province and become their strong arms against subversive elements. He said no exception will be made with those who spread terrorism and chaos in Balochistan. The Chief Minister reiterated the government's resolve that those who spread sabotage, chaos, and terrorism in the province will be brought to their logical end.

The provincial government with the support of security agencies will defend every inch of the country's land. On the occasion of Defense Day, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti paid homage to all the martyrs who rendered their lives for the defense of the country.



Army Chief General Asim Munir is addressing a Defence Day ceremony in Rawalpindi.

Naqvi calls for collective efforts to eliminate scourge of terrorism

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has urged religious scholars to support and stand by the government in its efforts to purge the country from the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

Talking to delegation of Ulama and Mashaikh in Islamabad, he said, "Pakistan is first and we all have to make collective efforts for its development and prosperity."

In connection with Defence Day, being observed today, he categorically stated that anybody who takes arms against the state is a terrorist and the state will deal with such elements with iron hand. He said killing innocent people in the name of religion has nothing to do with Islam and Islamic teachings. The interior minister emphasised terrorists and extremists to lay down weapons and accept writ of the State and the Constitution.

He assured that suggestions of Ulama and Mashaikh would be incorporated to root out terrorism from the country.

In his remarks, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said time has come that Ulama and Mashaikh should come forward and play their active role to reform the society. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad asked the participants to play overwhelming role to save the country today as was played by Ulama and Mashaikh during independence of Pakistan.

He said more than one thousand Ulama and religious scholars belonging to all schools of thought have signed a decree and narrative under Paigham-e-Pakistan, declaring unanimously that suicide attacks, armed insurgency against the state and the use of force in the name of enforcing Shariah is 'Haram' or forbidden in Islam.

Balochistan Governor for making local govt system strong

Our Correspondent

Quetta: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhel on Friday said that by making the local government system strong and stable, we could provide an opportunity to every intelligent person at the Union Council level to participate in the construction and development of the country and the nation and serve the people of their area.

By engaging the youth at the Union Council level, we can use their talents and spirit to serve, he said in his statement issued here.

He said that every opinionated person has to play his part to build bridges of love and perceive after elimination of hatred and to get out of the circle of fear, distance and mistrust between us. Governor Balochistan

made it clear that Balochistan could not afford any more distance, hatred and conflicts, therefore, we must build bridges that connect us, not walls that separate us from each other.

He said that diversity is our valuable asset in the context of Pakistan and Balochistan, as if unity in diversity is not just a slogan, but unity in variety is a great need of all nations and religions living in Balochistan.

It is gratifying that even today we have more commonalities but fewer differences, he said.

He said that in history, Balochistan could not achieve its goals of construction, creation and development based on various internal and external reasons due to which we have been left behind compared to other provinces.



QUETTA: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif.

Pakistan desires peaceful relations with all neighboring countries: COAS

INP

RAWALPINDI: On the 59th Defence Day of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir delivered a powerful message, paying tribute to the martyrs and reaffirming the unwavering resolve of Pakistan's armed forces to safeguard the nation's sovereignty.

Defence Day, observed annually on September 6, marks the victory of the Pakistani military during the 1965 war against India, a day of national pride and remembrance.

General Munir stated that the September 6 holds a "prominent position" in both national and military history. He lauded the spirit of national unity and solidarity displayed by the Pakistani people and armed forces during the war, which thwarted the enemy's ambitions and protected the homeland. The COAS emphasized that this same spirit of unity continues to drive the Pakistan Army in its defence of the nation's borders.

In his message, General Munir paid homage to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the country. "We salute the brave officers

and men of Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives for the motherland," he said, highlighting the Pakistan Army's commitment to ensuring the sanctity and protection of martyrs and their families. "Our martyrs are our top priority, and we will continue to safeguard their honour."

The army chief reiterated that the motto of the Pakistan Army -- "Faith, Piety, and Jihad" -- remains its greatest strength, enabling the military to counter any threats from enemies. He praised the unmatched bravery and professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces, not just in conventional warfare but also in countering the scourge of terrorism.

General Munir spoke about the ongoing fight against terrorism, noting that Pakistan's forces have achieved remarkable success in controlling the threat, which has no parallel globally. "The army of any other country has not been able to achieve the success with which our forces have contained the menace of terrorism," he stated, adding that thanks to the efforts of the security forces and law enforcement agencies, today Pakistan stands safe from instability.

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

INP

ISLAMABAD: 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.

Khawaja assures CM to help for maintaining durable peace in Balochistan

APP

Quetta: Federal Minister of Defence Khawaja Asif On Friday assured the Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti that Federal government would provide all possible cooperation for the restoration of durable peace in the province. He said this while talking to the Chief Minister in the meeting during his visit of Quetta. Both leaders discussed the law and order situation in Balochistan and agreed to repeat the measures for the maintaining of peace in the area. Chief Minister of Balochistan briefed the Federal Minister of Defense on the situation in Balochistan. He said that provincial govern-

ment and security forces were striving to curb terrorism activities from the province and restore sustainable peace in order to put the province on track of development.

The CM said that cowardly terrorists target poor labourers as soft targets which we strongly condemned the attack on innocent people. He said that provincial government is developing police and Levies on modern lines with the aim to curb nefarious design of anti-peace elements from respective areas of the province. Terrorists have no religion, the saboteurs will be brought to their logical end for wider interest of the country and the Balochistan, he said.

President for stronger Navy to protect Pakistan's geo-economic interests

ONLINE

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday called for making the Pakistan Navy further stronger in order to protect the geo-economic interests and defend maritime frontiers of the country. Welcoming the induction of MILGEM Class Corvette Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Babur and Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS Hunain into the Pakistan Navy (PN) fleet, he said that the ships would enable the Navy to perform its ever-growing operational responsibilities.

The President expressed these views while addressing the induction ceremony of PNS Babur and Hunain into the Pakistan Navy fleet, here at the PN Dockyard. The ceremony was attended by

Deputy Minister of National Defence Turkiye, Bilal Burdali, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, senior representatives of construction yards, high-ranking officials of the Armed Forces and the political leadership.

PNS Babur is a multipurpose ship built and commissioned at Istanbul Naval Shipyard on 23 September 2023. PNS Hunain, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was built and commissioned at DAMEN Shipyard, Romania on 25 July 2024. Addressing the ceremony, the President said that the induction of PNS Babur and Hunain into the fleet was a milestone achievement in fortifying Pakistan's maritime defence capabilities.

CJCS, Services Chiefs pay tribute to soldiers of 1965 War

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, and the Pakistan Armed Forces have highlighted the triumphant legacy of the 1965 War.

In their messages on Defence and Martyrs Day, they paid a rich tribute to the valor, sacrifice, and heroism of gallant soldiers who valiantly defended the motherland against formidable odds.

The statement said Pakistan Armed Forces reaffirm their unwavering commitment to defend the country against all threats and challenges.

They said Armed Forces along with Law Enforcement Agencies stand ready to defend homeland with unwavering dedication and unrelenting passion, upholding the spirit of September 1965.

ECP rejects PTI pleas in intra-party election case

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday dismissed all four miscellaneous applications submitted by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the intra-party election case.

A 10-page decision was issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, authored by Sindh's member, Nisar Durani.

PTI's objection regarding the Election Commission of Pakistan's jurisdiction in the intra-party elections was overruled in the verdict. Additionally, PTI's request to delay the proceedings in the case was also struck down.

The plea to postpone action on intra-party elections until a decision on reserved seats was similarly turned down. The ECP in its verdict has advised PTI to approach the court for the return of documents taken from the party office.

The decision emphasized that under Section 208 of the Election Act 2017, it is the Commission's responsibility to review legal requirements.

The Election Commission of Pakistan also highlighted its duty to examine the facts before issuing certificates under Section 209(3).

On April 8, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to issue the certificate of its intra-party election.

PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that they came to the ECP office to obtain the certificate for the internal election conducted last month.

Expressing dismay over the delays in the issuance of the certificate, he said that parties who held elections after the PTI were issued certificates.

Balochistan Celebrates Defence Day With Zeal

APP

QUETTA: The Defence and Martyrs Day was celebrated with zeal in Balochistan on Friday. The day dawned with the recitation of the Holy Quran and special prayers for the prosperity of Pakistan in all mosques throughout the province.

Officers of the Pak Army, Frontier Corps, Police, and Levies Force while offering Fateha for the fallen heroes of the nation laid floral wreaths at different Yadgar-e-Shuhada set up in various districts of the province.

Rallies were taken out in respective districts including Quetta to pay rich tribute to martyrs on Defence Day.

Various ceremonies were held to pay homage to the martyrs and Ghazis and highlighted the sacrifices rendered by the Armed Forces.

Defender of Pakistan Movement (DPM) took out a rally, led by DPM's Provincial leader Mehmood Khan Mandukhail, from Quetta Metropolitan Corporation to celebrate Defence Day and accumulated in front of Quetta Press Club after marching different routes. Addressing the participants of the rally, he said that the defense of the country was strengthened due to numerous efforts of security forces including the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC), and other forces. He said that on 6th September our brave forces defeated Indian Army.

He also paid rich tribute to the martyrs of the country. In his message, on the occasion of 6th September Defence Day, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti paid homage to all the martyrs of the motherland on the Defence Day. He said that the Defence Day is a renewal of the pledge that we would not let the sacrifices of our great martyrs go in vain adding that we would always play our role collectively as patriotic Pakistanis for the defense, development, integrity, and stability of our country. He said that 6th September is a day in the history of Pakistan and that we must always maintain the collective national spirit and determination for the protection, integrity, and defense of our beloved homeland.

Chief justice , judges cannot be gate keeper for parliament: SC

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) while accepting the intra court appeals of federal government and other affectees has declared null and void the decision and restored the NAB amendment Bill.

SC accepted government and others appeals and restored NAB amendments bill.

While announcing decision of NAB amendment case court remarked PTI founder Imran Khan could not prove NAB amendments are unconstitutional.

The decision said 3-member bench of SC could not prove NAB amendments run contrary to the constitution.

SC had reserved judgment on June 6. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa read out judgment.

A 5-member larger bench of SC had heard this case.

CJP Isa headed the five-judge bench comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi.

Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi wrote additional notes.

The decision said NAB law was made by former army chief Pervez Musharraf after 34 days of his coming into power forcibly. Pervez Musharraf threw out constitutional democratic order and enacted legislation for himself. Pervez Musharraf removed those judges of superior judiciary who

did not approve unconstitutional steps. It was further said in the decision the role of judiciary and legislature is clear in the constitution. The judiciary and legislature should take utmost care in connection with interference in the jurisdiction of each other.

The judgment said CJP and judges of SC are not gate keepers of parliament. The constitutional institutions should respect each other. The legislation of parliament should not be declared null and void. It does not mean legislation against the constitution will not be declared null and void.

The decision said the plea for constituting 5-member bench on the petition against NAB amendment was rejected. Had Justice Mansoor Ali Shah isolated him from the bench then neither two members bench could hear the petition against the amendment nor could it make decision.

Third amendment in NAB laws was not reviewed in SC decision. Petition and SC decision don't conform to the constitution, if two interpretations of any law come then interpretation which comes in favor of law will be accepted.

Mr Niazi himself was architect of several amendments among these amendments. Mr Niazi did not file the petition with good intent. Petition of Mr Niazi was not maintainable in SC.

The decision said it has not been told in the decision related to NAB that how the NAB amendments are in conflict with basic rights. Constitution does not allow judges to

assess law on their own criterion. Judges are bound to law and constitution as per their oath.

The decision said SC cannot play the role of gate keeper for parliament. Chief justice and judges cannot be gate keeper for parliament.

The verdict noted that Imran did not approach the SC "in a bona fide manner" and that he "also did not have the requisite locus standi since the amendments neither adversely nor personally affected him (Imran)".

"It does not suffice that the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution is exercised by simply mentioning that one or more fundamental rights are contravened," the order observed.

It added that the Sept 15 ruling "did not demonstrate how the amendments violated or infringed any of the fundamental rights which were cursorily mentioned therein".

The verdict recalled that NAB Additional Prosecutor General Chaudhry Mumtaz Yousaf stated that the bureau supports the ICAs. Detailing on the origins of the National Accountability Ordinance 1999, the court said it was enacted 34 days after former military dictator Pervez Musharraf "forcibly assumed power after he was sacked".

It acknowledged that the manner in which NAO provisions were "applied, or were disregarded, led to the "widely-held perception that the ordinance primarily was an instrument of political victimisation and political engineering".

Member APNS

Daily Mirror

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

Printed and Published By Syed Kamran Mumtaz
For MEM Publications (Pvt) Ltd, 4-A Model Town Hali Road Quetta Cantt.
Phone, No. 081-2829164, Fax No. 081-2835934

Right Approach

Last month's trail of deadly attacks littered across Balochistan could have been an excellent wake-up call for the ruling elite in Pakistan to focus on internal security challenges rather than continuing with the self-inflicted grudge matches. However, a letter addressed to National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq by veteran politician and Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal, lamenting, "Each day, we are pushed further against the wall, leaving us with no choice but to reconsider our roles," reinforces something we had known all along. Nothing much would change, after all.

For the sake of protecting harmony in the parliament and to at least give the optics of a functioning democracy, it is sincerely hoped that the government would be able to convince Mr Mengal to take back his resignation letter, which can only occur by listening to the grievances of people he represents.

Balochistan has been riddled with a myriad of challenges that could not change with a single touch-down of the prime minister's plane in Quetta. Even if the executive did the right thing by calling on the blood-stained province and reiterating his resolve to bring peace, there's only so much hollow words can achieve. Reducing the serious threats emerging from Balochistan to a security matter is an entirely wrong approach.

Genuine and effective action relies on actively engaging with the true stakeholders of the people, listening to their concerns, and ensuring they receive their fair treatment. Mr Mengal may not respond well to kneejerk dismissals but could be convinced by prioritizing the health, education, and security of his people.

The glaring problem remains that the state is in perpetual denial about decades of political discrimination and denying a fair share of resources to its people. Until this is addressed, the government will struggle to make progress with completing the ambitious CPEC project or to make Balochistan a valued asset.

Missing Targets

Contrary to a massive revenue target set by the government, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) seems to have proven its astonishing ineptitude by falling short of the projected target for July and August by Rs99 billion.

This failure, while raising serious concerns about the tax administration's ability to make up the gaps, adds further credence to a repeatedly-floated demand for a "realistic" tax target.

To add to the FBR's worries, trading unions across the country are determined in their refusal to pay advanced taxes out of registration, which in turn, means a continued reliance on indirect taxation.

The dismal numbers speak for themselves. Although the government's hands are increasingly tied by pressure to sort out the house from the likes of the IMF, it cannot be denied that raising such high expectations from an institution that has yet to get over 3.2 million traders under the tax net was like trying to pilot a flight that was doomed from the beginning.

The root causes behind this monumental failure are glaringly evident. The lack of a coherent long-term tax collection plan, leading to unsustainable revenue generation, needs to be prioritised before trying to squeeze more out of existing taxpayers.

Delays in tax assessment and collection, combined with rampant corruption and bureaucratic red tape, have severely undermined the FBR's ability to fulfil its targets. This level of incompetence is simply unacceptable and demands urgent redress.

Let's not forget the impact of economic challenges and external factors on tax collection. The FBR cannot force people to pay taxes when they have nothing to offer, thanks to inflation and measly economic prospects. The fact of the matter remains that unless more people are added to the tax net, there's a limit to what the existing filers can contribute to the system.

By Kamal Mustafa

Balochistan: A Pillar of Pakistan's Growth

According to the 2023 Census, Pakistan's population is approximately 242 million, spread across its four main provinces. Punjab, the most populous, has around 127.68 million residents, making it the demographic leader of the country. Sindh follows with about 55.69 million people, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) ranks third with an estimated 40.86 million inhabitants. Balochistan, in contrast, has the smallest population among the provinces, with about 12 million residents. Despite its modest population, Balochistan is notable for its rich ethnic diversity and abundant natural resources, although its population density is significantly lower than that of the other provinces.

Balochistan's demographic landscape is a vibrant mosaic, showcasing a rich tapestry of ethnic diversity. The province is home to a significant number of Pashtoons, closely followed by the Brahvi and Hazara communities, along with settlers from other regions. While the Baloch people form a prominent and influential segment, the presence of these varied ethnic groups highlights the multicultural character of Balochistan, a region where diverse traditions and cultures converge.

Beyond Balochistan, the Baloch people have established themselves in other parts of Pakistan, particularly in provinces like Punjab and Sindh. Karachi, Pakistan's largest metropolis and a thriving economic centre has a substantial Baloch community that plays a crucial role in the city's workforce. This widespread Baloch diaspora not only enriches the social fabric of these regions but also strengthens the interconnectedness of Pakistan as a whole. Islamabad, the nation's capital, reflects Pakistan's demographic diversity, with a notable Baloch community. This migration, driven by economic opportunities, educational aspirations, and a quest for better living standards, has enriched the cultural landscape of these regions. The Baloch presence in Punjab, Sindh, Karachi, and Islamabad has significantly contributed to the nation's rich cultural

mosaic, ensuring that their unique heritage remains an integral part of the broader Pakistani identity. Beyond Pakistan's borders, a substantial Baloch population resides along the approximately 909-kilometre border with Iran. As a minority group within Iran, the Baloch face significant challenges in achieving autonomy or independence.

The propaganda advocating for a separate Balochistan is a superficial and self-serving endeavour.

The complex interplay of geopolitical factors, social dynamics, and economic realities makes such aspirations virtually unattainable. The Baloch's position within the Iranian state is further complicated by broader issues of nationhood, regional politics, and minority rights. Their struggle for greater recognition or autonomy within a marginalised context highlights the ongoing challenges they face. The notion of an independent Balochistan is an unrealistic idea, a narrative propagated by those who understand its implausibility. The geopolitical and social realities of the region make such a proposition untenable.

The propaganda advocating for a separate Balochistan is a superficial and self-serving endeavour. Balochistan possesses immense potential that can be harnessed for both regional and national development. This potential is multifaceted, with each aspect contributing uniquely to the province's overall promise. Balochistan's strategic position, acting as a gateway to South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, presents exceptional opportunities for trade and commerce. By investing in transportation infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and ports, the province can become a crucial hub for regional and international trade. The province is endowed with rich mineral resources, including copper, gold, coal, and various industrial minerals. Responsible and sustainable exploitation of these resources can significantly boost the local economy, create jobs, and attract foreign investment.

Certain areas of Balochistan have fertile land suitable for agriculture.

By promoting modern farming techniques and irrigation projects, the province can enhance food security, increase incomes for local farmers, and contribute to overall economic stability.

Balochistan's coastline offers significant potential for maritime activities, such as fishing and shipping. Developing ports and harbour facilities can transform the province into a vital trade hub, facilitating international commerce and generating employment opportunities.

The hardworking and resilient people of Balochistan are an invaluable asset to the province's development. By investing in education, vocational training, and skill development programmes, their potential can be further enhanced. Empowering the people of Balochistan through capacity-building initiatives will enable them to actively participate in the province's economic progress, driving innovation and enhancing productivity.

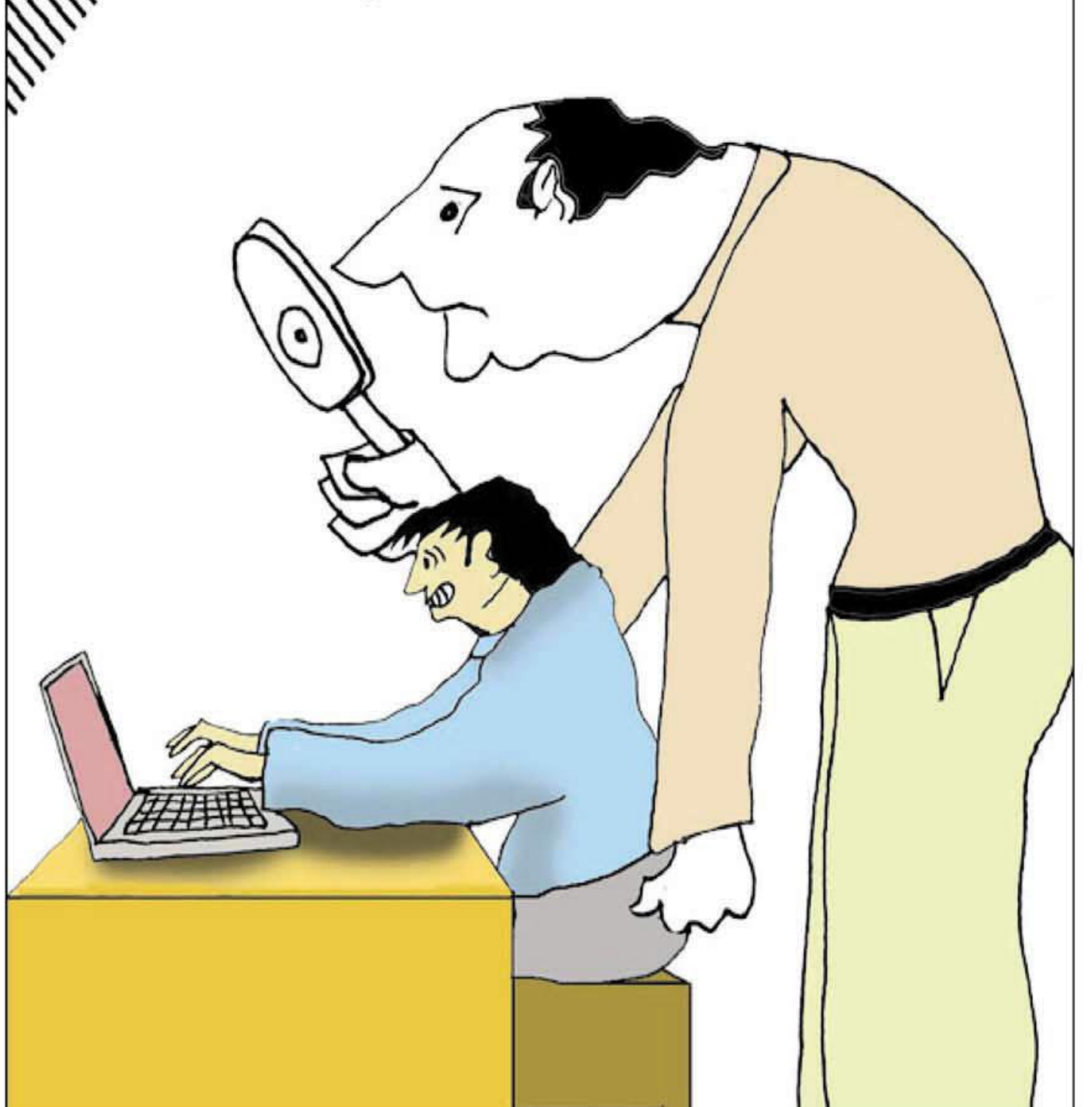
The strategic importance of Balochistan, with its vast potential to uplift and transform Pakistan's socio-economic landscape, has not gone unnoticed by adverse and antagonistic forces.

This region, abundant in natural resources and strategically positioned near key trade routes, holds immense promise for the national economy. Its mineral wealth and agricultural expanses position Balochistan as a cornerstone for economic growth and national development. However, it is precisely this potential that poses a threat to those with inimical agendas.

The empowerment and development of Balochistan could lead to a more unified and economically robust Pakistan, a scenario that would inevitably undermine the interests of those who thrive on instability.

These elements, recognising the transformative power Balochistan holds, have sought to destabilise the region to prevent it from realising its full potential. The prosperity of Balochistan, with its promise of increased employment, improved infrastructure, and enhanced social services, threatens to reshape the very fabric of Pakistan, making it imperative to scrutinise the forces that perpetuate the region's challenges.

PTA using Web Monitoring System to block online content



DAILY MIRROR

Balochistan Government Striving Hard To Eradicate Polio Virus: Shakeel Qadir

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan the provincial government is striving hard to ensure complete eradication of polio various in the province.

The seven-day anti-polio drive would be commenced in the entire province from September 9 (Monday), he said while presiding a high-level meeting regarding the preparations for anti-polio campaign in the province.

He urged the parents to ensure their children are vaccinated during this campaign to protect them from permanent disability and prevent the spread of poliovirus in the province.

Shakeel Qadir Khan stressed that stern measures should be taken for the success of anti-polio campaign and emphasized the critical importance of vaccination in protecting children from the debilitating effects of polio.

He said that fool proof security would be provided to all the teams participating in the polio campaign to vaccinate every child under five years of age.

The chief secretary warned that no negligence would be tolerated and strict action will be taken against those who try to interrupt the polio campaign in the province.

He said that FC will be deployed in some districts if required to ensure fool-proof security to the teams administering vaccination drops to eradicate the polio virus from Balochistan.

Shakeel Qadir urged the public to ensure their cooperation with the polio teams during the campaign to curb the spread of polio virus which is a national issue.

The chief secretary pledged that collaborative efforts would be taken to reach every child with immunization services and administered the anti-polio drops in the upcoming campaign.

Shakeel Qadir vowed that the government has determined to launch three special anti-polio campaign in the province to get all children under the age of five vaccinated to keep them protected from paralytic polio.

He expressed hope that if the special anti-polio drives planned in view of recent surge of polio cases from Balochistan will be successful, the virus would be eradicated completely.

The chief secretary expressed concerns while sharing the facts that 12 out of total 17 polio cases have been reported this year from Balochistan province.

He instructed all Deputy Commissioners and District Health Officers (DHOs) to attend Evening Review Meeting.

The Chief Secretary urged the public to cooperate with the administration in convincing the parents who were refusing the polio vaccination as this is a common problem of the whole society.

He also called up the political and tribal leaders and religious scholars and members of civil societies to play their vital role to make polio campaign successful.

The Chief Secretary has also orders to assign the duties of all lady health workers, lady health visitors of the health department in the anti-polio drive to make the campaign successful.

He issued instruction that the staff of the line departments will also perform their duties in the upcoming anti-polio campaign to get maximum results.

During the campaign, a target number of 2.65 million children will be vaccinated and a total of 11,446 teams will be working.

The chief secretary said that as many as 12 cases of Polio has been reported in Balochistan in the first eight months of the current year from Chaman, Dera Bugti, Qilla Abdullah, Jhal Magsi, Zhob, Killa Saifulah and Kharan.

During the last year, environmental samples indicated the presence of the polio virus in different districts of the province.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the induction ceremony of Pakistan Navy Ships Babur and Hunain, at Pakistan Navy Dockyard.

'Sacrifices of martyrs have made country's defence impregnable'

INP

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said the entire nation, along with the armed forces of Pakistan, is united with renewed pledge for the defence of country's geographical and ideological boundaries.

In his video message on the occasion of Defence Day, he said this day reminds us the great sacrifices of the armed forces of Pakistan in 1965. He said sacrifices of martyrs have made the defence of Pakistan impregnable.

The Defence Minister said the armed forces are fighting the war against terrorism with their full might and determination to save the country from this menace. He said the people of Pakistan are fully aware of the support and facilitation being extended to terrorists from across the border.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said we should not forget our Kashmiri brethren on this day. He said Pakistan will continue its support to the just struggle of the people of Kashmir.

Ahsan chairs meeting of National Force on Human Resource & Skill Development

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a meeting of the National Task Force on Human Resource and Skill Development to discuss a comprehensive national HR development strategy.

"The task force aims to address the skills gap in Pakistan and harness the country's human resource potential," a news release said. The meeting was attended among others by the Secretary Planning Commission, Members Planning Commission, and officials from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), and National University of Technology (NUTECH). Other stakeholders in attendance included representatives from the Federation.

Toshakhana 2.0, Al-Qadir trust cases 'practically over' after SC ruling on NAB laws: Barrister Gohar

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman, Barrister Gohar has said that as per the apex court's ruling regarding the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, the Toshakhana 2.0, along with the Al-Qadir trust case against the party's founding leader Imran Khan has been effectively dismissed.

Earlier today, the apex court in its 5-0 unanimous verdict overturned a previous ruling that nullified amendments to the NAB laws, and granted intra-court appeals filed by the federal government and other affected parties.

Speaking to the media on Thursday following the NAB case verdict, Barrister Gohar said, "The Toshakhana 2 case has practically ended today. The Al-Qadir Trust case should also be considered finished."

He explained that under the new law, cabinet decisions are exempt from prosecution.

"The prosecution has itself admitted that Imran Khan did not gain any personal benefit from the case".

"According to the Supreme Court ruling, both cases are now over," he added.

Barrister Gohar further elaborated, stating, "The Al-Qadir Trust case should be dismissed on merit, and Toshakhana 2 cannot proceed. Bushra Bibi's name was never on the Toshakhana list. It was only included to pressure Imran Khan."

He also said that the Supreme Court's decision has now made the law clear.

"A case involving cabinet decisions cannot be pursued by NAB. We are present in Parliament, though questionable individuals are sitting there."

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, approved the government's appeals regarding the NAB amendments and declared the amendments valid. The court reinstated the changes made to the NAB laws during the previous PDM-led government.

The ruling also overturned the majority decision by former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and retired Justice Ijazul Ahsan, which had nullified the amendments.

6th September is Day our armed forces in glorious history of Pakistan: Sardar Khetran

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Minister for Public Health Engineer (PHE) Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran on Friday said that the 6th September is the day of our brave armed forces in the glorious history of Pakistan.

In a message to the people on the occasion of 6th September, he said that it is celebrated as a symbol of the bravery, determination and unparalleled spirit of sacrifice of the troops. The Minister said that 59 years ago on this day, our Pakistan Army officers, soldiers, navy men and air force soldiers proved to the world that they are always ready to defend the motherland secretly at any cost.

"The nation and the armed forces proved that size does not matter, it is passion, passion and courage that matters most", he said.

He said that we are well aware of our national and international responsibilities, our armed forces are ready to deal with any kind of situation.

He said that the Day of Defense and Martyrs reminds us of the unparalleled courage and bravery that the armed forces and the nation displayed by defeating the nefarious intentions of the enemy.

Mr. Khetran said that in the hour of trial, the forces of Pakistan fought the land, sea and air war fearlessly, every citizen of the nation stood up to protect the motherland. "September 6 is a symbol of unwavering determination, patriotism, and great sacrifice", he said.



QUETTA: All parties head Asghar Khan Achakzai addressing a press conference.

PM Shehbaz condoles with Chaudhry Nisar on his sister's demise

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of former federal minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan to condole the death of his sister.

Expressing his deep grief, the prime minister prayed for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ataulah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

Separately, the premier met Islamabad IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi to offer condolences on the death of his mother. The prime minister prayed for the departed soul.

Shaza Fatima urges national unity against terrorism

INP

LAHORE: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja stressed the importance of national unity in the fight against terrorism, urging all citizens to play their part.

Her remarks came during a visit to the family of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi Shaheed in Walton, here on Friday, where she offered condolences and paid tribute to the fallen hero.

Speaking to the media after the visit, Shaza Fatima highlighted the significance of the military's role in maintaining peace and security. She called for solidarity, particularly in countering campaigns against the armed forces. "Due to the sacrifices of our martyrs, we can live safely in our homes today," she remarked, honoring the bravery of Captain Qureshi and expressing her sympathy for his grieving family.

The Minister of State lauded Captain Qureshi's dedication and commended his family for their patriotism and selflessness.

"The nation will always remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and their families. These heroes gave their lives to eradicate terrorism, and our efforts will continue until this menace is eliminated from its roots," she affirmed.

She also touched on the growing issue of fake news and the misuse of social media, stressing that concrete steps were being taken to combat disinformation. "We will do whatever is necessary to address this issue and prevent the spread of false narratives," she said, promising stricter measures to curb the misuse of digital platforms.

After Senate, NA adopts 'peaceful assembly' bill amid opposition's protest

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Following the approval from the Senate, the National Assembly (NA) on Friday passed the "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024", proposing up to three-year imprisonment for organising unauthorised rallies in Islamabad.

The bill, introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Danyal Chaudhary, aims to regulate public gatherings in the federal capital and ensure they do not disrupt public order.

Speaking on the floor of the lower house of parliament, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the purpose of the bill is to maintain peace during public assemblies and processions.

He dismissed the opposition's concerns, saying that the increasing number of demonstrations in the federal capital has caused significant inconvenience to citizens.

"The bill seeks to address these challenges while preserving the right to peaceful assembly," the federal minister added. Despite opposition from lawmakers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), the peaceful assembly was passed by a majority vote.

With approval from both houses of parliament, the bill will now be sent to President Asif Ali Zardari for final endorsement to become law.

The new bill empowers the district magistrate to regulate and ban public assemblies in the federal capital, proposing a punishment of up to three years or/and an unspecified fine to the members of an 'unlawful assembly'.

Meanwhile, it also proposed that repeat offenders will be liable to imprisonment for a term that may extend to 10 years.

As per a report published in The News, the bill bounds the event coordinator of an assembly to apply in writing to the district magistrate at least seven days before the intended date of the event.

Upon receipt of application, the district magistrate, before granting permission, would examine the prevailing law and order situation and obtain security clearance reports from the law-enforcement agencies.

The law also seeks to empower the government to designate a specific area of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) as a red zone or high-security zone, thereby prohibiting all types of assemblies in that area.

Likewise, according to it, a district magistrate would not permit any assembly in any area other than the defined, designated area and the assembly would proceed and take place at the specified locality or route, in the manner and during the times mentioned in the permission.



Members of Defenders of Pakistan Movement are holding rally to pay homage to the Ghazis and Shuhada of 06 September 1965 Indo-Pak War on the occasion of Defence Day of Pakistan, at Quetta press club.

Govt committed to modernizing country's public transport system: Romina

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Chinese delegation called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam in Islamabad and discussed various aspects of their ambitious plan to help Pakistan revolutionize the mass transit system.

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

She highlighted that cities like Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi have already introduced electric buses as part of their public transportation systems with an aim to reduce air pollution and provide cleaner alternatives for environmentally-friendly urban mobility facilities to the people.

transport project would revolutionize the country's transportation infrastructure by promoting environmentally sustainable and efficient mobility solutions.

Romina Khurshid Alam said the present government is committed to modernizing the country's public transport system, which is decent, safe and environmentally-efficient.

She highlighted that cities like Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi have already introduced electric buses as part of their public transportation systems with an aim to reduce air pollution and provide cleaner alternatives for environmentally-friendly urban mobility facilities to the people.

transportation infrastructure by promoting environmentally sustainable and efficient mobility solutions.

Romina Khurshid Alam said the present government is committed to modernizing the country's public transport system, which is decent, safe and environmentally-efficient.

She highlighted that cities like Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi have already introduced electric buses as part of their public transportation systems with an aim to reduce air pollution and provide cleaner alternatives for environmentally-friendly urban mobility facilities to the people.

transportation infrastructure by promoting environmentally sustainable and efficient mobility solutions.

Romina Khurshid Alam said the present government is committed to modernizing the country's public transport system, which is decent, safe and environmentally-efficient.

She highlighted that cities like Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi have already introduced electric buses as part of their public transportation systems with an aim to reduce air pollution and provide cleaner alternatives for environmentally-friendly urban mobility facilities to the people.

transportation infrastructure by promoting environmentally sustainable and efficient mobility solutions.

Romina Khurshid Alam said the present government is committed to modernizing the country's public transport system, which is decent, safe and environmentally-efficient.

She highlighted that cities like Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi have already introduced electric buses as part of their public transportation systems with an aim to reduce air pollution and provide cleaner alternatives for environmentally-friendly urban mobility facilities to the people.

Trump says US colleges could lose accreditation over 'antisemitic propaganda' if he's elected

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told Jewish donors that US universities would lose accreditation and federal support over what he described as "antisemitic propaganda" if he is elected to the White House.

"Colleges will and must end the antisemitic propaganda or they will lose their accreditation and federal support," Trump said, speaking remotely to a crowd of more than 1,000 Republican Jewish Coalition donors in Las Vegas.

Protests roiled college campuses in spring, with students opposing Israel's military offensive in Gaza and demanding institutions stop doing business with companies backing Israel.

Republicans have said the protests show some Democrats are antisemites who support chaos. Protest groups say authorities have unfairly labeled their criticism of Israel's policies as antisemitic. The Association of American Universities, which says it represents some 69 leading US universities, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In the United States, the federal government does not directly accredit universities but has a role in overseeing the mostly private organizations that give colleges accreditation.

In his speech, Trump also said he would ban refugee resettlement from "terror infested" areas like Gaza and arrest "pro-Hamas thugs" who engage in vandalism, an apparent reference to the college student protesters.

Under both Trump and Biden, similar numbers of Palestinians were admitted to the US as refugees. From fiscal year 2017-2020, the US accepted 114 Palestinian refugees, according to US State Department data, compared with 124 Palestinian refugees from fiscal year 2021 to July 31 of this year.

While Trump sketched out few concrete Middle Eastern policy proposals for a second term, he painted a potential Harris presidency in cataclysmic terms for Israel.

"You're going to be abandoned if she becomes president. And I think you need to explain that to your people ... You're not going to have an Israel if she becomes president," Trump said without providing evidence for such a claim.

A campaign spokesperson for Vice President Kamala Harris, Morgan Finkelstein, said Harris was a lifelong supporter of Israel and stood against antisemitism. Finkelstein highlighted that Trump in 2022 dined with white supremacist Nick Fuentes at his Mar-A-Lago resort and that in 2017 he said there were "very fine people" on both sides of a deadly rally by white nationalists in Virginia.