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Prime Minister Imran Khan lashes out at Indian govt fascism

Detailed News On Page-08

India has no role to play in Afghanistan

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Bilawal slams government's performance

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Briefs

Farrukh condemns Indian acts

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday lashed out at the Modi's government for snatching and burying body of late veteran Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani and then registering cases against his family by the occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "Snatching and burying of Syed Ali Geelani's body by occupation forces and (then) registering cases against bereaved family is in fact a manifestation of Modi's government fascism and RSS mindset," the minister tweeted. The Modi's government was the worst example of oppression and human rights violation, he added to his tweet. - APP

Taliban ban aerial firing

DNA

KABUL: The Taliban have issued directives to ban aerial firing in Kabul and other Afghan cities. Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, took to Twitter on Sunday and wrote that all the authorities in Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan have been directed to arrest the individuals involved in the aerial firing. Those involved will also be disarmed and expelled from the cities. According to Zabihullah's statement, separate directives for identifying and penalising the individuals involved in aerial firing have been issued to the police and intelligence officials. The directives came after a celebratory aerial fire in Kabul led to several casualties. Several people were killed in Kabul due to celebratory gunfire after the Taliban sources claimed their fighters had seized control of Panjshir, news agencies reported Saturday.

Special Report on Defence Day

Today's daily Islamabad POST carries one-page special supplement on the Defence Day of Pakistan. The supplement appears on the Page 2.

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Four killed, dozens hurt in Quetta blast

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claims responsibility for the suicide attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

QUETTA: Four security personnel were martyred and twenty people were injured Sunday morning when a suicide bomb blast took place at an FC checkpoint located at Mastung Road. The Balochistan Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) confirmed the suicide attack had targeted the Sohana Khan FC checkpoint at Mastung Road. Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a tweet, condemned the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for the suicide attack. The outlawed group took responsibility for the blast, according to media. "My condolences go to the families of the martyrs and prayers for the recovery of the injured. Salute our security forces and their sacrifices to keep us safe by thwarting foreign-backed terrorists' designs," he tweeted. Federal Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazar also held the outlawed group responsible, condemning the attack in strong words. "Condemnable TTP attack today on FC checkpoint in Quetta today. Condolences and prayers go to the families of the martyrs - our brave security forces continue to thwart the designs of terrorists esp the RAW-funded TTP," she tweeted. Balochistan CTD spokesperson said that the CTD team had arrived at the spot and had started a probe into the incident. Police, law enforcement agencies and rescue officials had soon arrived at the area after the blast. The injured were shifted to the Sheikh Zaid hospital, confirmed police. Police said the suicide bomber had rammed his motorcycle

PM condemns TTP suicide attack

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday condemned the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) suicide attack on Frontier Constabulary (FC) check post, Mastung Road, Quetta which caused the loss of previous human lives. Imran Khan in a tweet posted on his social media handle expressed his condolences with the families of the martyrs and prayed for the recovery of the injured. The prime minister saluted the country's security forces and their sacrifices to keep the masses safe by thwarting foreign-backed terrorists' designs. On Saturday, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid had said that the issue of the TTP is one that the Imran Khan government must resolve, not Afghanistan. "The issue of the TTP is one that Pakistan will have to deal with, not Afghanistan. It is up to Pakistan, and Pakistani Ulemas and religious figures, not the Taliban, to decide on the legitimacy or illegitimacy of their war and to formulate a strategy in response," said Mujahid, in an interview.

into the vehicle of a law enforcement agency at the checkpoint. Shortly after the blast, a bomb disposal unit had arrived at the scene to conduct an investigation into the attack.

EU-Pakistan business forum on Sept 8: envoy

EU Delegation would launch Business Forum to facilitate Pakistani SMEs, Promote trade with EU, EU Ambassador in Pak Androulla Kaminara said



ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Preparations have been completed for EU Pakistan Business Forum with Abdul Razzaq Dawood, Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan as Special Guest. The EU Pakistan delegation is all set to launch the first EU-Pakistan Business Forum in Islamabad on September 8, 2021. EU Delegation would

launch a Business Forum to facilitate Pakistani SMEs, Promote trade with the EU, EU Ambassador in Pakistan Androulla Kaminara said. She said opportunities would be provided to the European Union and Pakistani businesses to increase bilateral trade. The opening ceremony of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) is expected to be attended

by representatives of local SMEs covering four key sectors; jewelry and mining, information technology, handicrafts and during the first session in Islamabad, along with fashion travel and tourism, participants will be briefed on the EU's GSP + scheme and how to benefit from the scheme. GSP + provides duty-free access to two-thirds of the tariff lines in the EU market, with the rest on preferential duties. The subsequent meetings of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum later this year will cover more sectors, including agriculture and auto parts manufacturers. She said the EU will take full advantage of the Pakistani Business Forum and establish the right links to expand its trade. The EU market while the EU has given GSP + concessions. Later this year there will be meetings in Lahore and Karachi as well.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in various items displayed at a stall on the 30th anniversary of Independence Day of Ukraine. The event was organised at the PNCA. - DNA

Is there any crisis within the Taliban ranks?

Sources say, DG ISI also took up the matter of safe exit of the foreign nationals through the land route

DNA

KABUL: There are certain media reports that all is not well within the ranks of Taliban leadership and it has been facing some serious challenges while announcing the new government. Some media reports claim that there was a fight among various Afghan Taliban factions as Haqqanis are not ready to accept Mullah Hibatullah as the supreme leader. Sources claim the visit of the DG ISI to Afghanistan was also in the backdrop of this development. Sources further claim the delay may signal a much greater crisis within the Taliban, hence Hameed's emergency trip. Some Afghan factions seek a more inclusive government and are not enthusiastic about efforts to fight the Panjshiris. The Taliban largely conquered Afghanistan on the back of political deals rather than military victories and are unenthusiastic about the losses they now sustain in ground fighting in the Valley and its approaches. Sources say, DG ISI also took up the matter of safe exit of the foreign nationals through the land route as the international flight operations from the Kabul airport were still suspended. The British foreign secretary and all those foreign ministers who have recently visited Pakistan in fact insisted on just one point i.e safe passage to their nationals or those Afghans who have been working for them.

Afghan neighbors discuss situation

The session, chaired by Pakistan's Muhammad Sadiq was attended by China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

SUJUAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday hosted a virtual meeting of Special Representatives/Envoys of neighbors of Afghanistan including the Islamic Republic of Iran, a foreign ministry statement said. "Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, chaired the session. China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated," it said.

DG ISI meets Afghan leadership in Kabul

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Director General Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has met Afghan leadership in Kabul and discussed different matters, the local Afghan media reported Sunday. The DG also held meeting with former Prime Minister of Afghanistan Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar and deliberated upon the formation of Afghan government. According to the Afghan media reports Sunday, Pakistan's spy chief met Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Saturday night and

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Resistance leader says ready to talk with Taliban

Ahmad Massoud, head of the NRFA, made the announcement on the group's Facebook page

AGENCIES

KABUL: The leader of the Afghan opposition group resisting Taliban forces in the Panjshir valley north of Kabul said on Sunday he welcomed proposals from religious scholars for a negotiated settlement to end the fighting. Ahmad Massoud, head of the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NRFA), made the announcement on the group's Facebook page. Earlier, Taliban forces said they had fought their way into the provincial capital of Panjshir after securing the surrounding districts. "The NRF in principle agree



to solve the current problems and put an immediate end to the fighting and continue negotiations," Massoud said in the Facebook post. "To reach a lasting peace, the NRF is ready to stop fighting on condition that

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Afghan crisis cements Qatari influence

DOHA: Political leaders have flocked to Doha and some countries have moved their Kabul embassies to Qatar, all praising their host for its key role in the airlift out of the Afghan capital. Tiny Qatar has seized the moment, cementing its outside global influence and reputation as a neutral mediator after winning the trust of all sides in Afghanistan's forever war. Qatar invited the Taliban to open a political office in Doha in 2013, with then US president Barack Obama's blessing as conflict in Afghanistan raged. It went on to host talks between Washington and the Taliban that concluded in 2020 with a troop withdrawal agreement, followed by direct negotiations between the former insurgents and Afghan government.

Guinea: President detained in coup

AGENCIES

CONAKRY: Gunfire rang out near the presidential palace in the Guinean capital of Conakry amid reports of an army coup on Sunday, witnesses told Reuters and several other news agencies. At least two people were injured from the violence. The shots were fired in the Kaloum peninsula area of the capital, which is home not only to the presidential palace, but other government institutions and ministries. A source in the presidential palace said that the president was detained by special forces. Yet, the source added that the soldiers staging the coup are only a small group, with the rest of the army staying loyal to President Alpha Conde.

PM urges int'l leaders to assist Afghanistan

The Prime Minister discussed bilateral ties as well as Afghan situation with Arab and Gulf leaders

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan had telephone conversations with Crown Princes of Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, and Emir of Qatar, separately. In his conversation with His Highness Mohamed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, the two leaders exchanged views on the issues of bilateral interest as well as regional developments, in particular the latest situation in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attaches to its strong fraternal ties with UAE and close cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that the world com-



munity must remain engaged, in order to support the Afghan people, economically and to help rebuild the country. He emphasized the need to address the dire humanitarian needs and to ensure economic stability of Afghanistan. The Prime Minister congratulated the Crown Prince for making excellent arrangements for the upcoming Expo 2020. He conveyed his best wishes for the resounding success of the mega event. Prime Minister Imran Khan also held a telephone conversation with the Saudi Crown



Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed warm wishes for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further fortify the historic fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the Kingdom's sover-

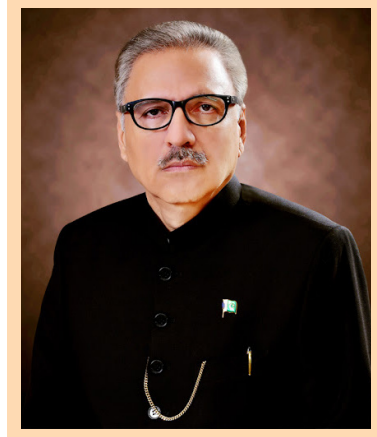
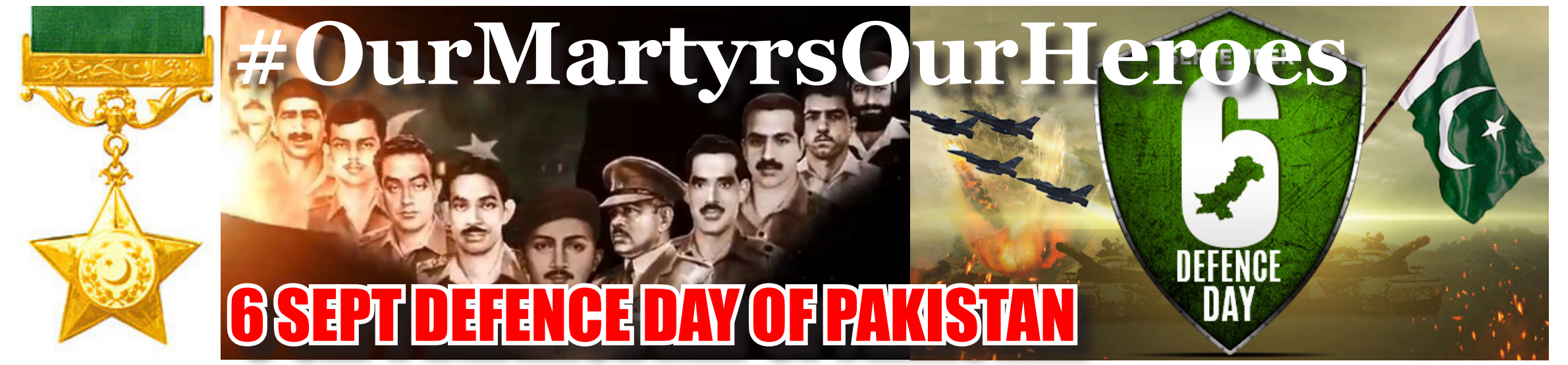


eignty. The Prime Minister stressed that the international community had the responsibility to stand by the Afghan people and support them economically as well as to help rebuild the country. It was further agreed that the international community must step up its engagement in order to avert any humanitarian and refugee crises. The PM and HRH Crown Prince agreed to work together to further augment and diversify bilateral ties in all spheres. Later, Prime



Minister Imran Khan held a telephone conversation with the Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen political and economic partnership with Qatar. He appreciated Qatar's assistance to Pakistan during the pandemic, in particular the care afforded to more than 200,000 Paki-

stani expatriates working for progress and development of both countries. The Prime Minister underscored that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was in vital interest of Pakistan and the region. He underlined that after 40 years of conflict and instability, there was an opportunity to establish lasting peace in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasized that the world community must remain positively engaged and support the Afghan people at this crucial juncture - both economically and to help rebuild the country. This, he stressed, was crucial to avert humanitarian and refugee crises in the country. The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact on bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.



Dr. Arif Alvi
President
Islamic Republic
of Pakistan



Imran Khan
Prime Minister
Islamic Republic
of Pakistan



Gen Nadeem Raza
Chairman Joint
Chiefs of Staff
Committee



**General Qamar
Javed Bajwa**
Chief of the
Army Staff



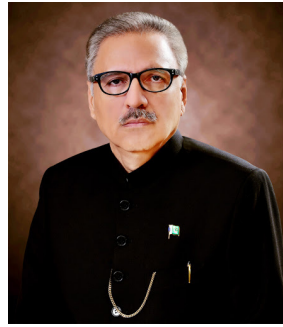
**Admiral Amjad
Khan Niazi**
Chief of the
Naval Staff



**Air Chief Marshal
Zaheer Ahmed
Babar Sidhu**
PAF Chief

Message from Dr. Arif Alvi President of Pakistan

OUR Defence and Martyrs Day on 6th September stands out in history as a symbol of courage patriotism and commitment shown by the Armed Forces and by the valiant nation. On this day 56 years ago, the soldiers and officers of Armed Forces displayed unprecedented bravery and professionalism, and thwarted the evil designs of the enemy. Together with the whole nation at their back, Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force defeated the enemy on all fronts. I pay homage to the soldiers and officers who displayed the highest degree of valour and sacrificed their lives for the country's defence. I also salute the families of the shuhada for their fortitude and forbearance. The nation trusts the capability, combat readiness and resilience of our Armed Forces that have successfully overcome the security challenges faced by us. Our forces and agencies are also playing an active role in the internal security and have successfully defeated terrorist elements to provide peace to us. Our troops are actively contributing during floods, earthquakes and other natural calamities. They help maintain world peace under the UN banner. I am confident that the spirit of 6th September makes us stand firm and steadfast against all odds. Today we are actively fighting a hybrid war being waged against us. I commend the security agencies for their relentless efforts towards exposing the enemy carrying out covert activities. I call upon the world community to come forward and condemn such naked hostilities aimed at sabotaging peace and stability in the region. Pakistan is fully cognizant of developments in our neighborhood. We are committed to securing peace, and prepared to thwart any plot hatched to hamper peace. This brave nation will never compromise on our sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. We shall never back away from our principled stand on the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. We stand by the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for the right to self-determination guaranteed under the UN Security Council resolutions. Let us once again salute the heroes who sacrificed their lives while defending the motherland. Let us make a resolve that while keeping alive the spirit of September in our hearts, we shall continue to play our roles towards safeguarding the security of Pakistan to ensure a prosperous future for the nation.



PAKISTAN PAINDABAD

Message from Imran Khan Prime Minister of Pakistan

LIVING nations come out stronger and harder in the face of challenges. Pakistani nation stood out too, strong and resolute when the enemy in 1965 War challenged our existence. When India on 6 September initiated an undeclared war against Pakistan, the whole nation came out to the support of its defenders; many even started marching towards the border with bare hands. Such a display of national unity galvanized the already spirited armed forces in their fearless fight against the enemy, which has no parallel in history. The gallant soldiers and officers, pilots and sailors proved to the world that they are ever ready to defend every inch of the homeland at all costs. They fought bravely and did not care for their own lives and defended the frontiers by offering supreme sacrifice. This magnificent day, the 6th of September, comes each year to let us pay rich tributes in particular to our heroes, the Ghazis and Shuhada, and the gallant armed forces overall, who have always been nation's hope and pride. We salute the valiant sons of soil for laying down their precious lives in defence of their country. We pay homage to the families of Shuhada for sacrificing their loved ones in the defence of motherland. As we remember this day, the enemy hasn't accepted peaceful coexistence since creation of Pakistan – be it 1948, 1965, 1971 wars, the two decades long war against terror, creating disturbances and doing sabotage activities inside Pakistan or new waves of unleashed propaganda through cyber warfare and spy software. Unfortunately, in the past India constantly perpetrated terrorism against Pakistan, using Afghan soil to create unrest in Pakistan. On this day we not only condemn those involved in such heinous acts but also pay special tributes to our valiant Armed Forces who have rendered invaluable sacrifices for our motherland. The world must hold India accountable for its rogue behavior. We commend the proactive and timely response of our security forces; India today stands exposed before the world community for its bid to hamper peace in the region, especially with reference to Pakistan. Due to our government's proactive diplomacy, the international community is now convinced that the persecution of minorities across India and the atrocities unleashed on innocent Kashmiris in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir must end forthwith.



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Message from Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi Chief of Naval Staff

6TH September is a radiant day in our history that rejuvenates our collective memories of unwavering national resolve in the face of brazen act of aggression. On this day in 1965, Pakistani Nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its valiant Armed Forces rendering supreme sacrifices to demonstrate tenacity of purpose against a much larger enemy. It ignites the fire of faith, indomitable courage and invincible spirit of our Shuhadas and Ghazis who displayed unparalleled valour through their acts of heroism. We salute and pay homage to our Shuhadas and Ghazis who fought fearlessly and sacrificed their lives for preserving the sovereignty of their motherland. Pakistani nation celebrates this day with reverence to acknowledge the resilience of its valiant soldiers, sailors and airmen who defended the ideological and geographical frontiers of their homeland. The daring 'Operation SOMNATH' carried out by Pakistan Navy Ships to destroy Indian radar station and shore installations at Dwarka, on the Gujrat Coast left the enemy bewildered and shell-shocked. The offensive punch of PN demoralized the Indian Navy forcing them into a defensive mould for the rest of the war. The uncontested dominance of lone PN Submarine in the Indian Ocean kept major Indian Navy Ships inside the Bombay Harbour removing them altogether from the battle theater. Pakistan Navy, in the evolving regional scenario and emerging challenges, is committed to safeguard national maritime interests and ensure impregnable maritime defence of the country. The Navy is successfully implementing maritime strategies to preserve peace and maritime order in the region. PN is also a partner for peace manifested in its conduct of multinational exercises such as Exercise AMAN and Overseas Deployments around the globe sending a message of peaceful co-existence and shared responsibility. This day being a reflection of grit, sacrifice and national integrity, validates the trust of Pakistani nation on Pakistan Armed Forces. The day reminds us, as a nation, to anchor strong faith in Allah SWT while adhering to Quaid's principles. Today, Officers, Men and Women of Pakistan Navy, reaffirm their pledge to defend maritime frontiers of the country for a secure and prosperous future of our coming generations. May Allah be our Guide and Protector (Ameen).



PAKISTAN NAVY ZINBAD PAKISTAN PAINDABAD

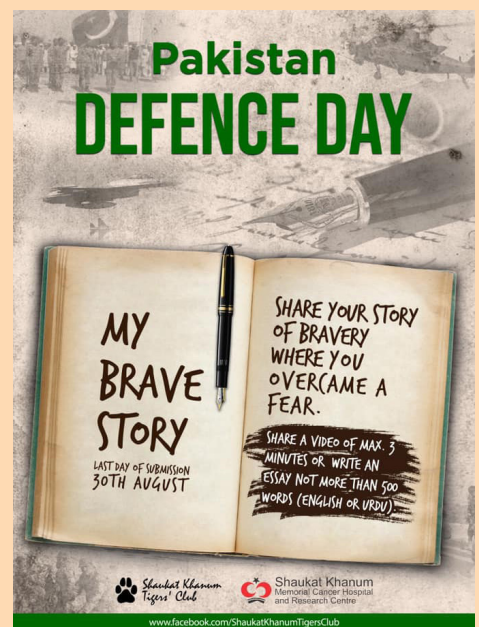
The Spirit of Defense Day

MUHAMMAD MATEEN

On the other hand, every citizen of the country demonstrated unblemished support for armed forces during the war. The people of Pakistan set aside their political, ethnic and sectarian differences and came forward as a unified nation against Indian aggression

THE national symbols and ceremonies, for instance the flag, the anthem, the national days, and war memories etc., demonstrate deeper strands and meanings of the nation and serve as an integrating force within a polity. Symbolism, in view of its characteristic to raise collective consciousness, a prerequisite for a nation to thrive, is perceived as important as the economic and political factors. The national symbols constitute essential building blocks of a nation and, in other words, provide expressions to the nationhood. They bind the people together by reminding them of their nation's history. Moreover, they communicate a message, on the one hand, to its citizens about the loyalty, allegiance, devotion and sacrifices a nation demand, and, on the other hand, to the external forces through demonstration of power and unity. Likewise, the national days to commemorate national memories and heroic initiatives undertaken by the members of a community are included among the oldest instruments to reflect the collective identity as a nation. Owing to their crucial role in a nation's formation, Emile Durkheim, a renowned French Sociologist, terms the national symbols as determinants of a society's conduct. In this context, the heterogeneous societies are more inclined towards adopting Durkheimian approach to bridge the chasms and inculcate a sense of collective identity among their assorted constituents. The Defense Day is a manifestation of the national symbols of Pakistan. It is very unfortunate that we often take independence for granted, while ignoring the sacrifices rendered by our forefathers to achieve it. Likewise, the military and security agencies of the country are serving round

the clock to protect motherland from the threats posed by foreign adversaries and domestic peace spoilers. In this backdrop, Defense Day, as the name suggests, marks the commemoration of valor, bravery, courage and professionalism demonstrated by Pakistan's armed forces against the Indian treachery and aggressive designs during the 1965 war. Despite the surprise attack by Indian forces, the dauntless military personnel, with the whole nation on their back, not only successfully defended the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan, but also struck back with unparalleled zeal and crushed the Indian forces as well as their aggressive dreams. The Defense Day is celebrated to remember the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan armed forces and pay tribute to all



the martyrs of 1965 war. In fact, the brave soldiers of Pakistan military services, backed by a unified nation against Indian aggression, objected Jinnah's affirmation that, "There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan." The entrenched rivalries between India and Pakistan are largely embedded in the Kashmir conflict, an unresolved agenda of partition of Subcontinent. The Kashmir issue instigated a few military maneuverings from both sides during the early years; however, they remained confined to the disputed State of Jammu and Kashmir, with no spillover effects at the shared international border. Nonetheless, on September 6th, 1965, Indian armed forces, in utter violation of International Law, attacked Pakistan across the international border near Lahore without any declaration of war. India, the claimant of being the largest democracy, rebuffed the UN Charter and norms of civilized behavior in international

relations to pursue its hegemonic designs in the region. Although Indian army chief Gen. J. N. Chaudhry was confident of Indian success to the extent that he announced to have a peg of whisky in Lahore Gymkhana Club on eve of September 6th; however, Pakistan Army, with the support of Pakistan Air force, repelled the Indian attack causing heavy losses to the aggressors. Later, on September 8th, the Indian army launched its major attack at Sialkot border, which also ensued the largest tank battle following World War-II. The brave soldiers of Pakistan army fought back and firmly mauled a numerically strong Indian army, forcing it to withdraw after heavy physical and material losses. On the other hand, Pakistan army, in the meantime, also launched a counter offensive in South of Lahore and captured Khem Karan and its surroundings. On September 22, 1965, the war ended after both sides accepted the UN administered ceasefire.

Indian army, despite of its large numbers and being equipped with advanced US weaponry – the US, while ignoring Pakistan's security, concerns augmented defense support to India after the latter's defeat in the Sino-India war of 1962 – had to face humiliation at the hands of Pakistan army. The brave soldiers of Pakistan army sacrificed their lives but did not allow enemy to damage the integrity of motherland. Likewise, Pakistan Air Force provided significant support to the cadres of Pakistan army. Despite their first engagement in a war with India, the PAF pilots demonstrated extravagant skills and caused heavy losses to Indian Air Force. On the other hand, although the war was being fought on Lahore and Sialkot borders, Pakistan Navy, in view of strategic deterrence, conducted some tactical operations, which not only dented the Indian naval power but also underlined professionalism of Pakistan Navy. In this context, operation "Dwarka", which caused irreparable losses to Indian Navy, marks the devotion, dedication and commitment demonstrated by Pakistan Navy during the war. The enemy, much constrained by the news of Pakistan Navy submarine Ghazi out at sea, could not put its naval combatants to action. In effect all naval units had bottled up at harbour through a classical example of blockade by a single sub surface platform against a numerically superior enemy. On 6 September 1965, one destroyer, two new and two old frigates were deployed on the eastern coast of India. The Carrier Vikrant and Delhi were under refit at Bombay while most of the remaining destroyers and frigates had just returned to Bombay after completing their exercises at Vishakhapatnam. It so happened that Indian Navy was caught unguarded right at the outset of an impressive naval action. It was an operational compulsion that Karachi harbour be defended and radar station at Dwarka was providing vital info to enemy air raids aimed at this asset.

Defence and Martyrs Day- Message behind the Day



HUMA ARSHAD

LIKE every year since 1965 Pakistan is all set to observe the Defence and Martyrs Day on 6th September to pay tribute to the martyrs of the nation who laid down their lives for Pakistan. It is the day to renew our pledge that no power on earth can undo Pakistan and we are a powerful, self-driven nation. Our defenders are the sign of solidarity, honest, and discipline with the purity to sacrifice their lives for their homeland. We observed the day to honor the martyrs of the September 1965 war which was imposed on Pakistan by India. The country has started observing this day to remember both civilians and military personals who had sacrificed for Pakistan. Defence Day is the day for celebrating and remembering all that so we can be strong and pass the message of courage and honesty to the youth of our country. It was the early 1960s when India was showing aggression. India wanted to change Kashmir's status and denied all the UN resolutions on the Kashmir issue. Among all these Kashmiri people were continuously raising their voices for freedom. In August 1965, severe clashes happened at LOC, and both countries started exchanging fire. On 6th September India attacked Pakistan hoping that it would win, but our well-organized army and our defense towards the attack had shocked them. Then on 7 September, single Pakistan air force pilot M.M. Alam shot down five Indian air force aircraft, which became a world record. M.M. Alam was flying F-86 aircraft. Hence Soldiers of Pakistan defended the country so that you and I till this year can celebrate this Day with freedom in our homeland. We remember you on this Day. Our region has a history of producing one of the bravest of its time. Every year by celebrating this Day we pledge to protect our country and people. Aitazaz Hasan, Principal Tahira Qazi, Flight Lieutenant Mariam Mukhhtiar, and Arfa Kareem are all the

greatest examples of that pledge and the sacrifices they have made for their people has set a great example of patriotism, sacrifice, and love for the people of Pakistan who are united under one ideology that is Islam. Tahira Qazi, Principal of Army Public School is a name one can never miss. She had lost her life while protecting the students when the school came under attack on 16th December 2014. She was awarded Sitara-e-Shuja'at by the Government. Her bravery and sacrifice are an example of selflessness and love for her students. On the other hand, if we see the story of Aitazaz Hasan, a 15-year-old boy, we came to know that this 15-year-old student had sacrificed his life while stopping a suicide bomber from entering his school in District Hangu KPK. His act of bravery saved the lives of 2000 students who were gathered for a morning assembly in the school in village Ibrahimzai of District Hangu. Mariam Mukhtiar is a PAF flying officer, she is the first female pilot to die in a mission. When a trainer jet crashed and she embraced martyrdom. According to her parents, she always wanted to do something different. The Government of Pakistan awarded Mariam with Tamgha-e-Basalt. If we look into the contribution of Arfa Kareem we came to know that she became the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional at the age of nine in 2004. She was personally invited by Bill Gates to visit Microsoft Headquarters in the USA. Arfa left us in 2012 following a cardiac arrest. If we talk about the celebration of 6th September, we got to know that various military parades and celebrations are arranged on Defence Day. In military parades, we see innovations and advancements in the latest tactics. The main aim of all this is to celebrate our veterans and to honor and celebrate our military strength. Social media and TV channels play a pivotal role to boost and honor these celebrations on Defence Day. We all must remember the sacrifices given by our soldiers and civilians for our homeland. Every Pakistani citizen's vision should revolve around the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

Fencing the border

THE completion of securing the Pakistan-Afghan border is a monumental step. The Pak-Afghan border had been fully secured with the completion of fencing and construction of new forts, as well as the placement of a technical surveillance system equipped with drones. There are only just a few things left to do—25 kilometres of area in KP remains to be completed fencing on, with 800 kilometres already covered. 388 forts have been completed and the remaining 55 are estimated to be completed by December this year. All in all, 98 percent of the work has been completed, with just the finishing touches left. Now movement across the border is possible only through the 16 designated crossings. The symbolic as well as the very material consequences of this should not be understated. The 2,670-kilometre border has always posed major problems for Pakistan and has been a bone of contention between every Afghan government with Pakistan. This completion not only solidifies the border in concrete but can prevent the devastating side effects that seep through with instability in Pakistan. For the last decade, the lack of demarcation has led to lawlessness, terrorism and an unbridled influx of refugees. This was an extremely vital step with the return of the Taliban and the probability of more conflict in Afghanistan. The security forces must be commended for this timely and excellent work. Completing a border, the site of which has been prone to some of the worst attacks, drones and suicide bombs, in three years is no easy feat. This is also the only safe way that Pakistan can accept Afghan refugees to ensure that no militants are crossing over. In the same vein, the completion of the fencing on the border is a shield against Ashraf Ghani's ludicrous allegation that Pakistan is letting militants cross over. The events of August and the US' own denial of this blind accusation have revealed the lack of veracity in these inane claims.

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Reduced rainfall

THE most recent data released by the Meteorological department showed that the country received 24 percent below average rainfall during the period of July-August. This is quite concerning as reports also reveal that many stations in Sindh and Balochistan did not receive even a single drop of rain during the whole month of August. Water scarcity has already been a persistent problem along with intra-provincial disputes over the provision of water by IRSA. The month of August was drier in particular, as there was a considerable reduction of rainfall over the country and the national rainfall was 62 percent below its normal value. Experts are of the view that climate change has disrupted set weather patterns and that a clear departure is evident from historical weather patterns. Pakistan ranks as the world's fourth highest water user per capita and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has ranked Pakistan third among the countries facing severe water shortages. Water scarcity is an issue that needs to be addressed at the earliest because of the serious repercussions it has on our already struggling agricultural sector. Compromised water flows will continue to put rice growers in Sindh and Balochistan in a quandary, who have been suffering since the start of the summer. This crisis is expected to become even more severe over the coming years. As it is, changing weather patterns are causing prolonged droughts in regions like Balochistan, frequent flooding, erratic weather patterns, and heatwaves in cities like Karachi. Going forward, authorities will have to formulate robust mitigation and adaptation strategies if Pakistan is to cope with upcoming challenges and avoid food scarcity from becoming a reality. This will require an investment in water-efficient technologies and strategies to reduce high water losses.

Panjshir proxy: Back to the past

Dr M Ali Hamza



Two suicide attacks on a crowds of Afghans flocking to Kabul's airport painted terror and horror in the toughest times airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover. The attacks killed at least 60 Afghans and 13 US troops. The Khorasan chapter of Islamic State group popularly known as ISIS, claimed responsibility for the killings on its Amaq news channel

THE historical accounts reveal that proxy wars were used in medieval states like the Byzantine Empire warfare as a foreign policy tool by intentionally cultivating conspiracy among hostile rivals and then backing them when they go to war with each other. Proxies could be introduced by an external or local power and most commonly take the form of irregular militia those could be used to achieve their sponsor's goals in a disputed region. Relationship between proxies and their sponsors usually takes the form of funding, military training, arms, or other forms of material assistance that provide backing to a belligerent party in sustaining its war effort. Fear of nuclear holocaust thru a conventional war between the United States and the Soviet Union, motivated proxy warfare throughout Cold War. This proxy warfare was rendered by the use of ideological proxies taken as a safer way of exercising hostilities; which is truly debatable. Let us examine a dimension of proxies in present and past Afghan situation. Two suicide attacks on a crowds of Afghans flocking to Kabul's airport painted terror and horror in the toughest times airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover. The attacks killed at least 60 Afghans and 13 US troops. The Khorasan chapter of Islamic State group popularly known as ISIS, claimed responsibility for the killings on its Amaq news channel. The ISIS affiliates in Afghanistan are seen as more extremist than the Taliban. Though the Taliban were not believed to have been involved in the attacks and condemned the blasts, but many blame Taliban to use ISIS as their proxy. Such blame has its rational bases, as ISIS also belongs to the ideology of Salafijahadism. Moreover Abu Musab al-Zarqawi; the founder of ISIS and popularly known as Sheikh of the slaughterers, was trained and then run a Jihadi camp in Afghani-

stan before moving to Iraq. In order for a conflict to be considered a proxy war, there must be a direct, long-term relationship between operating actors and the belligerents involved. So the argument of blaming Taliban to use ISIS as proxy, acquires strength. The 20 years' war has definitely left a plenty of learning for all the stakeholders. Besides the art of guerilla war, Taliban has shown a huge development in their art of diplomacy, therefore the possibilities of learning the art of being used as a proxy or to use the proxy cannot be totally ignored. As the Taliban attempt to secure control over Afghanistan, history appears set to repeat itself. The Panjshir Valley; in northeast of Kabul, remains the only part of the country not under the Taliban's control. Though the valley is largely surrounded, communications channel have been cut down, and fierce fighting continues on its outskirts. Ahmad Massoud has stepped into Ahmed Shah Massoud's shoes and establishing himself as the leader of a promising resistance movement against the Taliban. His father ensured that the Panjshir Valley was never taken by the Taliban during their 1996-2001 rule, but he was killed by al Qaeda two days before 9/11; what a planned coincidence. Now young Massoud wants to keep alive the spark of resistance through National Resistance Front, in the historic valley. Junior Massoud asks for a fully representative government, justice, and equality for all ethnic and religious groups in Afghanistan. Though he claims no outside support but US recognition for Massoud and former Afghan Vice President Amrullah Saleh, negates the claim. It apparently seems that Massoud may serve as a proxy for US presence in Afghanistan but this might be a deception too. Seeing from a different lens there is a possibility that earlier sponsors of northern alliance back in 1990s might be thinking of keeping the resistance

alive to maintain a balance and do not let Taliban enjoy the absolute power, because absolute power can breed absolute breach. In 1990s the advance of Taliban alarmed the Russia, Central Asian States and Iran, though for somewhat different reasons. Some in former Soviet states feared that if Taliban sweep north of Kabul they will intensify their effort to create chaos in Tajikistan and threaten the former Soviet border: now is the security border of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) created in 1991 and later called Common Economic Space (CES) in 2003. Iran was observing this extremist emerging faction of Sunni force that could completely exclude Shia in Afghanistan from power and as being US/ KSA strategy could encircle and contain Iran. Convincingly the then leadership of Panjshir valley was funded and supported by the concerned countries to maintain the unrest in Taliban regime. Shah Masoud is said to be used as a proxy of CIS and their political allies. As junior Massoud mentions in his write-up in Washington Post published on Aug 18, 2021, that they have stores of ammunition and arms those have patiently collected since his father's time, because they knew this day might come. He also stated that northern alliance have the weapons carried by the Afghans who, over the past 72 hours, have responded to their appeal to join the resistance in Panjshir. Moreover the soldiers and former members from the Afghan regular army and Afghan Special Forces who were disgusted by the surrender are also making their way to the hills of Panjshir with their equipment. The write-up by junior Massoud is published to portray an image of self-reliant fight, but it also resonates the feeling of camouflaging its sponsors. — *The writer is a columnist and broadcast journalist. He teaches at UVAS Business School in Lahore and can be reached at mali.hamza@yahoo.com*

When it became clear that Pakistan is invincible

Adnan Yousuf

The Pakistani Navy's strategic thinking and war planning cornered the Indian Navy as their operational plans were adversely affected. The PN had undertaken Operation Dwarka to achieve multiple objectives: destructing the Indian radar, and provoking its war craft stationed at Mumbai (then Bombay) port approach the Arabian Sea, where PN's submarine 'Ghazi' was awaiting to engage and destroy Indian ships namely INS Vikrant and INS Mysore. Having already proven its operational readiness, the Pakistan navy does not fall short when it comes to meeting the regional and international obligations in maritime security

6TH September is marked as Defence Day of Pakistan which is celebrated each year across the nation to pay tribute to the brave sons of the soil, who sacrificed their lives while defending Pakistan during the 1965 War. It was a momentous day in the history of Pakistan when the war-mongering India invaded our motherland. But our armed forces with the people of Pakistan on their backs, stopped the Indian attacks dead in their tracks and the dream of the Indian Army to celebrate the evening at one of Lahore's most well-known addresses, was broken into pieces. In order to familiarize the young generation with the history of Pakistan and the sacrifices of their forefathers, the achievements of Pakistani forces must be recounted so that the younger ones may not be misled by false information propagated purposely by Pakistan's enemies and opponents. Pakistan's armed forces have always played a substantial role in protecting its territorial integrity by rigorously dealing with any emerging threat or inimical situation. In fact, they know very well how to payback our enemies. The Indian side has been presenting severe challenges to Pakistan since 1947, but the acquiring of strategic capabilities has helped Pakistan turn back India's malign intentions. The Pakistan Navy, along with the Pakistan Army and Air Force, defended the territorial water zones both during war and peace. Pakistan Navy's history is filled with glory and eminence, exquisite skills and calamitous maneuverability, and tactical feats to defeat even the larger naval forces. In the Indian offensive that began on 6th September, the joint action of the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force effectively fended off the offensives and taught her a hard lesson on land, air, and maritime fronts. Two days after the initial attack, India employed its armored division and other striking formations to take Sialkot on 8th September. Resultantly, a large tank battle followed the largest since World War II. There were casualties on both sides in this bitter and long-lasting conflict fought over many days and nights. Eventually, the Indians were mauled and held. A very high loss of both men and materials forced India's armored division into withdrawal. Immediately after the Sialkot attack, Pakistan waged a counter-attack in the south of Lahore and seized Indian territories of Khem Karan and beyond. As a result, the rear of the Indian troops facing Lahore was greatly threatened. In these two days, Pakistan Air Force also gave the enemy a tough time by launching continuous airstrikes from Pathankot to Agra. Besides the collateral damage caused during the night bombing, PAF destroyed 50 Indian aircraft and damaged eight for the loss of only six Pakistani aircraft.



On sea fronts, Pakistan Navy, despite having a comparatively lesser size and offensive capability, conducted several operations in order to create strategic deterrence and respond to the Indian Navy appropriately. As a result of the Pakistan Navy's nautical prowess, the sea lanes and waters surrounding Pakistan remained open to incoming ships. The major role Pakistan Navy played in the 1965 Indo-Pak War was launching the 'Operation Dwarka'. On 7th September, PN sailed battle-tested and capable seven ships with 24 guns for Dwarka. Dwarka was enforcing a blackout and only identifiable by radar, but the lighthouse provided a very good point of reference in terms of positioning for the task force. Executing the 'Operation Somnath' every ship was authorized to fire 50 rounds of high ammunition. The ships opened fire from a distance of 5.5 to 6.3 miles, still closing the range. Approximately, four minutes was all it took to fire the allocated number of shells, and quickly alter course to exit the area. On checking damage at Dwarka on 8th September, Indian navy officials acknowledged the damage caused as a result of this action. They found the radar station destroyed; the naval air station's runway for test flights of INS Vikrant damaged; about 50 persons dead and a nearby cement factory also damaged. This official version of the Indian naval officials confirm that the Pakistan navy's raid on Dwarka had been a stunning success as not only a massive material and

psychological damage was done to the enemy but also Indian air raids on Karachi ceased, implying the radar station was knocked out. The Pakistani fleet arrived back in home waters minutes after the attack, assumed their patrol stations 100 miles off Karachi, and ready for a possible Indian response, which through possible radar contacts were observed, never materialised. The sole Indian warship in the area, the Whitley Class frigate Talwar, had been undergoing repairs to her condensers in Okha and had not challenged the raid. The Pakistani Navy's strategic thinking and war planning cornered the Indian Navy as their operational plans were adversely affected. The PN had undertaken Operation Dwarka to achieve multiple objectives: destructing the Indian radar, and provoking its war craft stationed at Mumbai (then Bombay) port approach the Arabian Sea, where PN's submarine 'Ghazi' was awaiting to engage and destroy Indian ships namely INS Vikrant and INS Mysore. Having already proven its operational readiness, the Pakistan navy does not fall short when it comes to meeting the regional and international obligations in maritime security. The Pakistan Navy, as a member of the Coalition Maritime Campaign Plan under UN mandate, has actively participated in maritime security and counter-piracy operations after 9/11. The Pakistan Navy has the highest share in maritime security campaigns after the United States, despite being a small naval force. Through its coordinated efforts, the PN has excluded merchant ships from the danger zone which had previously been paying war risk surcharge due to piracy. As a further step to support the international effort in the region, the Pakistan Navy has established Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP), aimed at ensuring maritime security at sea to protect trade. Such PN's initiatives have enabled Pakistan to manifest its role at large as a reliable regional and international maritime player. The exemplary role played by Pakistan's armed forces in general and the Pakistan Navy in particular in showing the world that Pakistan's defence is invincible makes it inevitable to emphasize that soldiers need their people's support to fight the enemy with courage and bravery. So, this Defence Day, we should pledge as a nation that we will always remember the sacrifices of our brave soldiers and will stand by their side in the war and peace. We should also study the modern tactics used by the enemy to weaken our state, and pray that may God give us the strength, ability, and courage to protect our freedom and the honor of our motherland at all costs.

