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VOICE OF MASSES

QUETTA: A beautiful illuminated view of lighting at Government building on the eve of Independence

PM address to nation:

Govt steered country out of severe economic, political crises in 16 months

Says my conscience is clear that I served honestly, transparently and followed the constitution.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said his government steered the country out of severe historic economic and political crises and external challenges and protected the interests of the people and the Pakistani state during the 16 months.

Addressing the nation, he said time and history would be witness that his government saved Pakistan from default and the subsequent economic disaster waiting to happen, safe-

guarded national interests, restored the trust of friendly countries and provided relief to people after the devastating floods.

He said after the end of the constitutional tenure of his government, he was handing over power to the caretaker government. "My conscience is clear that I served honestly

and transparently and followed the constitution." He congratulated Anwarul Haq Kakar for

prime minister and ex-



ensure free, fair and transparent elections in Pakistan becoming the caretaker and protect the right to vote of the people.

"The caretaker prime minister is appointed after consultation between him and leader of the opposi-

tion Raja Riaz.

Caretaker PM Kakar thanks political parties for welcoming his appointment

ISLAMABAD (INP): House to offer their Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday thanked the political parties who welcomed his appointment and vowed to fulfil his responsibilities to the best of his

The caretaker PM received a stream of congratulatory messages from political leaders on his appointment to the position.

Former Balochistan chief minister Jam Kamal, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Fawad Chaudhry, and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leader Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti were among those who met with extolments.

Fawad Chaudhry said that Kakar's appointment as caretaker prime minister received collective appreciation. He expressed hope that the interim premier would fulfil the "heavy responsibility" that he had been entrusted with.

Kakar thanked all the parties who had welcomed his appointment and said that he was grateful to the people who had expressed their good wishes for him.

He said that he would strive to fulfil his duties to the best of his ability and that he would work for the interim PM at Punjab betterment of the country.

CM greets nation on 76th Independence Day: We have to work together remaining above every kind of prejudices, emphasizes Chief Minister

Mir Abdul Quddus

Bizenjo regretfully pointed

out that the anti-state

forces want to weaken and

destabilize the country by

creating lawlessness, how-

ever, we can foil the nefari-

ous designs of the enemies

by forging unity among our

ranks, he added. He insisted

that we can make Pakistan a

Allama Dr. Muhammad

ing he stressed.

Independence Day

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has greeted the entire nation on 76th Independence Day.

In a message issued here on the Independence Day, the Chief Minister said that this country came into being due to the great sacrifices of our forefathers, and now its protection, construction and development is our responsibility.

We have to work like a united nation forgetting aside our petty differences and remaining above all kinds of prejudices to fulfill that responsibility, add-

Dollar hits

Rs302 in

open market

KARACHI (INP): The US

dollar hit 302 against the

rupee in the open market, going beyond the bound-

aries marked by the Inter-national Monetary Fund

(IMF) to keep the differ-

ence in open and inter-

bank exchange rates in the

range of 1 per cent to 1.5

kept fluctuating during the

day and reached as high as

Rs302," said Zafar Paracha,

general secretary of the Exchange Companies Asso

traded at Rs296 in the open

ciation of Pakistan

The US dollar rates

On Friday, the dollar

per cent, says media re

great Islamic state by following the sayings of father of Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and thinking of Poet of the East,

also pay homage to our those martyrs who rendered sacrifice of their lives for defence of the country and its peace. The Chief Minister said that this day reminds us that how big blessing of the independence is. He said that the people of Balochistan stand by their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle. He also strongly condemned the Indian state barbarism and cruelties against the Kashmiris in the Occupied Kashmir. He also said that we have to learn the lesson from the past and play role for development of the



kistan Party Jahangir Tareen, along with President Aleem Khan and Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan addressing to the media in Kobey Chak.

ISPR says:

Two terrorists killed amid swift response to attack on military convoy in Gwadar

Chinese Embassy condemns terrorists' attack on Chinese Convoy in Gwadar

security forces on Sunday killed two terrorists in a swift response to the attack made on a military convoy in the morning in Gwadar district. The terrorists attacked a military convoy in Gwadar at 1000 hours, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said. The terrorists used small arms and hand grenades during the activity,

RAWALPINDI (APP): The and swift response, two terrorists were sent to hell with no harm to any mili-

tary or civil persons, it said. The ISPR said, "Security Forces of Pakistan remain determined to thwart efforts of the enemies of peace and prosperity in the country." Meanwhile, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorists attack on a Chinese Convoy in Gwadar and asked Pakistani authorities.

to strive for stability of the country: Kakar Independent Report JUEITA: Greeting the

whole nation on the 76th Independence Day, the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that we need to make pledge to strive for stability and development of the country.

make pledge

In a statement issued here on eve of the Independence Day being observed today, the Governor said that our political elders and forefathers had struggled to get freedom, and as such it is our collective obligation to make pledge to ensure independence and make conscious efforts for its survival and stability.

Two traders killed, as many abducted by dacoits in Dera Bugti

DERA BUGTI (INP): Two traders were shot dead and as many were abducted by dacoits on Indus Highway in the limits of Naper Kot police, Dera Bugti on Sunday. A complete shutdown was observed and a sit-in was held in Dera Bugti against the killings and kidnapping of the traders.

The protesters blamed the police for being in connivance with the

QUETTA: Provincial Ameer of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam and former Federal CM Bizenjo calls Kakar; We need to

Minister Maulana Abdul Wasey meeting with nominated Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

greets him on nomination as caretaker PM Independent Report his constitutional mandate.

QUETTA: The Chief Min-Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has congratulated Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar on his nomination as the caretaker Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister telephoned Anwarul Haq Kakar and expressed best wishes for his success in fu-

While speaking to Anwarul Haq Kakar, the Chief Minister expressed the belief that the caretaker Prime Minister would ensure holding of the free and fair elections according to ing best wishes for him.

Mir Abdul Quddus becoming caretaker Prime Minister is a matter of pride for Balochistan. He prayed that may

Allah Almighty succeed him fulfilling his constitutional mandate and responsibilities. During the course of conversation, the Chief Minister and designated caretaker Prime Minister also discussed political and other related matters.

The caretaker Prime Minister also thanked the Chief Minister for express-



KABUL: Leaders of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (Nazriati) Maulana Abdul Qadir Luni, Sved Haji Abduol Sattar Shah Chisti, Haji Hayatullah Kakar and others meeting with Afghan Foreign Minister Maula Ameer Khan Mutaki.

Shah's statement about caretaker PM 'fumes' PPP

ISLAMABAD Former federal minister Khursheed Shah's statement about the caretaker prime minister has added. 'fumed' Pakistan People's Party (PPP), sources said on Sunday, fumed

citing sources. Shah in his statement had said that they were un-aware that Senator of the party has sought an Anwaarul Haq Kakar would be appointed as caretaker Prime Minister. PPP statement

(INP: which included Saleem Abbas, Jalil Abbas, Muhammad Malik and Afzal Khan from KP, he Shah had further said

that it would have been betwas appointed as caretaker PM. ter if someone among them

'explanation' Khursheed Shah over his had finalized five names Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

One soldier martyred amid eliminating four terrorists in Bajaur IBO

soldier of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom during an intelligencebased operation (IBO) conducted on the night of August 12-13 in the general area Charmang, Bajaur District on the reported presence of terrorists, while four extremists were killed in an intense exchange of fire.

During the operation, an intense fire exchange occurred between the security

RAWALPINDI (APP): A forces and terrorists, besides four terrorists being sent to hell, and one terrorist was apprehended, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release issued here Sunday.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Muhammad Shoaib (age 24 years, resident of District Kohat), having fought gallantly embraced Shahadat during an intense exchange

Balochistan by consultation of political leaders including Mengal expresses strong reservations over caretaker PM in a letter to Nawaz

Balochistan CM contacts

political leaders for name

of Caretaker CM

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul

Quddus Bizenjo on Sunday contacted political leaders to

develop consensus on the name of the Caretaker Chief

opposition leader Malik Sikander Khan Advocate and

discussed on the establishment of caretaker government.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Balochistan Awami Party

(BAP) Mir Khalid Khan Magsi about setting up of care-

calleadership of the province saying that soon progress

was expected in the name of caretaker Chief Minister in

In this regard, he also contacted with Balochistan

Chief Minister talked with Chairman Senate,

The Chief Minister also contacted the senior politi-

Akhtar Mengal, the seasoned Baloch nationalist leader, isn't happy with the appointment of Anwaarul Haq Kakar as caretaker prime minister as he wrote a letter to Nawaz Sharif – the PML-N supremo saving that force was being used to solve Balochistan's problems instead of finding a political solution.

taker regime in the province.

Mengal, the chief of his own faction of Balochistan Awami Party (BNP), said his letter was a continuation of the one he had written on July 22. 2022 and, unfortunately, the issues mentioned back then were still persisting.

Expressing his dismay, the BNP-M head said notwithstanding the situation being faced in Balochistan, it was a surprise that they [Nawaz and others] had

last nail in the coffin of democracy, Mengal warned.

been unable learn from what they had not considered.

tions will prove to be the

LAHORE (INP): Sardar had they faced. A solution to the current problems was being find in consultation with the establishment, instead of politicians, he remarked. According to Mengal, they still remember the injustices of Gen Ayub Khan to Gen Pervez Musharraf, but his [Nawaz's] party has forgotten the conspiracies hatched and unconstitutional acts committed by Gen Musharraf and Gen Bajwa so quickly. Making the undemocratic forces more powerful by weakening the democratic institu-

He also told Nawaz

that the legislations introduced against the human rights concept would ultimately be used against them [PML-N] in future as

CM approves one year relaxation in upper age limit Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has approved one year more extension in the upper age limit to the candidates seek ing jobs in the provincial government departments.

According to an official notification issued here on Sunday, the approval was given to the upper age limit by the Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on the summary sent by Services and General Administration Department, Government of

It may be mentioned here that provincial Government has fixed the upper age limit for the gove ernment jobs as 43 years.

Balochistan.



however, due to efficient All set to celebrate Independence Day with enthusiasm in Quetta, other parts of Balochistan today

Independent Report QUETTA: All is set to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of the country with national spirit and enthusiasm in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan today (Monday).

Different ceremonies and events have been arranged to mark the celebrations of Independence in the provincial metropolis and other district and divisional headquarters all over the province.

The main Independence Day ceremony is scheduled to be held at 08:30 AM today at the lawn of provincial Assembly. The Governor

Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar would be

the chief guest and hoist the

The senior high ranking officials as well as the dignitaries from different walks of life, public repre-

national flag there.

sentatives and civil society would be participating in the flag hoisting ceremony. Similar different activities have also been planned to mark the celebrations which included the flag

of Balochistan. Moreover, the flag hoisting ceremonies would also be held at the offices of deputy commissioners and commissioners in the districts and divisional

hoisting at the High Court

headquarters respectively. A grand ceremony is also scheduled to be held at the Railway station of Ouetta

Similarly, a ceremony would also be held at 12:00 Noon at the Balochistan Boy Scouts Association's headquarter. Qazi Azmat Isa would also be chief guest at the ceremony. Meanwhile, in a meet-

ing chaired by the Commis-

sioner had reviewed the se-

curity arrangements made for the ceremony.

The walk through gates would be installed on the entry and exit points of the Railway Station. The special arrangement would also be made for parking of

the vehicles visiting the

Railway Station for Inde-

pendence Day celebrations.

The activities to be part of the event are included: firework, food festival, musical show, etc.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Monday August 14, 2023

High hopes

The choice was unexpected, given the considerably stronger candidates that were in the running for the post, but it seems that outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Raja Riaz have some ministers and legislacompromised over Anwaarul Haq Kakar, a hitherto littleknown senator from the Balochistan Awami Party.

"We had earlier decided that the caretaker PM should be someone from a smaller province and a non-controversial the Prevention of Violent personality," Mr Riaz said after the agreement was reached between him and Mr Sharif. "Our aim was to remove the sense of deprivation in small provinces.

Mr Kakar will, therefore, serve as the eighth caretaker PM of Pakistan, having been entrusted by the two gentlemen with the task of keeping the country running till public representatives elected by the people return for the job. His selection will undoubtedly be scrutinised and re-scrutinised in the coming days, and will be dissected for its implications for the country amidst | Istanbul Airport, we were the uncertainty that clouds music. A group of young the upcoming polls.

Whatever the eventual verdict may be, one can start by considering some positives. Mr Kakar hails from a party which has worked with both the PTI and PDM. Though BAP is widely perceived to be propped up by the military establishment, he is perhaps as professionally required tous developments? politically non-controversial to chronicle its sorrows. and palatable a choice as could tended vacation in Southbe in the present circum- ern California with great stances. Indeed, his selection expectations of spending time with both our daughseems to have been generally ters and their families, well-received, with even PTI would be a valid excuse for this diversion. would be a valid excuse evolving political situation is not about the evolving political situation in gas a family. In a world representatives welcoming the decision. This would suggest that, despite all reservations, Mr Sharif and Mr Riaz ultimately made a good choice. That Mr Kakar represents Balochistan is also a cause for celebration. He may bring with him a perspective to the job that has been missing so far. However, will those two things alone be enough for what seems to be a rather weighty job? It can goes only be hoped that Mr Kakar will prove himself worthy.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Mr Kakar may be but are turned into heroes. pressured to stick around for That is one of the many tragedies to befall this longer than the law would al- country. low. He should resist any such proposal. He must remain fo- for taking the law into his cused on the responsibility entrusted to him, which is to cause he thought Punjab's hold free and fair elections within the 90-day period prowithin the 90-day period provisioned for in the Constitution. There are tangible fears visitors who come to pay that he may be asked to play a supporting role in a conspiracy to extend the caretaker set-up till such time as ing Sarmad Khoosat's the country's unelected decision-makers decide that the public may finally have a say in their future.

their future.

He must do all he can Khoosat's courage in rewithin his power to preclude leasing a film in the face this possibility. The biggest challenge will be to ensure because there was no other that delimitations under the way for him to show people his beautiful film. recently notified census are completed as quickly as poscompleted as quickly as possible. Perhaps he can begin by ensuring that the ECP has the censors. Was this the everything it needs to complete this task without further imperilling constitutional was it that scene? We are left wondering because the timelines.

Under the garb of legislation



Muhammad **Amir Rana**

PDM coalition government's unprecedented legislation spree deserves space in the Guinness Book of World Records. A political party, tors who claimed to be champions of human rights presented bills that contradicted their assertion. This is a new development in Pakistani politics, where all political actors surrender themselves to align with the centre of power.

The law minister made an interesting excuse when Extremism Bill, 2023, was, fortunately, rejected by the Upper House following the timely intervention of a few senators. He said the PTI government drafted the bill, with every single clause and punctuation mark placed by

needs to answer who dusted off the bill and presented it on behalf of the treasury

Although a few courageous legislators had blocked the bill, which was solely intended for political use, the treasury and opposition failed to prevent the amendment of the Official Secrets Act, 2023. It remains to be seen whether the PDM has earned itself breathing room for its future politics and, if so, how much space and for how long; the power holders are impulsive and lose interest if political actors take divergent steps.
The PML-N is spe-

cifically facing a test case in the upcoming elections. The party had previously demanded a level playing field before entering the electoral process. However, it has since fully supported cracking down on its political opponents and has obediently served the power holders. It is unclear at the moment what the PML-N will gain from it.

Security-related legislation in Pakistan has broad scope — the country has a history of misusing such laws to target politicians. This fear led a few senators tions. Many security-re-

to block the extremism bill in the Upper House. It was a rare example of politicians standing up to the government on such an issue. In most cases, however, politicians have willingly or unwillingly supported security-related legislation, even when they know it could be used against them. For example, in January 2015, the Senate voted in favour of the 21st Amendment, allowing the creation of military courts. PPP Senator Raza Rabbani recorded his protest, stating that he was voting at the behest of his party, otherwise the amendment went against his conscience, and he had never felt more ashamed in his life than while voting for the establishment of military courts. However, political pragmatism is so entrenched that such sane voices also compromise

It was not the first time security-related legislation was suddenly introduced in parliament without prior debate or input from the law ministry. Much of this legislation is outsourced to private law firms and then endorsed by security institu-

the target of the legislation.

lated laws that have been passed by parliament, such as the Protection of Pakistan Act, 2014, and the Fair Trial Act, 2013, have empowered law-enforcement agencies at the expense of human rights. LEAs continue to demand even more extensive legal powers, and the government has responded by amending the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, multiple times. In addition, military courts have been established to speed up terrorism-related trials. However, these legal measures still need to address the high acquittal rate in terrorism-related cases, which remains a serious concern.

The irony is that political parties know that security-specific laws will eventually be used against them, and even then, they forge ahead. Many politiwhen they see their benefit cians and political workers or if political opponents are have been tried under the ATA, including the architect of the law, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. In 1999, military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf introduced two amendments to the ATA and added conspiracy-related clauses to charge Nawaz Sharif under

On the other hand, the

trial of hard-core sectarian terrorists has suffered long delays. Many of the accused operated from prisons, such as Malik Ishaq, one of the founders of the sectarian terrorist organisation Lashkari-Jhangvi. He was released on bail in December 2014 after spending over 13 years behind bars on more than 70 charges of sectarian killings. He was shot and killed in an encounter with law-enforcement personnel in July 2015. Pakistan's power hold-

ers have a binary perspective, which manifests itself in paradoxical ways. Their approach of 'good' and 'bad' militants is a manifestation of this perspective. This approach has been applied to both international and regional militant forces. The power holders apply a similar approach to political actors in the country, using the same legal regimes against them when needed. The context determines who is considered a threat and who is

Political parties and lawmakers are not so naive to support such legislation without the prospect of some benefit accruing to them; ie, they expect something in return. This could be further political engineering in their favour or the approval of private bills, such as those related to private universities.

The treasury benches also supported the amendments in a bill by far-right religious parties. The Senate approved amendments to the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, to enhance punishments for those who disrespect the ahle bait or sahaba-i-karaam. These amendments were passed without discussion, raising concerns about the expansive nature of religious-related legislation. Such legislation has serious implications for peace and harmony in the country. However, at the same time, these could also be used against political opponents, as there is a history of this in Pakistan. Surprisingly, parliament and the establishment have yet to take the Supreme Court's advice, dispensed in 2019, to develop a new and comprehensive legal definition of terrorism. It is indeed ironic that a country that has been fighting a war on terrorism for two decades has extensive legislation and a wide range of policies without a proper definition of the term. --

Leaving Pakistan behind



Ghazi Salahuddin

As we escalated on to the main concourse of the greeted by the sound of people was dancing in a corner to a racy rhythm, surrounded by a crowd of appreciative transit passengers. It was apparently an impromptu performance. And that is how I felt to have been ushered into the outside world, leaving Pakistan behind.But leaving Pakistan behind would be a hard thing to do, particularly for someone who is However, a somewhat ex-

coffee at a restaurant in one of the busiest airresolution to genuinely try to leave Pakistan behind for a brief period of time. I am in a foreign land and they do things differently here, I thought. Can I flow in this tide and not worry too much about what is happening in Pa-

kistan? Perhaps the time for this exercise is not at all appropriate because so much is happening across the entire spectrum of the country's existence. A transformative period it is likely to become, with a shift in the dynamics of the civil-military relationship. What is appearing on the horizon is a blur, very much like the Rorschach test in psychiatry. How can I turn away from these momen-

volvements may be thera- that I seek to dabble in peutic in some ways, an other pursuits. attempt to protect one's sanity. In any case, this is a touch of magical realevolving political situa- ing as a family. In a world

So, drinking Turkish tion in Pakistan. Though it is obviously not possible to not learn about ports of the world and the main headlines, I have watching, literally, the world go by, I made this cal discourse during this entire week.

> In fact, I have not had even a glimmer of a Pakistani news channel. which is not what it used to be during our previous visits. We would part with Geo, so to say, only for the duration of the long flights. It also helps that I am not at all on any social media platform and do not make any political comment on WhatsApp. There is always the chance of running into expatriates who insist on talking politics. This, too, has not happened yet.

> Yes during conversations with relatives and friends, there have been references to the general situation that amounts to a loss of hope in the future of our country. Since I have been a proclaimed

On that count, there

that has divided so many of our middle-class families, where ambitious young people have fallen in love with long distances, being together is a gift of heaven. For old parents and grandparents, every reunion is to be embraced as if it were the last. (As the poet said: "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest

The secret, though, is the ability to live in the moment. This approach is specifically prescribed in the present times of inflation, social discord and political uncertainty. This 'pursuit of happiness' is seen to be more in evidence in the United States and where I am now is supposed to be a charmed place. What lovely weather it almost

thought")

always has.

I know that this thought negates the ravages of climate change and natural disasters in so torically high temperatures, punctuated with

this week is of devastat- campuses causes strong ing fires in Hawaii. We should be grateful for what we have. There is so much

being in the company of my family and enjoying certain luxuries and freedoms. The rigours of living in Karachi tend to enhance the pleasures of this life. There is a lot of time to, among other things, to watch movies in a cinema and breathe the atmosphere in a large bookstore or a library. Reading a book in any of the coffee shops of a shopping mall while the women are hunting for

> perience to remember. After an initial setback, printed books have regained their dominance being high-priced. This is

feelings of pain and depression.

Because this is just a vacation for me and I am that I can celebrate dur- looked after so well, there are ample opportunities ing this brief escape from Pakistan, in addition to of living it up. There is so much to enjoy and to engage with. But what pleases me the most is to intrude into the cultural sphere, wherever possible. That I will remain an outsider of sorts is matter or some regret. This is not the world that I inhabit.

Still, for this short interval, I can do many things that are denied to the citizens of a country like Pakistan. One of them is the simple pleasure of browsing through books bargains becomes an exin a large bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, the world's largest bookseller. It would be the in this digital age, despite same in many other developed countries, but let an important measure of me conclude with a bit of a country's intellectual statistical evidence remomentary escape from these highly charged involvements may be theratively contained to a long time, and cultural prowess. What we have in this section of the world. Europe, for instance, is visited this stance, is visited this stance. summer by an unusual threat to our survival than and book publishing revsurge in tourism and his- our economic and politi- enues rose to \$29.33 bilcal deprivations. The lion, Thanks to the IMF. very thought of the over- we know how much only thunderstorms. In the all educational environ- one billion dollars would United States, the story ment that exists on our be. -- Courtesy TheNews

This is us

country. The government

treats its statements as

code red and succumbs to

also a naat khwan; he is

loved and recognised for

lives in Lahore with his

bedridden wife while his

married daughter works as

a producer on a morning

TV show. Their life is up-

ended when a video of her

father performing a dance

to a song for his friends is

uploaded on social media

(without his knowledge or

consent) and goes viral.

Once widely respected, he

is now shunned by the

neighbourhood and wider

ten on how sad it was that

this award-winning movie,

which was also Pakistan's

selection for the Oscars in

2021, could not be

screened in its own coun-

try. Those who opposed

its release said in a state-

that

naat reader in the film is

such that it can cause dis-

comfort to the public and

might lead them to devi-

discomfort because it

holds a mirror to society.

And it is not a pretty

sight. How can anything

be rosy when a law has

been so weaponised in the

dation, portrayed so well

in the movie, is familiar to

anyone who's been up

against the powerful, be it

an individual or an insti-

country doesn't have sys-

tems in place to protect

the vulnerable from harm

This kind of intimi-

ate from Islam"

A lot has been writ-

community.

ment

dissent?

The movie is about a

its demands.

and I mean each one —



Not all heroes wear capes. goes the popular catchphrase. In Pakistan, they play the role of judge, jury and executioner. I am speaking about the men who should be villainised

Mumtaz Qadri was given the death penalty own hands and assassinating Salmaan Taseer befuneral in 2016 saw him as a hero. As do the many their respects to his grave near Islamabad even today.

I was thinking of heroes and how they are (mis)treated while watchfilmmaker ended up releasing on YouTube reof adversity is pretty heroic. But it is also tragic

Truthfully, I watched the two-hour film wonderscene that supporters of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan protested over or scope of blasphemy alle- or the legal system or the tesy Dawn

community — the intimithing can cause offence. dators win. They always Plus, the party warned that the film's screening It is unjust to punish could lead to unrest in the

artists who want to produce work that goes beyond just 'mirch masala' entertainment. Cinema is a reflection of its society. Messages in movies can be inspiring and they can inreal estate agent who is fluence people on positions. The important thing is to let audiences choose his skill and talent. He what they want to watch in cinema, on news channels, on television. In this case, at least 460,000 people had watched it on YouTube and most of the near 1,300 comments praised the film.

Zindagi Tamasha is a movie to watch not just for its storytelling and performances but for providing an opportunity to reflect on who we are as a people — and I don't mean to come off as a grouchy, grim analyst on TV bemoaning all things wrong in the country.

In his message announcing the release of his film on YouTube, Khoosat said that while he followed all the procedures for its release, his film was not treated characterisation of the fairly. In a way, this is true about us too: we are not given a chance to thrive because someone somewhere is robbing us of opportunities to ex-The film does cause pand our horizons and express ourselves. People were denied a chance to watch this movie in the cinema as a collective, which is what Khoosat wanted. "It was name of security that it is meant to be felt by you, now easy to use to silence received by you," he said in the YouTube message. I would say that this movie is for us; it is about us, by which I mean it's not pandering to audiences outside

It takes nerve to retution. And because the lease this on YouTube, especially since he will incur losses. That kind of courage makes Khoosat a - whether it is the police hero among us. -- Cour-

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945,

killing over 100,000 residents. The second bomb followed three days later, and killed nearly 80,000 in Nagasaki. The scale of destruction was so vast, so indiscriminate that no country — not even the US, which had dropped the two bombs — ever used nuclear weapons after the two events. Oppenheimer, the American scientist who oversaw the creation of the two bombs, came to regret his awful legacy. He, as indeed the whole world, realised that a nuclear war would mean global annihilation. Hence, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed in 1968 as a binding commitment by all state parties to disarm (nuclear weapons) in due course, not share nuclear

technologies in the military

domain, and encourage peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The NPT offered a grand bargain. Five countries, which by then had already developed nuclear weapons — the US, UK, France, the (former) Soviet Union and China — were recognised as nuclear weapon states. All other countries that joined the NPT agreed not to develop nuclear weapons on the assurance that the NWS would pursue disarmament (Article 6) and help in sharing nuclear technologies for civilian purposes (Article

In reality, no NWS has worked towards complete disarmament of its nuclear

Oppenheimer's legacy Union did work towards reducing nuclear weapons through treaties such as SALT, START and the INF. But the gains were offset by the development of new and advanced, more potent and precise nuclear weapons by the NWS. According to the 2023 yearbook launched by the Stockholm-Sipri, the number of opera-The world's first nuclear tional nuclear weapons has now "started to rise" bebomb was dropped on cause of the NWS' modernisation and expansion plans. The total global inventory was estimated at 12,512 warheads, of which 3,844 were deployed with missiles and aircraft.

A major reason for the failure of NPT's grand bargain was the discriminatory nuclear regime it offered. The world was divided into nuclear haves and havenots. The frustrations over the lack of progress towards disarmament of nuclear weapons, 90 per cent of which are in the possession of the US and Russia, led many states to adopt the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Ban Treaty) in 2017. All five recognised NWS have opposed this treaty citing security concerns.

It appears that the world is increasingly overlooking the possibility of a nuclear war. The Sipri report indicates that around 2,000 nuclear weapons are in a state of high operational alert; most belong to Russia or the US, The NWS have also hardened their rhetoric, issuing at times 'explicit or implicit threats about potentially using nuclear weapons". There is, thus, a growing risk that nuclear weapons might one day be used again. President Vladimir Putin's decision to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belorussia is a case in point. He has also raised the alertness of Russian nuclear

confrontation are no less in

Start Doctrine (the ability to launch cross-border offensive operations in the shortest possible time) had sought to dent Pakistan's nuclear deterrence. In 2019, India tried to create a 'new normal' in South Asia by carrying out a 'surgical strike' against Pakistan. Last year, India's nuclearbased research institute capable supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos, was accidentally launched and fell close to a Pakistani town. On both occasions, a potential crisis was averted thanks to Pakistan's restraint. Another accidental BrahMos launch close to the border was reported in the beginning of this year. Indian leaders have also created ambiguity about their commitment to 'no first use' and are resorting to the dangerous mantra of 'massive retaliation'. To maintain its nuclear

deterrence, Pakistan has responded to these developments by announcing its full-spectrum deterrence (developing capabilities from tactical to operational to strategic levels). A former director general of the Strategic Plans Division recently spoke about the development of weapons in all ranges. It is time for India and Pakistan to take steps to stop the escalation in hos-

tility before it reaches the point of a possible nuclear confrontation, the impact of which would be unimaginable. It would be prudent for India not to weaken nuclear deterrence and strategic stability in South Asia in the larger interest of regional peace. Alongside, it would greatly help if communication channels remain operative. An even better option is to revive the bilateral dialogue aimed at addressing outstanding issues, particularly the Kashmir dispute, and resurrect the expert group which had worked for years on conventional and nuclear con-The risks of a nuclear fidence-building measures. -- Courtesy Dawn

gations is such that any-

Mossadegh. Zulqarnain, Lt. Gen. Najibullah Khan,

Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Syed Deem Hussain Rizvi, Lt. Gen.

Dr. Chaudhry Faisal

Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women

University Dr. Saima

Education Specialist Asia Khurram Agha, Dean Dr. Saima Siddiqui,

Commissioner Rawal Pindi

Liaquat Ali Chhata,

Government of Punjab and

was approved in the

meeting and important

issues related to the College

taken

The annual budget

Finance

Amdadullah Bosal,

Nouman Zakaria,

Hamid,

Secretary

Secretary

Education Punjab.

Cadet College Hasan Abdal

a safe institution of high

traditions: Governor Punjab

Independent Report
HASSAN ABDAL:
Governor Punjab Engineer
Muhammad Balighur
Rehman said on Sunday
that the Cadet College
Hasan Abdal was a safe
institution of high
traditions

He expressed these

views while presiding over the 101st Board of Governors meeting of Cadet College Hasan

Abdal. According to the

management of the Cadet

College, the members of

the Board of Governors

who attended the meeting

included Chairman POF Lt.

Gen. Ali Amir Rawan,
Principal Cadet College
Hasan Abdal Brigadier
Nasir Saeed Khattak,
Muhammad Saeed

Mahfoozur Mehdi, Mantoozur Issues telatet u Rehman, Brigadier Dr. were tak Muhammad Khaliq Al consideration.

traditions.

Mehdi,

CM Punjab felicitate nation on Independence Day

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Chief the countless Muslims Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the occasion of the 76th Independence

In his message, released on Sunday, he expressed his warm felicitations to all fellow countrymen on the significant day. Не acknowledged the immense blessing of freedom and expressed gratitude to Allah Almighty for enabling the countrymen to breathe in the world as a sovereign nation.

The chief minister underscored the need to comprehend and uphold the intrinsic worth and honor of a nation that is advancement

celebration of Independence Day

Bureau (CPWB) Chairperson Sarah Ahmad

has announced launching a

social media campaign against child employers, under the title of 'Social Boycott of Child

In a talk with APP on

Employers'.

CPWB launches social

media campaign against

child employers

LAHORE (INP): Child child rights across the Protection and Welfare province. She said that

free. He payed tribute to who dedicated their lives to kindle the flame of liberation, as well as the venerable forebears of our liberated land.

Paying homage to the unparalleled valour of those who laid down their lives during the Pakistan Movement, he emphasised the significance of their sacrifice in pursuit of a peaceful nation.

The CM called for introspection and learning from the past experiences to chart a promising path forward. He stressed the imperative of adhering to the tenets of faith, unity, and organisation, with each individual playing an integral role in the nation's

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly building is decorated with the lights in

province. She said that construction of the newly

inaugurated building at

Kasur had been started in

November 2021 at Kutchehry Road, while the

child protection office had

been operating in Kasur

since 2019. She expressed

her gratitude to the Puniab

asserted that the shared responsibility bequeathing a harmonious, robust, and flourishing Pakistan

forthcoming generations. He underscored the pivotal role of exemplary unity and solidarity in confronting the challenges that lie ahead. Confidently, he envisioned a radiant future

for Pakistan and emphasised that, through the benevolence of Allah Almighty, the Pakistani nation would triumph over every obstacle. He called upon all citizens to renew their commitment to prioritise the nation's growth over personal interests

collaboratively elevate the stature of Pakistan.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharifin a group photo with Journalists, Media workers, Artists and Technical resources during the launching ceremony of the MobileApp Radio Pakistan Awaz Khazana.

'We are going to make record of raising Pak flag'; says Governor

Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori Sunday said that we were going to make a record of raising the Pakistani flag

He said that millions

persons during his visit to

flag of Pakistan anywhere. draw is going to be held He asked why the tomorrow.'

his American wife

reported that the accused had killed his wife and reached the graveyard alone to bury the body.

said that the accused Kazim Khan tortured and Cristo Khan, the accused had killed his wife and reached the graveyard alone to bury the body, that Gurkin (Grave digger) reported to the police.

According to the Khan was arrested from the cemetery while burying his wife's body and the murder

Man arrested for sexually harassing girl

a man for harassing a girl in

arrest of the man.

within an hour after the video of harassing a girl went viral on social platforms. The police said the man arrested was habitual of harassing passerby females in the

Separately, on July 3, a man in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Juahar tried to sexually assault the woman by removing his shorts on

LAHORE (Online): Gurkin (Grave Digger)

In Lahore, "On August 14, the husband killed an American Indian record of reciting woman. According to the police, the murder of an the national anthem will be American woman by her husband took place in the factory area of Lahore. The police further

killed the deceased Diana

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab police have arrested

According to police, a video of a man harassing a girl in Lahore's area of Lohari Gate went viral on social media. The SSP city took notice of the matter and ordered the immediate

The arrest was made

Husband kills

police, the accused Kazim weapon was also recovered from the accused.

programs and the rally at Mazar-e-Quaid. **KP CS felicitates** fellow countrymen on 76th Independence Day

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief all the people living in this Secretary Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry felicitated the entire nation, especially the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the auspicious occasion of 76th Independence Day of flag will always fly high. the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Terming freedom as a Almighty, he said that Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and our forefathers made huge sacrifices for the creation of an independent state. He further said that Pakistan was achieved as a result of long freedom struggle of the

Muslims of subcontinent. said that development and prosperity of Pakistan is the individual and

collective responsibility of families.

'P): Chief all the rection to the Khyber country.

The Chief Secretary laboration of

Khan Tessori talking to media persons after

inspecting the preparations for Independence Day

said celebration of Independence Day with great zeal and zest across the country reflects the fact that the green national "We should keep

security, stability and prosperity of our beloved great blessing of Allah country above everything and should not hesitate to give any sacrifice for it," he added.

He said people of Pakistan and law enforcement agencies bravely faced internal and external threats and rendered numerous sacrifices. He paid rich tribute to all the martyrs, prayed for their exalted ranks and expressed solidarity with their

7 dead, 1,335 injured in Punjab road accidents

AHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,335 others injured in 1,309 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24

As many as 673 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 662 with minor injuries

were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical The data analysis

passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 315 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 305 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 84 in Faisalabad with 71 victims and at third Multan with 78 accidents and 81

According to the showed that 693 drivers, 45 data, 1,145 motorbikes, 92 underage drivers, 178 auto-rickshaws.



LAHORE: Visitors seeing the model of Bab-e-Pakistan Monument, the first stay of refugees in

Ombudsman orders Rs. 35mln relief to complainants

action on complaints received at the regional ombudsman. offices, the office of the Ombudsman also Punjab provided relief to complainants to the tune of Rs. 35.23 million through provincial different

LAHORE (APP): Taking paid to students on the directions

> Moreover, relief was provided complainants, including Rs. 1.96 million under the head of family pensions, Rs. 8.553 million for repair and maintenance of a payment of outstanding

KARACHI (APP): Sindh flags of Pakistan could not be hung on poles instead flags of political parties

of Pakistani flags would be distributed among the participants of the rally. Talking to media

Mazar-e-Quaid to review arrangements Independence programmes and rallies, he said that the Mayor of Karachi should come out and see that there was no

would continue.

grudges and come from Shahrah Faisal to Mazare-Quaid on independence

He said, "The biggest

The Governor said,

He urged to forget all

"Independence Day is

important for all of us.' He said that the projects of public welfare

Punjab IGP orders foolproof security, traffic arrangements across province

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar has directed to ensure foolproof security and traffic arrangements throughout the province on the 76th Independence Day on Sunday.

Additional personnel should be deployed to provide children in parks, highways security to large public gatherings, rallies and other events," he said.
"All operational units

including Special Branch, with families, especially Counter Department (CTD). Special Protection Unit (SPU), and executive police should adopt a joint to form special teams for security plan Independence celebrations," he added.

"The regional and district police officers should go out in the field themselves and review the

directed."Ensure the use of cameras, walkthrough gates and metal detectors for monitoring and checking of the people," he added. "Coordinated arrangements should be

security arrangements," he

made for the safety and security of women and and public places on Independence Day," he empĥasised.

"Those who quarrel Terrorism women, in public places will be dealt with sternly, he warned.

The IGP also ordered action against those involved in one-wheeling, aerial firing, rioting and immoral acts."Those who display arms in public and perform aerial firing will be



Independence Day, at Lahore museum in Provincial Capital.

Search underway for 'non political' people to fill KP caretaker cabinet

PESHAWAR (INP): Contacts are underway with various personalities for their possible inclusion as caretaker ministers in the caretaker cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The clearance process of these personalities is also going on.

completely non-political people is underway to fill the for Khyber for Pakhtunkhwa cabinet. Continuous

search

communication among important figures of the province is going on to form the new interim cabinet. After the consent from these personalities for joining the caretaker cabinet, the provincial institutions have started the process of their security clearance.

assistants will not be part of the caretaker cabinet. As per the 18th

Constitutional Amendment, there will be only 15 ministers in the caretaker cabinet. Reportedly, the names of the new caretaker

finalized next week. Earlier this year, members of the caretaker

cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had taken oath back in January. KP Governor Haj

Sawal Nazir, Bakht Nawaz Fazal Elahi, Adnan Jalil, Shafiullah, Shahid Khan, Malik Khushdil Khan,

Advisers and special Mohammed Ali Shah Justice ® Irshad Qaiser, and

cabinet are likely to be

Ghulam Ali administered the oath to the cabinet members in a ceremony held at Governor House in Peshawar. The KP governor had announced the caretaker cabinet members' names, including former senators and other prominent names. The cabinet members included former MNA Abdul Haleem Qasoriya, former MNA Hamid Shah, former inspector general of police Syed Masood Shah, former Senator Zafran, and former Senator Taj Mohammad Afridi. Moreover, Advocate

Manzoor Khan Afridi were also part of the caretaker

Three die in separate incidents in DI Khan DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Three persons died

in separate incidents in Dera Ismail Khan, the police and Rescue 1122 officials said here on Sunday. A police spokesman

son of Sahib Jan resident of Maddi area filed a report with Kulachi Police Station that he along with his 29year-old brother Zafran was coming home after grazing goats. His brother was sitting behind him on a

started investigations.

In another incident.

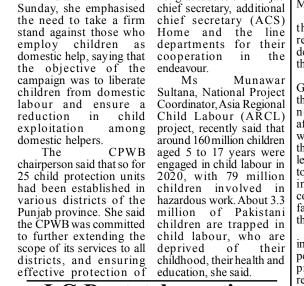
said that a 35-year-old man named Rizwan Yaqubzai

bullock cart loaded with firewood when unknown person fired at his brother as they reached Gandi Suf Hidayat Ullah area. As a result, Zafran died on the spot and the assailant fled from the scene. The police registered a case against unknown accused and

one Mulazim Hussain resident of Malekhi area of Paroa tehsil was buried under the debris as the wall of his house collapsed

departments.

Official source told building, Rs. 1.773 for APP on Sunday that stuckup scholarships amounting to Rs. 672,000 were also grants.



LG Dept. takes action against illegal constructions

LAHORE (APP): A major Minister for Information crackdown has been initiated against illegal unauthorized, encroachments on the orders of Minister for Information and Local

Government Amir Mir. More than 51 underconstruction commercial and residential buildings have been sealed for being against the approved maps. Even structures built without approved maps are under scrutiny for

Government Dr Arshad

and Local Governments Amir Mir's directives, action had been launched against building inspectors involved in facilitating illegal constructions. FIRs have been filed against engaged unauthorized construction

activities.He added that basements' excavation beneath shops on McLeod Road in Data Ganj Bakhsh Zone had been stopped. 'This measure was taken to avert the risk of collapsing adjoining

potential demolition. Secretary Local unauthorized work was Ahmad told media here carried out without any approval.



with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club. **PHA** hosts art contest

to celebrate I-Day

KARACHI: Insaf Lawyer Forumleader, Iqbal along

LAHORE (APP): The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore organised a painting competition on the eve of Independence Day at Jilani Park on Sunday, where more than 70 students from different colleges and

created paintings featuring Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal Minar-e-Pakistan, Shahi Qila, and the historical heritage of Pakistan as a tribute to Pakistan's universities participated. independence.

Governor KP visits Jahanzeb's house, expresses condolence

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali on Sunday visited the residence of the slain Danyal Zeb, who was tragically murdered the other day, and expressed his condolences to his father Jahanzib and grandfather journalist Hazrat Khan

Mohmand. The Governor said this heartbreaking and regrettable incident has deeply saddened him and the area.

Ghulam Ali emphasized that such incidents could not be tolerated and affirmed that strict action would be taken against those responsible and no leniency would be shown to those involved in such incidents. Those who committed the crime will

face the consequences of their actions, he said. Highlighting importance of maintaining peace and security in the province, the Governor reiterated that the province was already faced with security challenges and such incidents that further

disrupt the peace could not be tolerated. He said that the local police were actively investigating the incident and were determined to

apprehend the culprits. The occurrence of such an incident within the city is a challenge for our law enforcement agencies,

the Governor added. Flooding in **Nullah Dek** after water discharge

from India PASRUR (INP): A flood flow of 20,000 cusecs passing through Nullah Dek on Sunday after floodwater released from

In Pasrur, Nullah Dek ferociously flowing with floodwater of 20,000 cusecs at Kangara and Chahor points, provincial irrigation department said

The water level consistently increasing in Nullah Dek at Kangara, rrigation department further said.Irrigation officials have apprehended that the floodwater could submerge Chahor, Dogri Ropowali, Tamboh Ghalib and Kalowali Syedan areas Local administration

has issued alert as rescue and relief teams have reached to the areas under flooding threat.India had also released water in Nullah Dek in July, which had flooded several villages in Pasrur tehsil of Sialkot district. The flood water from the neighbouring country caused high level flood in Nullah Dek inundating several villages and submerged standing crops on hundreds of acres.

41 member delegation visits China Yadgar

GILGIT (APP): A 41- burned Chinese currency, as member Chinese delegation here on Sunday visited China Yadgar to commemorate the dedication and valor of those who lost their lives during the construction of Karakorum Highway (KKH) from 1959 to 1979. the delegation also included 15 engineers and workers who physically participated in the construction of the KKH, besides their family members.

On this occasion, they paid tributes to their loved ones and placed wrath of flowers on the graves of the deceased. Their relatives

per the Chinese tradition. Talking to the media, they said that they were grateful to the Government of Pakistan for taking good care of the the graves of their dear ones.

The Karakorum Highway (KKH) is the precursor to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which transformed the road connectivity into efficient link between Pakistan and China. The 1300 km long KKH starts from China's Xinjiang province, after passing placed the national flag of through Gilgit-Baltistan, China and fruits at the ends at Hasan Abdal region of Punjab.



QUETTA: Pakistan flags, buntings, printed shirts and other items are being selling on roadside stalls in connection of Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, at Bacha Khan Chowk in Quetta.

PPP urged nation to void

hate, division: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chair- we still have a long way to

GILGIT: Chinese delegation paying tribute to their relatives who loss their lives during the construction of Karakoram Highway (1959-77) during their visit to Chinese Graveyard Daniyor.

Alvi urges nation to remain steadfast, work hard for country's uplift

Ashrafi terms national

flag a symbol of

unity, solidarity

kistan Ulema Council

Mahmood Ashrafi, on Sun-

day underscored the signifi-

cance of Pakistan's national

flag as a symbol of unity

and solidarity. Speaking at

a press conference held at

the central office of Bait-

ul-Aman, Ashrafi who is

also the President of Inter-

national Interfaith Har-

mony Council categorically

stated that disrespecting

the national flag should not be tolerated and called for

stringent measures against

those allegedly involved in

that individuals who dis-

honored the flag should

face immediate legal action,

including the confiscation

of their identification cards

and passports, as a measure

He further stressed

this heinous crime.

against treason

Chairman

Muhammad

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the entire Pakistani nation to remain steadfast and work wholeheartedly for the development of the

"There is a need to unite to cope with the social, political, economic and security challenges facing the nation today. So, let's

tate to offer any sacrifice rendered by their founding for the security, prosperity and development of the fathers and workers of the Pakistan Movement. This day also gave the country," the president said in a message on the occasion of the 76th Inde-

opportunity for introspection, he said, stressing that they should reflect on the pendence Day anniversary. The president connation's progress so far, gratulated all compatriots prevailing challenges, and on Pakistan's 76th Indeopportunities for growth. pendence Day anniversary, 'It is a time to renew

our commitment to buildadding that on this day, they paid tribute to the sacrifices ing a stronger and more

prosperous Pakistan as envisioned by the Father of the Nation. I urge my fellow countrymen to work for the welfare and uplift of deprived sections of our society. Let's pledge to up-hold the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, forgiveness, socio-economic justice and moral and ethical values, as enunciated by Islam

33 CDWP, 12 ECNEC meetings held in 16 months

Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has launched a 16month performance report while highlighting its key achievements made from

April 2022 to August 2023. The 29-page report contained details of achievements made by the ministry from April 19, 2022 to August 9, 2023, a news release said on Sunday. During the period under review, the Planning Commission managed to hold 33 meetings of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and 12 meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

A large number of development projects and schemes of strategic significance were considered and approved during this period, said the report.

The report emphasized that special attention was given to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) as the Planning Ministry increased the PSDP from Rs500 billion to Rs1150 billion for 2023-2024, over-

ISLAMABAD (APP): ency through the PSDP Portal, which provides digital access to 1.1 trillion worth of PSDP data.

While highlighting the performance of the CDWP, the reports said that CDWP-approved projects showed the sensitization of priorities to carry out national development schemes. After the infrastructural projects, the major emphasis had been laid on the projects of human resources development. It further said since April 2022, the Planning Ministry has placed special emphasis on youth empowerment and inclusive devel-

This section includes several strategic initiatives undertaken by the Ministry as part of the PM's Youth Development Programme. Under this programme, six initiatives are on education, four center around engagement and opportunities, and two each for employment and entrepreneurship.

Similarly, the report said, National Top Talent Scholarship Programme would provide the Pakistani students with Masters and coming financial limitations Ph.D. degrees in the top 25 while ensuring transpar- universities of the world.

Anti-state elements can't affect public joys and enthusiasm of **Independence Day, says CM**

Independence Dav QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has firing by terrorists in Gwadar on Sunday.

According to an official hand out issued here, the Chief Minister noted with contentment that no their perpetrators.

man of Pakistan People's

Party (PPP) Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari on Indepen-

dence Day has urged the

nation to work together to

end the hatred and division

from society as well as

work hard to make Pakistan

a country that other nations

of the world can give ex-

amples of its democracy

ings to the nation on Inde-

pendence Day, he ex-

pressed good wishes for all

Pakistanis. He said that to-

day is the day to pay hom-

age to Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and

his companions, who

struggled for freedom under

his leadership and made sacrifices. "August 14

symbolizes making the im-

possible possible through

peaceful political and demo-

cratic struggle," he said adding that the Day is also the

occasion to ask ourselves

whether today's Pakistan

has succeeded in achieving

all goals that our founding

fathers had set and dreamed

of at the time of its estab-

sion of the Quaid-e-Azam,

Samina Mumtaz Zehri on

Sunday said that August 14

is our Independence Day

and we will celebrate the

Independence Day in a dig-

wishers focused on their

personal development and

prosperity instead of the

development and prosper-

ity of Balochistan, due to

which Balochistan was left

behind in the race of devel-

congratulated the entire na-

tion on Independence Day

and said that Pakistan was

achieved after a long

struggle and sacrifices, but

even today there are ele-

ments in Balochistan who

do not appreciate the bless-

ing of independence and

Some are playing in

On this occasion, she

The so-called well-

"In the light of the vi-

QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) leader, Malik

Abdul Ghani addresses to media persons during

Great nation celebrates

Independence Day in

grand manner: Samina

QUETTA (APP): Senator the hands of their enemies,

press conference held at Quetta press club.

and prosperity.

human loss was occurred in the incident

He paid tributes to the security forces on taking condemned the incident of the terrorists to task in retaliation. The Chief Minister said that the security institutions are active to foil the nefarious designs of the terrorist elements and

go and work hard to estab-

lish a strong federal demo-

cratic state and a society

based on tolerance and

party is the true torchbearer

of the ideology and prin-

ciples of Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah,

who was a unique demo-

crat and statesman believed

Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto's gift of a unani-

mous constitution to the the

nation is a reflection of

Quaid-e-Azam's vision of

the state of Pakistan, add-

ing that Shaheed Mohtarma

Benazir Bhutto fought her

entire life to free the coun-

try from dictatorship and

protect the rights and free-

doms of the people, and

embraced martyrdom dur-

Zardari, as head of state,

followed Quaid-e-Azam's

golden principles of decen-

tralization of powers and

equitable distribution of re-

sources by devolving his

powers to the parliament

and gifting federal units

with a unified NFC award

but history is a witness that

the nations who did not

value freedom were left be-

dom; she said that we will

celebrate independence

with national dignity and

Mumtaz Zehri expressed

these views while address-

independence, our dear

country Pakistan has seen

many setbacks. For this

purpose, our young men

also offered sacrifices of

their lives which can never

play our role to fight against

our enemies. She said that

our elders have made eter-

nal sacrifices to get this

All of us will have to

She added that after

Senator

ing the ceremony.

be forgotten.

We should value free-

"President Asif Ali

ing that struggle.

He said that Quaid-e-

in religious tolerance.

Bilawal said that his

equality," he continued.

He said that it is joint resolve of the masses and institutions to establish sustainable peace all over the province including

He said that the antistate elements can't have an effect on the public joys and enthusiasm of Indepen

Two workers lose lives in mine incident

incident, two workers on Sunday lost their lives due to a lethal build-up of toxic gas within a mine at Harnai district, Balochistan. According to the Levies force, the incident took place within the confines of mines area no 151, Block no. 4. The suffocating grasp of poisonous gas proved fatal and the two

QUETTA (INP): In a tragic

miners lost their lives.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- comes as the nation prepares for the upcoming Independence Day celebration on August 14, which promises to be a grand spectacle of pride and enthusiasm. Highlighting the importance of faith and national pride, he announced that prayers would be offered in religious seminaries and mosques across the country after the Fair prayer, seeking strength and stability for Pakistan. The national flag would be raised high, signifying the shared commitment to a strong and united nation, he added. In a remarkable call for political unity, Ashrafi urged all political leaders to set aside their differences and rally under the banner of the national flag.

He emphasized that

the flag represented a powerful reminder of the common goal shared by all citizens: a prosperous.



QUETTA: President of Muslim League (N) Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail along with others cutting cake to celebrate Independence Day.

U.S. Envoy **felicitates** people of Pak on 'I-Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP) U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Sunday congratulated the people of Pakistan on its

76th Independence Day. In his statement, is sued by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the Ambassador said that the past year has been a testament to the strength of our relationship.

He said "We worked together on health, energy and climate to support the Pakistani people's recovery from last year's floods. Looking forward the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance is a transformative initiative between our two

Five burnt to death as car catches fire

after overturns

HARIPUR (INP): Five people were burnt to death when a car caught fire after overturning here on Sunday, rescue sources According to details

driver of an over speeding car lost control over the steering and it turned turtle near Jharikas Interchange in district Haripur of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The car caught fire after the accident and five people present in the car were burnt to death.

Bodies of the deceased stated to be hailing from district Bannu were moved to hospital

Anwaar Kakar cannot hold 'transparent' elections: Aimal Wali

National Party (ANP) has raised reservations about the transparency of the elections under the supervision of caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq.

On Saturday, the name of Senator Anwaarul Haq Kakar, a leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) was approved by the president on the advice of PM Shehbaz Sharif, after reaching a consensus in his meeting with Opposition Leader Raja Riaz. Awami National Party

claimed there was no role accordance with the law.

QUETTA (INP): Awami of PM Sharif and Raja Riaz in the nomination of Anwaarul Haq and added there can be no transparent elections under his supervision

Aimal added that the caretaker prime minister in 2018 failed to hold free and fair elections and the current caretaker PM is also not different. He said that elections should be free of any interference as Constitution has been on ventilator since 2018. Replying a question, the ANP leader said whatever is happening President Aimal Wali Khan with the PTI chairman is in

Ali Hassan greets nation on occasion of **Independence Day**

dent of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Hub district Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has congratulated the nation on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of Paki-

He said that August 14 is our Independence Day and we should celebrate our Independence proudly. We all should thanks to Allah for being a citizen of a free country.

He expressed these views while addressing an event organized regarding Independence Day on Sun-

He said on this occasion that great nations cel-ebrate their Independence opment,

He said that Pakistan People's Party will celebrate Independence Day with enthusiasm and in this regard, events will be organized across the country and those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom.

Tributes will be paid to the martyrs.

The so-called benefactors who have been in power for decades have focused on their personal development and prosperity instead of the development prosperity Balochistan, due to which

Balochistan has been left behind in the race of devel-



ISLAMABAD (INP): Designated Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar resigned from his senate, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) membership. According

sources, Anwarul Haq Kakar said that he is quitting his senate membership as his basic respon sibility is to hold transparent elections.

Furthermore, the designated prime minister said that consultation regarding the caretaker cabinet has been started, sources

A day earlier, Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar was selected as Pakistan's care-taker prime minister, PM Shehbaz and Riaz have sent advice regarding Kakar's appointment as the caretaker prime minister to President Alvi, the statement added.

Flag-lowering ceremony attracts large crowd at Wagah border

LAHORE (INP): A large crowd took part in the flag-lowering ceremony held at the Wagah border on the eve of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

People from all walks of life attended the flag-lowering ceremony in which Rangers performed the parade. On the occasion, the public chanted slogans in favour of the country and the atmosphere of Wagah border echoed with 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans during the ceremony. Preparations are in full

swing to celebrate the 76th Independence Day with great zeal in the country.

A large number of stalls are being witnessed at the main avenues, markets and streets of all cities and towns of the country. National flags, pin

badges, green and white dresses, toys and other accessories have been put on display on the stalls.

are prosperous: Rashid RAWALPINDI (INP): dependence Day, he should Awami Muslim League

chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the People and state are sage on the social media website X, formerly Twitter, on the occasion of Independence Day on Sunday.

"I have been celebrating Independence Day for the last 50 years. I always address people on August 13 between 10 pm and 11 pm. Police raided Lal Haveli last night and took away fireworks and loud speakers. I have not seen such a big police operation in my life," Rashid said in his mes-

He said "is it our crime that we are marking the day for those martyrs, Ghazi and Mujahideen who laid down their lives to win free-

If someone disagreed pened, the current rulers with him on celebrating Inwould be responsible for it.

talk to him. "This [Independence Day celebration is

not a protest rally," he continued The former federal synonymous; if masses are minister asked the people peaceful and prosperous, the country will be peace"Instead of Lal Haveli, we ful. He posted a video mes- will hold a rally at Raja Bazar, Committee Chowk or Chandni Chowk. We will try our best to pay our respects to our martyrs, Ghazi, Mujahideen and the founders of Pakistan and

> companions of the Quaidi-Azam.' He said that the police conducted a grand operation on the houses of my brothers, sisters and nephews at Lal Haveli last night. They took away valuables from home, mobile phones. laptops, cameras, and em-

ployees including drivers. They removed all the dividers around Lal Haveli. There had been three suicide attempts on me. If any terrorist incident happened, the current rulers

PBF felicitates Kakar

as 8th caretaker PM QUETTA (APP): Pakistan

Business Forum (PBF) Balochistan chapter extended heartfelt congratulations to Anwaar ul Haq Kakar on the appointment as 8th interim Prime Minister of the country. In a joint statement issued on Sunday, Chairman PBF Balochistan Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai, Vice Chairperson's PBF Zubaida Jalal, Sana Durrani, Secretary General Balochistan Bashir Agha and district of PBF presidents Balochistan hoped that PM Kakar would now prioritize some of the urgent economic issues being faced by the country and pay special attention to the problems being suffered by the business & industrial community of Balochistan since

with an effective mechanism that must ensure that every single decision or policy which directly or indirectly affects trade and industry, must be devised in consultation with the business and industrial community.

They were of the opinion that the federal government has to pay attention to some of the most pressing issues of Balochistan particularly improving the infrastructure of Quetta and Gwadar.

In order to ensure sustainable economic prosperity, the caretaker federal government has to review all the policies so that the sense of deprivation felt by Balochistan may be negated. They stressed that PM Kakar must gather a team of economic experts, reliable and honest members of the Business Community.



long. They also advised the

Prime Minister to come up

QUETTA: A view of sewerage water accumulated on Sirki Road Gawalmandi Chowk which creating problems for motorists need attention of concerned authorities.