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ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar as the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan at an oath-taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar takes oath as caretaker PM

President Arif Alvi administers oath to Kakar, CJCS, COAS, ex-PM Shehbaz Sharif, Provincial governors attend oath-taking ceremony; Caretaker PM assumes office, seeks briefing from ministries; Senate chairman accepts Kakar's resignation from upper house of Parliament.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday took oath as the caretaker prime minister of Pakistan.

President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath to the caretaker prime minister in a ceremony at the President's House.

Outgoing prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and leading politicians of various political parties also attended the ceremony.

Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, and other high-ranking officials were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar was presented guard of honour in a ceremony at the Prime Minister House here on Monday.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan's armed

forces presented the guard of honour. National anthem was also played on the occasion.

Outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received the new prime minister on his arrival.

The caretaker prime minister met the officers and staff of the Prime Minister House.

Outgoing prime minister felicitated Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on becoming caretaker PM and expressed his best wishes for him.

Earlier, outgoing prime minister was also given guard of honour. He reviewed the guard of honour as the contingents of the armed forces presented a salute to him. Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar bid farewell to the departing prime minister.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here assumed his responsibilities after taking the oath of office.

The PM sought briefing from all ministries on important matters.

President Alvi for promoting rule of law, democracy to ensure country's prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said Pakistan could be put on the path of development and prosperity by promoting the rule of law, democracy, provision of basic human rights, eradication of social injustices and poverty.

Addressing a flag-hoisting ceremony held here in connection with the 76th independence day of Pakistan, the president expressed the hope that Pakistan would soon become a prosperous and developed country by following all the basic rules and

guidance given by the founder of Pakistan Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He said Quid-i-Azam always discouraged nepotism and voiced for the promotion of merit, unity, socio-economic justice, and poverty alleviation.

He said Pakistan got independence in 1947 because of the long struggle of Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other founding leaders, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of people. He said the country's armed forces, police and the public

were still sacrificing their lives for the country's security as over 100,000 people had rendered their lives in the war against terrorism. He said the aim of Pakistan's independence was the establishment of an independent state for the Muslims of the sub-continent to live their lives according to Islamic principles.

The president paid the heartiest tributes to the founders of Pakistan who struggled for independence of Pakistan and the hundreds of thousands of people who em-

braced martyrdom for Pakistan.

President Alvi stressed the elite of the country to take responsibility for poverty alleviation and promotion of education and health, which he said were interconnected with each other.

He said currently 27 million children were out of school across the country and needed to enrol in schools.

He stressed that every child should be enrolled in school which could only be possible through resources.

He said everybody should pay his or her due tax so that the government could get more resources to provide maximum facilities to the people.

Similarly, he said good health was also vital for nation-building.

The president said although it was necessary to explore natural resources buried under the land but the actual wealth was built in our minds which should be fully utilized.

He stressed the need to look into the areas of the latest technologies, IT, industries and agriculture.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi hoisting Pakistan's national flag at the official flag hoisting ceremony on the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan.

Kakar country's 8th caretaker PM since 1990

ISLAMABAD (INP): Anwar ul Haq Kakar has become 8th caretaker prime minister of Pakistan after he took oath of his office on Monday, the Independence Day of country.

According to details, the first caretaker prime minister of Pakistan was Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi who took over the office on August 06, 1990 and left after three months on November 06, 1990. He hailed from National Peoples Party and was appointed by then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balakh Sher Mazari appointed by then

President took over office as 2nd caretaker prime minister in July 1993, and held the office only for one month and eight days as Supreme Court overturned Presidential order and restored Nawaz Sharif's government.

After Nawaz Sharif's resignation in July 1993, Moeenuddin Ahmad Qureshi took over the charge as 3rd caretaker chief minister on July 18, 1993 and his continued till October 19, 1993 (3 months, 1 day).

After dismissal of PPP's Benazir Bhutto's government in November 1996, Malik Mehraj Khalid

was appointed 4th caretaker prime minister. He took over the charge of office on November 05, 1996 and left on February 17, 1997 (three months, 12 days). Muhammad Mian Soomro hailing from PML-Q took over as 5th caretaker prime minister of Pakistan on November 15, 2007 and continued till March 25, 2008 (4 months, 8 days). The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) appointed Mir Hazar Khan Khoso as 6th caretaker prime minister who took over the office in March 24, 2013 and held the office till June 05, 2013 (2 months, 11 days).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar bidding farewell to the outgoing Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Services for Pakistan:

President confers civil awards on 696 Pakistani, foreign nationals

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the occasion of 76th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan, President Dr Arif Alvi has conferred 'Pakistan Civil Awards' on 696 Pakistani as well as foreign nationals for showing excellence and courage in their respective fields.

These awards include, seven Nishan-i-Imtiaz, two Hilal-i-Pakistan, 26 Hilal-i-Imtiaz, 1 Sitar-i-Pakistan, 20 Sitar-i-Shuja'at, 61 Sitar-i-Imtiaz, 69

President's Award for Pride of Performance, 1 Hilal-i-Shuja'at, 1 Sitar-e-Pakistan, 25 Tamgha-i-Shuja'at, 155 Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, 18 Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam, 3 Sitar-i-Khidmat and 4 Tamgha-i-Khidmat.

This year 299 Tamgha-i-Imtiaz have been conferred upon martyrs of COVID-19.

The Investiture ceremony of these awards will take place on 23rd March next year.

Any attempt to sabotage CPEC won't succeed: China

BEIJING (APP): Condemning the terrorist attack targeting Chinese engineers in Gwadar, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Monday said that any attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not succeed.

"China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan,"

Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing which resumed here at the International Press Center (IPC) after the summer holidays.

He made it clear that "any attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the development of CPEC will not succeed."

Sharing the details of the incident, he said that on August 13, a convoy of Chinese engineers was attacked by roadside bombs and gunshots. No Chinese citizens were killed or injured.

PM meets delegation from Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here held a meeting with a delegation from Balochistan.

Senator Sarfraz Bugti and Mir Khalid Langro were part of the delegation.

The delegation felicitated the prime minister on assuming office and expressed their best wishes for him.

Parvez Elahi re-arrested moments after his release from Adiala Jail

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president and former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi was arrested again shortly after his release from Adiala Jail on Monday.

According to the sources, Elahi was released from Adiala Jail after the period of his detention expired. However, he was arrested again by the NAB Lahore in assets beyond known sources of income case soon after he was released.

It should be noted that Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haider had issued orders for arresting the former chief minister, fearing his release could create law and order situation.

The NAB had sought details of the assets of Parvez Elahi and Moonis Elahi in the assets case.

Don't spread despair, give hope instead: army chief

Says Pakistan is rich with resources, no danger to country

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir has cautioned against spreading despair among the people, and asked to give hope instead.

The army chief was speaking to the media in an informal discussion after the swearing-in ceremony of caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar at the President House on Monday.

"We are very optimistic about the future of Pakistan," the chief told the media. He further said that he was looking at Pakistan as a successful and developed country. "There is a lot of potential in Pakistan. God has given our country everything," the army chief stressed further. The COAS said there is hope for the best, adding that everything will be good, as Pakistan was moving forward in a very positive way.

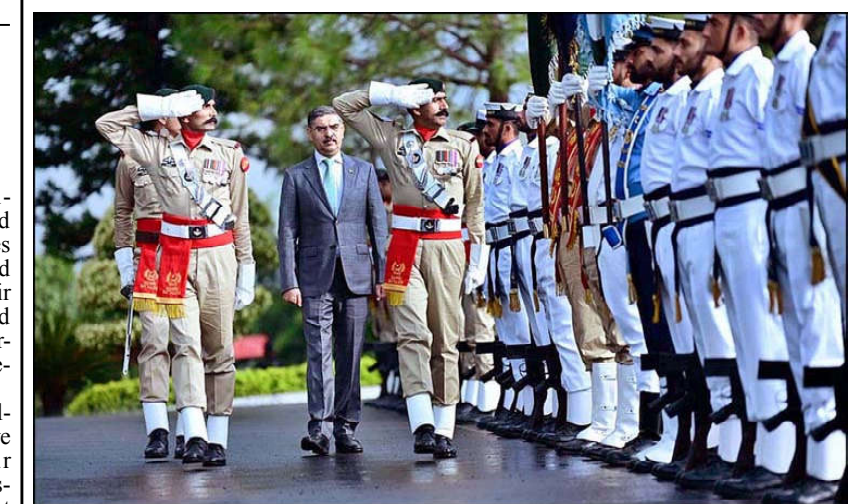
"Pakistan is rich with resources, and I assure you there is no danger to the country," the army chief said.

Pakistan 'stands firm' with Kashmiris' struggle for freedom from India: Munir

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, in a message to the UN community on the country's Independence Day, highlighted the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination and freedom from India.

"We will continue to raise Kashmir's call for liberation at the United Nations and in all forums," he said.

"Freedom is never free," Ambassador Akram said, pointing out that "our founding fathers faced vigorous opposition and secured Pakistan through determination, resolve, wisdom and democratic struggle."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented Guard of Honor at Prime Minister's House.

Envoy Masood vows to continue work for Pakistan's prosperity

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has reaffirmed resolve to continue work towards crafting a bright future and destiny of the people of Pakistan.

In his message on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan, he said Pakistan is aware of the external threats being faced by the country and will eliminate them. He said that Pakistan is a dream for hundreds of millions of Muslims of South Asia. He said Founder of Pakistan Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, gave the country concrete form and substance. He paid tribute to Father of the Nation, his comrades and followers for making this dream, this miracle a reality. He said Pakistan has an ideology, a

vision and a destiny and gives us identity.

The Ambassador said that today is a day to count our blessings, celebrate our successes, reaffirm our aspirations and resolve to scale new heights in our journey. He said there is plenty to be optimistic about and the sky is the limit for what we can.

Masood Khan said it is our shared responsibility to reject merchants of despair and devalue the currency of fake fables. If we have to move forward, there is no room for despondency and dejection, doom and gloom. He said our commitment to democracy is strong and unwavering.

The Ambassador further said that Pakistan's forthcoming electoral processes would usher in an

era of political resilience and economic viability. Masood Khan expressed also gratitude to the US Government, Congress and the American people for their support for stronger bilateral relations and for standing by Islamabad during last year's devastating floods. He was particularly grateful to Secretary Blinken for his message of solidarity and friendship on our Independence Day. Talking about Pakistani-Americans, he said their numbers have grown and they have become more prosperous and politically savvy. He said Pakistan has started regaining its economic strength as its GDP should climb up to 3.5 percent this fiscal year. He said Pakistan is expecting heavy inflows of foreign investment.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani cutting a cake on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan in SAMAA News Bureau Office.

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Jinnah to now

On the day when Pakistan completes 76 years of sovereignty, and celebrates half a century of the implementation of its Constitution, there's a palpable need to assess the present through the lens of Mohammad Ali Jinnah's vision for this nation. His was an uncanny lucidity about matters of the state — the right to change dispensations and their policies rests with the electorate.

In a 1948 address to army officers in Quetta, he underlined that "executive authority flows from the head of the government ... and therefore, any command or orders that may come to you cannot come without the sanction of the executive head".

Earlier, on Aug 11, 1947, the principles of inclusiveness, impartial governance, rule of law, religious liberty, and social equality were made plain by the founder to the constituent assembly.

The founding fathers imagined an egalitarian, prosperous welfare state; one that thrived in harmony and justice with absolute civil supremacy. But decades after them, what emerged is entirely divergent from their beliefs. So this day begs the question: is 'Jinnah's Pakistan' an ideal fading into a myth?

Our wounds and dilemmas are largely of our own making. For one, we reconstructed Jinnah — from a modernist to an orthodox — to suit prevalent narratives and enhance the power of clerics and the military in forming state policies.

Second, the continual infringement of the Constitution has left a faint watermark of what should have been a robust democratic culture. Recurrent military regimes arrested the political process. In fact, these have polluted political outfits that now, more often than not, collude with unelected elements to wrest power.

The military ruled Pakistan for three decades and has managed 'chosen' administrations. A recent glimpse of that was the hybrid model of the PTI-led government, which failed resoundingly, as have similar experiments.

This was replaced by a complete surrender of collective political space and a PML-N-led coalition was installed. Lastly, the rising tide of extremism turned Pakistan into a militancy hub.

Admittedly, there isn't a magical way out, but stemming cronyism, corruption, and intervention is a good place to start. Salvation lies in retrieving Jinnah's dream with the rule of law, education, health, welfare, and people power in a meritocracy. For non-political forces to usurp or derail the Constitution and cave into religious hardliners violates every ideal close to the Quaid's heart.



Maleeha Lodhi

Pakistan celebrates the 76th anniversary of its independence today in an environment of political uncertainty and economic fragility. It confronts multiple, interconnected challenges which have, over the decades, been feeding off and reinforcing each other in an unbroken cycle.

They include the structural crisis of the economy, erosion in the state's institutional capacity, persisting education deficit, uncontrolled population growth, and climate change. Security challenges also persist with an unstable Afghanistan on the western frontier and a hostile India on the country's eastern flank.

This is a moment for introspection as well as thinking about the future. Pakistan's history shows that successive governments have

spent a good deal of time firefighting in crisis management mode. The country has been so mired in one crisis after another that long-term planning has been elusive. So has thinking about durable ways to address the country's challenges and ensure a brighter future for people.

True that Pakistan has weathered many storms and crises in the past. Its resilience has never been in doubt. This enabled it to overcome its troubles of the time. But present-day systemic challenges are fundamentally different. They are the cumulative consequence of decades of misgovernance and squandered opportunities. These problems can no longer be kicked down the road. All need to be tackled simultaneously if Pakistan is to move forward and embark on a path of economic and political stability and prosperity for its people.

The choice today is stark. Either the country continues to be trapped in a quagmire of weak governance, politics-as-usual, economic stagnation, and eroding public faith in state institutions, or it can take advantage of the social and economic changes underway to chart a new course. The

choice is between a dysfunctional governance system and one that works and responds to the needs and aspirations of all citizens, not just a narrow power elite.

A key impediment in breaking from the past is that representational and electoral politics have remained frozen in an old mode and increasingly lagged behind the social and economic changes that have been altering the country's political landscape.

The economic centre of gravity has been shifting to urban centres from the countryside, but politics — and most political parties — have yet to catch up with all its implications. Several developments in recent decades offer opportunities to realign politics and governance to public purpose and not remain hostage to the interests of an elite whose preoccupation is with 'rulership' rather than public service.

This does not mean entrenched structures of politics can be transformed overnight or that long-persisting fault lines will easily fade away. But prospects for a departure from politics-as-usual are better today. This is due to a number of trends or factors.

The first is the emergence of a larger middle class in the context of increasing urbanisation. The 2023 census shows greater urbanisation, with almost 40 per cent of the population now living in urban areas — a significant increase from the last census in 2017.

The increase in the urban population has been evidenced in all provinces across the country. Although there is little agreement among Pakistani scholars about the size (and definition) of the middle class, there is no dispute that it has been growing in recent decades.

It is now an influential economic and social group that wants a bigger voice in national affairs. While not a homogenous group, it includes educated, professional groups as well as middle-income employees in state and business enterprises.

Members of the urban middle class in general are becoming more politically assertive in voicing their expectations and demands for better governance and a political system that is responsive to their needs and aspirations. Of course, to be an agent for change, they would have to act in an organised

way. The shift in the economic centre of power is also creating new political dynamics. An important indicator of this is the declining share of agriculture in national output. This has fallen to around 22pc at present. Urban Pakistan now accounts for much of GDP.

These economic realities are intersecting with technology-driven changes and the information revolution to disperse political power. This, in turn, has the potential to transform the old political power structure of clans and traditionally influential families, whose stranglehold on politics has obstructed reform.

The third trend is a more 'connected' society empowered by modern information and communication technology. Access to technology is making people better informed and more aware of their rights. Most people now have access to more than one information channel and are more engaged with political affairs.

The exponential expansion of the broadcast media has offered a potent platform to the public to raise issues and influence opinion. So has social media, especially for

younger citizens. Although the print and broadcast media has been subject to official control and restrictions, it has still managed to hold governments to account, subject executive action to oversight and suggest policy courses for national problems.

Together, these factors can be a counterpoise to traditional ways of conducting politics. In fact, the confluence of greater urbanisation, a more 'connected' society empowered by modern communications, and emergence of a larger middle class all offer a transformational opportunity, opening space for the emergence of challenges to traditional, hereditary and personalised politics.

The question is whether the increasing mismatch or disconnect between socioeconomic changes and family or clan politics can unleash dynamics to break the old political and governance mould anchored in patronage and clientelist politics rather than public policy. But a different kind of leadership is needed to understand and leverage these changes to transform the way Pakistan governs itself. -- Courtesy Dawn

Breaking from the past

Our story is ours to write



Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeb

Pakistan is not a finished product, by any stretch of imagination. We Pakistanis must make hard and fundamental decisions about who we are and what Pakistan should look like going forward. We must shape our future through our everyday acts — how we look after each other and contribute to our society. The key lesson is that all of this work is ours to do. Let us acknowledge what 76 years of our existence have taught us: our problems are a result of our collective failure. We cannot have a thriving Pakistan without taking responsibility for our follies. Our way out of trouble depends on how we conduct ourselves in the face of lurking challenges. Individually, fixing

the whole of Pakistan is not our job. Our job is to repair the part of Pakistan that is within our ambit.

Our ascent to prosperity, if we choose to take that path, will be steep. The road to success will be a long and tedious marathon. We are not likely to get to stability in a short period of time. Folks, our story is ours to write. A story of a Pakistan with less noise and distortions. A Pakistan in which we principally agree on the basic norms of a tolerant and vibrant society. A Pakistan in which we agree that citizens are critical when it comes to the working of our system of government and politics. Regrettably, a majority of the citizenry remains unsatisfied with the functioning of our lethargic government and feeble democracy.

Our political process is ours to strengthen. It is our responsibility to ask our politicians what they have planned for us. It is our duty to cast our vote meaningfully. Our political parties have a lot to deliver. Our political parties have a lot to prepare before they assume office. Our state institutions

have to move to a consensus thinking for all the pillars of the state to pull in one direction.

Our economy is ours to reorganize. It is incapable that policy plans are expressed in terms of money, figures, and timeframes. Our finances, especially at the federal level are in distress with the country running on borrowed monies. The economy is in a perennial liquidity crunch in the fiscal, external, and energy sectors. This liquidity crunch leaves us little space to improve the quality of our society.

Our task, if we decide to take it up, is to reconfigure the economy on a sustainable footing. Pakistan's tax system is ours to make equitable and fair. Pakistan's expenditure rationalization through reforms of pensions, subsidy, and monetization are all actions pending on our end. Pakistan's loss-making state-owned enterprises are ours to make efficient. Pakistan's energy sector is ours to disrupt and redefine.

A public sector-led energy constellation is holding back the economy

and playing havoc with the lives of people. Sometimes the energy sector feels like a train wreck full of 240 million Pakistanis. In the face of Pakistan's gravest energy crisis, it is the countless people unable to pay their exorbitant bills we should be most worried about. It is precisely these citizens that the country is failing. The urgency of the energy transition has grown astronomically. Our challenge is to break away from the state-controlled arrangement. Our new mindset if we believe to adapt it is to move away from tinkering with policies. Our problems require deep surgery from us. Our judgment should be better. The level of debt we are carrying is untenable. Debt restructuring is ours to do. Delaying this may put us on an uncomfortable path of forced restructuring. Our inability to push innovation, productivity, and investments is keeping us globally less competitive. Initiatives like Special Investment Facilitation can hopefully bypass the slow-moving state apparatus and help in spurring both domestic and much-needed foreign direct investment in tradable sec-

tors. Our low investment rate at 13.6 per cent is ours to improve.

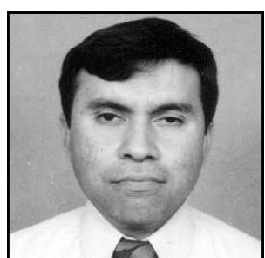
Pakistan's agriculture is ours to make more productive. Our duty is to reach those farmers who are producing wheat at 33 per cent less than the few progressive farmers in Pakistan. Better seeds, controlling adulteration, finances, and mechanization hold the key in this area. Our private sector, now aided by initiatives like Land Information Management Systems, has to come forward and contribute to research. Rusty state organizations have almost become redundant in this regard. Our task is to reduce the government footprint to create space for private sector efficiency. The government is ours to reconfigure. Our federal, provincial, and district governments all need to work in tandem but in their own sphere.

Many of the thoughts in this piece are a reflection of my attachment with the government. What one has seen is our weak homework when we negotiate programs with multilaterals. This weakness is for us to overcome as we remain in an effort to complete the

23rd programme with the doctor of the Intensive Care Unit — the International Monetary Fund. Our vision should be to get the 23 million children waiting outside the gates to pass through to the school and provide the nearly 30 per cent of the population in a vulnerable state with substantive help through jobs. Our demographic decline due to lower female literacy, and shying from family planning programs are inexcusable policy omissions.

Our utmost responsibility is to believe that we hold 796,095 sq km of this land for the next generation. Our obligation is to believe in merit. The appointments in the public arena continue to favor personal biases over the suitability of candidates. Our competence in both the public and private sectors has thus meaningfully eroded. This process is ours to reverse. It has had a debilitating effect on our thought process which has over the decades gotten more and more outsourced. It is our need to regain control of research and policy-making. Pakistan is ours to run. -- Courtesy TheNews

Killing tracks



Dr Noman Ahmed

The initial findings of the investigation into the recent train accident in Sindh suggest the possibility of a fault in the locomotive, broken tracks, and/or damaged fishplates. As per procedure, a detailed probe by the federal government inspector of railways (FGIR) should expose the real reasons for the tragedy that resulted in over 30 deaths.

However, it is painful that despite several such rail accidents and scores of deaths, all governments and railway administrations have been consistent in their apathy. Over the past two decades, the operational and safety standards of this vital service have fallen apart.

For instance, 74 perished in the Tezgam blaze some years ago, and in April, a fire on the Karachi Express took seven lives. Successive railway ministers have resorted to customary lip service, lamenting the loss of life and promising an inquiry and accountability but doing little else.

The new escape route for the authorities is the ML-1. When our politicians run out of convincing ways to present false narratives, they concoct a defence with references to CPEC projects as the ultimate saviour. But what is actually needed are numerous far-reaching steps to put the railways back on track, starting at the top. The train service can only be safe, enjoyable, dependable and affordable if and when the institution that manages it is technically sound, financially viable and socially

responsive.

A glance at data from Pakistan Railways yearbooks and other official records indicates many ailments. For instance, the 2021-22 report shows extensive inspections carried out by the FGIR in the previous fiscal year, but how many of them helped make train journeys safe and comfortable? Foolproof safety records require targeted capacity building of the FGIR. The annual report also shows expenditure figures — PR spends more on pensions than salaries. Therefore, the financial burden of pensioners is likely to overwhelm development costs.

In addition, no one knows whether any attempt was made to evolve a pension endowment fund or if actuarial studies were carried out to arrive at a financial solution. Although development and repair works are logged with substantial financial outlays, it is unclear how these have improved services.

Moreover, several departmental performance indicators merit a response from the railway authorities. The two essential services delivered by the railways are passenger and freight movement. Ordinarily, passenger service is subsidised by surplus revenue from freight transportation. But data reveals an increase in passenger revenue and a decline in freight returns in 2022.

Studies by IFIs say over 90 per cent of freight in Pakistan moves via road and highways. With a rise in regional trading opportunities, PR must significantly enhance its market share in this vital component of transport service.

Connectivity with dry ports, container terminals, major agricultural procurement destinations, manufacturing hubs, market towns, etc, can certainly shore up revenues as medium and long-distance freight transportation by

train has lower fuel consumption, and can be 10 times cheaper than other modes of transportation.

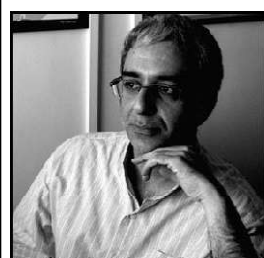
Transportation insurance, safety records and handling are also some of the aspects where the railways can perform better. However, the department has to elevate its performance drastically to compete successfully with other transport services.

Our first interface with the railways is at the train stations. Many of them are in a dilapidated state, with no clean drinking water or other amenities for pass-engers' comfort and safety. The facilitation hardware for routine operations and maintenance too is in a shambles. Present infrastructure thresholds include internet and Wi-Fi connectivity, both in stations as well as in trains.

Even though station masters and other staff concur with these observations, they expressed their helplessness as such large-scale interventions can only be initiated by the senior management. Hence, a leadership committed to radical reforms with progressive ideas and implementation capacity is needed to resuscitate the performance, credibility and image of our railways. Cosmetic modifications are futile. The foremost issue pertains to political will for extensive restructuring. At present, this appears difficult to achieve as the administration is inclined to auction railway lands. These had been reserved for the operational needs of the system at various locations.

The railways are a matter of public debate; civil society should assert that governments must prioritise the transformation of a vital department and encourage private sector participation to innovate and establish a proper regulatory structure to modernise rail travel and transport. -- Courtesy Dawn

DNA diaries



Zarrar Khuhro

Where and what would we be without deoxyribonucleic acid? What would happen to you if, by some dark miracle, all the DNA in your body simply vanished? You wouldn't feel much to start with, apart from losing the 200 or so grams that your DNA weighs. Then things will start to go bad: your cells will stop replicating and start dying off, much like if you were exposed to a high dose of radiation, and you'd be dead in extreme pain within days — or hours if you're lucky — due to massive organ failure.

That's because DNA contains the entire blueprint for who we are and how our bodies work. Without venturing too deeply into the nature vs nurture debate, DNA is what makes you ... you. And as such, it contains a staggering amount of data in a very small package. How much data? Consider that a single gram of DNA can store as much as 215 petabytes of data, and that one petabyte contains a little over 1,000 terabytes. This means that a tiny little gram of DNA can safely store up to 215,000 terabytes, or 215 million gigabytes if you prefer. On the other hand, the average weight of a single terabyte hard drive is about 400g.

In even simpler terms: you could theoretically fit all of the world's data in a single coffee mug filled with DNA.

Currently, most of the world's data is stored in an incredibly old-school manner in gigantic facilities known as exabyte data cen-

tres, and one of the largest of these — The Citadel — sprawls over 1.3 million square feet (120,774 square metres), which means it can contain 41 cricket stadiums the size of Lord's.

They're also very expensive, with some costing as much as a billion dollars to build and maintain. Given that the data needs to be stored at a cool temperature — much like a conventional cold storage for perishable products — the energy costs are immense. Moreover, the data stored tends to degrade over time and needs to be copied onto newer databases, which is a cumbersome and expensive process. And, at the current rate at which we are producing that data, we'll need many more such costly and energy-sucking centres to store it.

There're about 10 trillion gigabytes of data floating around the world today and on a daily basis: our photos, Facebook posts, tweets, emails, etc, add another 2.5m gigabytes, which amounts to something like 1.7 megabytes of data being generated per person per second.

DNA data storage, already being worked on by scientists around the world, could solve this issue for all time to come. Not only will such immense centres no longer be needed, the half-life of DNA is 500 years while stored properly and so our data will be secure for far longer without significant degradation. The biggest problem right now is how to find a cost-effective way to synthesise the amount of DNA that will be needed, as right now it would cost \$1tr to write one petabyte of data. Of course, given the need and the exponential rate of scientific progress that we are seeing, the day when we can store data on DNA may not be far off.

There's another debate that's been raging among scientists ever since the 'discovery' of DNA in

1953, and this is whether DNA can conduct electricity and, if so, how effectively? While the debate remained academic for decades, recent research indicates that DNA molecules "can also conduct electricity and self-assemble into well-defined shapes, making their potential candidates for building low-cost nanoelectronic devices".

This will be critical going forward, given that the size of circuits and transistors is shrinking rapidly (the smallest transistor is tinier than the HIV virus) and there will come a time when traditional methods for conducting electricity through these nano-circuits will become impossible. If DNA can be used for this purpose, it would mean that the circuits of the future may be the size of a single molecule or atom.

Speaking of electricity, another significant discovery made just last month is that electrical currents can be used to 'control' human genes. Researchers managed to trigger insulin production in human cells by sending currents to targeted genes through what they call an "electrogenetic" interface, prompting the cells to produce insulin on their own. What does that mean for us? Simply put, it means that in the near future, diabetics could dispense with insulin injections by simply wearing a device, perhaps no larger than a wristwatch, which would not only monitor insulin levels, but prompt the wearer's own genes to produce insulin when required. This is, of course, just the beginning and, if further tests prove fruitful, the technique could be applied to a variety of human medical conditions, leading to what may be one of the greatest medical breakthroughs of history. It is indeed a miracle that the building blocks of the future may well be the same building blocks that make us who we are. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM highlights unity, determination on Independence Day

CM Naqvi launches urban-style cleaning initiative for villages

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Monday that youth are the radiant future of Pakistan and hold the responsibility to propel the nation forward. He conveyed a powerful message against despair, highlighting that it is deemed a sin. The Holy Quran also labels disappointment as a sin, and Quaid-i-Azam's speeches encourage hope and resilience.

government officials, teachers, and doctors to fulfill their duties with integrity and punctuality. Mohsin Naqvi particularly stressed the importance of doctors adhering to their designated work hours in hospitals. He believed that if all employees diligently fulfill their responsibilities, the nation's progress is inevitable. He revealed his consistent advocacy for doctors to maintain their work hours and work conscientiously during hospital visits.

significant improvements if honesty becomes the cornerstone of all efforts. He emphasized that teachers' dedication in imparting knowledge with integrity would lead to a promising future for the children. Reflecting on the grand Independence Day ceremony held at Shahi Qila the previous night, Mohsin Naqvi highlighted the participation of officers from diverse institutions, including the judiciary, military authorities, civil administration, police, and gave a message of unity and solidarity. Drawing inspiration from Quaid-i-Azam's emphasis on unity, Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that the nation's progress hinges on collective strength and consensus.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman talking to children on the eve of flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan at Governor House.

Every Pakistani should play his role in development of the country: Governor

LAHORE (Online): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman hoisted the Pakistani flag in a simple ceremony on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan at Governor House Lahore today. After the ceremony, Governor Punjab and Begum Governor mingled with the children and had a lively conversation with them. On this occasion, a special prayer was also offered for the security and stability of the country.

He said that this day reminds us of the immense sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for a separate homeland. He said that today is the day to renew our pledge to forget mutual differences and get united. He reiterated that the challenges facing the country can be overcome only by promoting unity, mutual tolerance and brotherhood.

Pakistan to be made modern, prosperous country: Faryal Talpur

KARACHI (APP): The Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party Women's Wing Faryal Talpur has said that today is the day of renewal of pledge to make Pakistan a truly modern, prosperous and democratic country. In her message on the occasion of Independence Day, she congratulated the countrymen on Independence Day and said that freedom was a great blessing, and Pakistan was our identity.

Today we salute our benefactors. Faryal Talpur said that Quaid-e-Azam Shahheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto strengthened Pakistan created by the Quaid-e-Azam by giving gifts of a unified constitution, nuclear program and economic revolution. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto took revolutionary steps to restore democracy and ran the country in the light of Quaid-e-Azam's thoughts and ideas. She said that former President Asif Ali Zardari foiled a conspiracy against the country by raising the slogan of Pakistan Khappay.



GILGIT: Minister Social Welfare Gilgit-Baltistan Kulsoom Farman and Member Assembly Suriya Zaman cutting cake on the occasion of 77th Independence Day celebration at Women Degree College.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah are talking with media persons after paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of 76th Independence Day Celebration, held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi on Monday, August 14, 2023. The nation will celebrate 76th Independence Day today with traditional national spirit and zeal to acknowledge the happiness of independence the greatest blessing in this world.

CM KP visits Police lines to pay tribute to martyrs on Independence Day

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on the eve of Independence Day visited the Police lines here on Monday to pay tribute to martyrs. During the visit, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence in their honor.

The Chief Minister's visit emphasized the significance of remembering and honoring the sacrifices made by the brave martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom. The CM conveyed heartfelt felicitations to the entire nation and especially the people of KP. He emphasized the importance of renewing the commitment to the ideals that led to the creation of Pakistan and highlighted the sacrifices of the Muslims of the subcontinent.

Chief Minister Azam Khan expressed that the birth of Pakistan was the result of the sacrifices made by countless Muslims, and it is due to those sacrifices that Pakistan now breathes in an atmosphere of peace. He underscored the duty of every citizen to play a role in building a progressive and flourishing nation.

40,000 plantlets distributed free under "Green flag, lush green Faisalabad"

FAISALABAD (APP): Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) has distributed more than 40,000 plantlets free of cost under "Green flag, lush green Faisalabad" drive. Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed visited the PHA stall established at Zila Council Chowk here on Monday and appreciated its role for promotion of tree plantation on the 76th Independence Day.

Director General (DG) PHA Zameer Hussain, Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Faisalabad Muhammad Zubair Watto and others were also present on the occasion. In addition to adding natural beauty on the earth, She directed the PHP officers to arrange maximum saplings for the free distribution among the general public so that Faisalabad could be converted into a lush green metropolis of the country as early as possible.

1 killed, other injured due to collision of truck in Toba Tek Singh

TOBA TEK SINGH (APP): One person was killed and another injured on Monday when a parked truck was hit by a mazda near Toba Tek Singh. According to the official source, the truck was parked near Motorway 253 and a Mazda was going from Lahore to Multan. The parked truck was hit from behind, as a result, truck conductor Jahangir and a man named Abid were seriously injured.



KARACHI: An inspiring Change of Guard ceremony was held at mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the entire nation celebrated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan.

Tourists urged to abide by traffic rules to avoid traffic congestion in Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta has urged the tourists to strictly abide by traffic rules to avoid traffic congestion and untoward incidents in Murree. According to a Commissioner Office spokesman, the Commissioner during a visit on Sunday reviewed the traffic situation in Murree and visited various roads to observe the traffic load. He also issued necessary instructions to the authorities concerned to regulate traffic.

Traffic was normal on Jhika Gali, Lower Topa and Guldana Road but, there was heavy traffic load at GPO Chowk and Kashmir Point due to Independence Day celebrations. The district and traffic police were implementing special security and traffic plan for Murree to facilitate the tourists coming to the hill station to celebrate Independence Day. He said, depending upon the crowd and parking situation, the entry of vehicles would be restricted in Murree. Special police squads had been formed to prevent one-wheeling and maintain traffic in Murree, he said.

Seven killed, one injured in three different incidents

ATTOCK (APP): Seven persons were killed while one another shot and injured in three different incidents in various parts of Attock, police and rescue sources said. In the first incident, in a gloomy incident, five persons belongs to same family were burnt to death on Hazara motorway (M-15) near Jehri Kass interchange on early hours of Monday. National highway and motorway Police sources said that the fatal family belongs to Bannu were going towards Haripur in their Suzuki van when it catches fire apparently due to short circuit at Kalla Katha range subsequently all on board burnt to death. On getting information, rescue 1122 launched operation and shifted the bodies after extinguishing fire. In the second two teenage friends drowned in a stream near Jand on Monday. Police and hospital sources while quoting eye witnesses has said that 18 years old Javid along with his 19 years old friend Ramzan.

CM Murad performs soft launch of Karachi safe city

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Karachi Safe City Project is not just a collection of surveillance cameras and technological advancements; but it also embodies our collective aspiration for a safer and more secure urban environment. This he said while speaking at the contract signing ceremony of Integrated CSISR Based (Command, Control, Computer, Cyber Security, Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance) Safe City Project here at the CM House on Monday.

The program was attended by former IT Minister Taimur Talpur, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, MD NRITC Brig Asim Ishaq Chairman P&D, Secretary LG Najam Shah, Home Secretary Aijaz Shah, DG Safe City Authority Asif Aijaz Shaikh, and others. Mr. Shah said that the Karachi Safe City Project was not merely the installation of surveillance cameras and adopting technological advancements, but it also embodied our collective aspiration for a safer and more secure urban environment. "With the challenges that a rapidly growing city like Karachi faces, it is our duty to ensure that every citizen must feel safe and secure and this project brings us one step closer to achieving that goal," he said. The CM said that he was aware of the urgency attached to this project. "The safety and well-being of our citizens cannot wait, and we must remain steadfast in our pursuit of its successful implementation," he said. "I am honored to launch the much-awaited launch of the safe city project before leaving the charge of this office," he said and added that it was a testament to the foresight and dedication of the Sindh government.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arriving to lay floral wreath during the celebrations of 76th Independence Day in Provincial Capital.

Minister celebrates Independence Day with medical professionals

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram participated as a special guest in the Independence Day celebrations being organized at University of Child Health Sciences, Services Institute of Medical Sciences, Fatima Jinnah Medical University, Mayo Hospital and King Edward Medical University, here on Monday. Dr Javed Akram hoisted the flag and cut celebration cake while male and female students presented 'milli naghmas' and speeches in the best manner.

On the occasion, the minister said that freedom is a great blessing of Allah Almighty and Pakistan was achieved after millions of sacrifices. The living nations use the glorious traditions, sacrifices and golden days of their past as a torch to move forward, he added. August 14 is a historic day for all Pakistanis and the message of happiness and joy should be disseminated, he mentioned. Vice Chancellors, principals and medical supervisors were also present.

Independence Day celebration at NESPAK

LAHORE (APP): National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) celebrated 76th Independence Day by organizing a grand function here at NESPAK House on Monday. The event began with recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by prayers for national unity and development of the country.

2023, citing that the company achieved a business of Rs 17 billion, which is 20 percent higher than last year. He disclosed that one of the newly projects was acquired in Saudi Arabia worth Rs. 1.3 billion. It is noteworthy that seven divisions of NESPAK have earned more than Rs one billion, he added. He assured that the benefit of this development would also be given to the staff in the form of additional salary and bonus. On this occasion, appreciation shields were presented to employees who performed exceptionally well throughout the year.

NESPAK's Acting Managing Director Zargham Ishaq Khan started the ceremony by hoisting the national flag while the national anthem echoed in the air. On the occasion, Acting MD announced NESPAK's record breaking business acquisition in



KARACHI: Youngsters climb the fence of Mazar-e-Quaid while celebrating 76 Independence Day of Pakistan on 14 August.

I-Day celebrate with full enthusiasm in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Like other parts of the country, 76th independence day was celebrated with full enthusiasm across South Punjab including Multan. The day was started with special prayers into mosques for the progress and prosperity of the country. The rallies and colourful events were organised in which rich tribute was paid to martyrs and heroes. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held and national anthem and national songs were played. The speakers highlighted the importance of trees and urged the participants to plant saplings on their part and nurture it. The kids also celebrated independence day by wearing colourful dresses related to the day while they also look busy in installing bunting in houses and national flag badges on their dresses.

Blaming past not an issue, it's building future: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed the need to look forward for Pakistan's prosperity and uplift by ignoring the fallacies of the past.

"Blaming the past is not an issue of Pakistan, it is building the future," he said while addressing on the occasion of a photo exhibition here at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). In the exhibition, well-known artist Ali Azmat thematically presented Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's portraits in acrylic and charcoal medium. The event was organized by "ForArtSake"-a non-government organization, in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA).

The president said Quid-i-Azam was an inspiring personality who always believed in hard work, unity, faith and discipline.

He said Muslim history was also rich in arts

and architecture and at a time Baghdad was the center of artistic activities.

"I am a big admirer of the art and architecture as the artists beautifully depict the whole of the society," he added.

He said the new generation should also be shown the portraits of big personalities such as Quid-i-Azam to strengthen their belief in Quid's saying "Unity, Faith and Discipline". The president said the countries were formed for people, not for state, therefore they must be given the opportunity to enjoy their basic rights in the society.

Curator of the even Amna Pataudi said Ali Azmat alluded to the glaring reality that Pakistan faced today-that of straying tragically away from reality that Pakistan faces today-that of straying away from Quid's envisioned state of Pakistan.

She added that through their work, artists brought colour and beauty

in the lives of people.

Artist Ali Azmat said turning Pakistan's struggle for independence into a reality was such a remarkable feat and colossal contribution that even contemporary political opponents recognized and admired his political acumen.

"What inspired and move me the most about his (Quid-i-Azam) life is his steadfast belief that hard work and sincerity of purpose will defy any worldly power and lead to success.

He said "our generation inherited the love for our leader, and I believe it is our responsibility to pass on this love with the same intensity and passion to the upcoming generations, because living nations never forget their benefactors".

He said the affection displayed in these painting not only expressed his love for the leader, but also served as a humble effort to keep this love alive in the hearts of future generations.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating a painting exhibition featuring the art works of Ali Azmat to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at PNCA.

Ethiopian Envoy felicitates Pak on 76th Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula on Monday extended warm and heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan on their 76th Independence Day.

"As we join in your celebrations, we reflect upon our shared cultural and political values and common goals that bind our two great nations together," the ambassador remarked in his message on the Independence Day.

"During my stay in Pakistan, I have been deeply impressed by the rich tapestry of history and culture that defines this re-

silient nation.

The strong bond anchored in history and culture between Pakistan and Ethiopia has been evident in the warm hospitality and camaraderie extended to me and my team during my stay," the ambassador said.

He assured the Pakistani nation of his unwavering commitment to further strengthening and deepening the bilateral relations between the two countries.

"By taking special initiatives and fostering robust cooperation in various fields, we can propel our nations towards a new era of enhanced partnership and mutual prosperity," he added.

"The exchange of

knowledge, experiences, and appreciation of each other's cuisine and culture has been an enlightening journey for me. Pakistanis are a lovely nation, and I am grateful for the friendship and cooperation extended to me during my tenure here," the ambassador remarked.

"As we look forward to the future, let us remain steadfast in our resolve to work together towards a brighter, more interconnected world," he said.

The ambassador believed that by strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation, both the countries could achieve greater heights and bring lasting benefits to the two nations.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being presented Guard of Honor at Prime Minister's House.

HR Ministry, HelpAge Int'l partner to develop rules for ICT Senior Citizens Act

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and HelpAge International have collaborated to organize the second consultative meeting on the Rules and Regulations for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Senior Citizens Act, 2021 which is going to be a landmark legislation to protect the rights of elderly people living a less empowered social life.

The meeting was held here attended by stakeholders including retired government officials and representatives from relevant ministries and departments, a news release said.

The discussions focused on the draft rules and regulations for three key areas of Senior Citizens Card, Establishment of Old Age Homes, and Privileges provided to senior citizens under the Act: (20% discount on the medical facilities and retirement benefits for the older people).

The first meeting on

the rules and regulations was held in June 2023, during which the Recruitment Rules for the Senior Citizens Council were finalized. The second meeting is part of a series of consultative meetings that will be held to finalize the rules and regulations and ensure the implementation of the ICT Senior Citizens Act, 2021.

The Chief Guest Director General (MoHR) Abdul Sattar in his closing remarks said, "The MoHR and HelpAge International are committed to ensure that the rights of senior citizens are protected and that they have access to the services and benefits that they need. The development of the Rules and Regulations for the ICT Senior Citizens Act is an important step in this process."

The meeting was attended by retired government officials and representatives from civil society organizations who had worked to make the Act a reality. Representatives

NHMP North Zone celebrates I-Day with enthusiasm

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police North Zone on Monday celebrated 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with traditional enthusiasm.

The day started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and prayers for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, said a press release. The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at Zonal Office Motorway North Zone.

DIG Motorway North Zone, Mohammad

Yusuf Malik was the chief guest of the event.

On this occasion, he reiterated that Motorway Police would maintain their traditions of ethical behaviour, timely help and protection of the life and property of the passengers.

Flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at Sector Offices, Line Headquarters and Beats centres.

Gifts were also distributed along with road safety briefings at all main toll plazas of Motorway, North Zone.

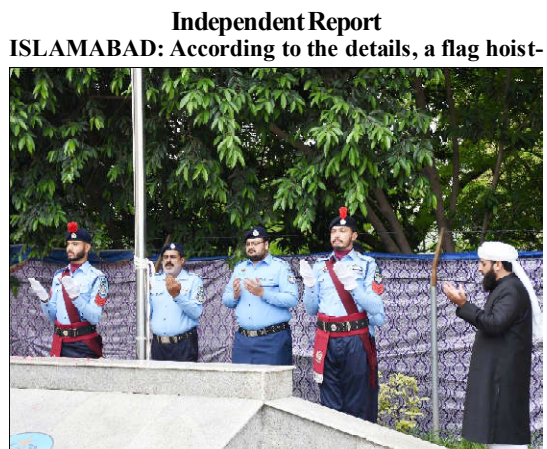
Skardu Airport starts operating int'l flights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Skardu International Airport on Monday received its first international flight from Dubai this morning.

According to the spokesperson Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the plane landed at 08:33am with 79 passengers on-board. He added, it later took off for Islamabad at 10:43 am.

"This is indeed a momentous occasion for an airport considering its unique location 7500 ft above sea level." He said, "This achievement marks a major breakthrough in improving airport travel accessibility for the region."

Flag hoisting ceremony held at Central Police office Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Central Police office Islamabad to celebrate Independence Day, a police public relations officer said.

He said that AIG General Muhammad Arslan Shahzeb inaugurated the ceremony by hoisting the national flag. The ceremony resonated with the stirring rendition of the national anthem and the spirited chant of "Pakistan Zindabad," echoing the collective spirit of the attendees.

Meanwhile, SP Headquarters and other senior police officers and officials were also present on the occasion. A smartly turned-out contingent of Islamabad Capital police presented the Guard of Honour.

Addressing the ceremony, AIG General reflected on the importance of the day and also conveyed a message of ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan that "Today, we honor the officers and jawans who stand as pillars of our nation's stability," he emphasized.

"Their unwavering commitment to maintaining peace, upholding order, and ensuring security is truly commendable. As we celebrate this day, we pay homage to the sacrifices of our ancestors and leaders, who paved the way for Pakistan's existence."

He further said that, "The sacrifices of our martyrs, who valiantly laid down their lives to uphold the rule of law and fight against crime, will forever be etched in our hearts."

The event concluded on a heartfelt note with special prayers offered for the nation's stability, progress, and prosperity.



Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad in a group photo during flag hoisting ceremony to mark the 76th Independence Day at SBP headquarter.

SBP Governor pays respects to Quaid-e-Azam on 76th Independence Day

Independent Report KARACHI: Addressing the flag hoisting ceremony to mark the 76th Independence Day at State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) headquarter at Karachi, Governor SBP, Mr. Jameel Ahmad paid rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions who despite adversities, led the freedom struggle and won an independent state for Muslims of subcontinent.

He recalled the hostile circumstances the nascent state of Pakistan endured during its initial days and how it made to rely on others in order to perform financial and banking activities. These unfavorable circumstances eventually culminated in

the establishment of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for economic independence of the country.

The ceremony, attended by the senior management of the Bank and a large number of SBP officials along with their families, commenced with the hoisting of National Flag by the Governor SBP amid playing of the national anthem by a band of Pakistan Navy. A smartly turned out contingent of the Internal Bank Security Department (IBSD) presented the Governor the Guard of Honour. A choir consisting of students from the Garage School of Karachi presented heartwarming national songs, which were highly appreciated by the audience.

PML-N leader Hina Butt harassed by PTI supporters in London

LONDON (INP): Former MPA of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Hina Parvez Butt, was allegedly attacked while walking on the road with her son in London.

The PML-N leader alleged that it was PTI supporters who not only harassed her and shouted slogans at her, but also threw bottles.

Hina Butt claimed that PTI supporters threw cold drink and water bottles at her while she was walking on the streets of London with her son. Hina Butt had also met PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif two days ago.

AJK PM says Observance of Pak I-Day ignites passion of our Kashmiri brothers in IIOJK

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Independence Day was being celebrated with patriotic zeal and fervour all across Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir.

"It was on this day (14th August 1947) that the world's largest ideological Islamic state came into being under the wise and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah", the PM said, adding that the establishment of Pakistan was a manifestation of the aspirations of millions of Muslims of the subcontinent.

He said that the 14th August 1947 was a historic day when Allama Iqbal's dream of a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent came true.

In his special message issued on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day on Monday, the PM said that the historic day reminds us of the relentless

struggle and sacrifices of our ancestors.

Paying eulogizing tributes to the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and other founding leaders of the Pakistan movement, the PM said that Quaid-i-Azam organized the Muslim League on the basis of a two-nation theory and united all the Muslims of the subcontinent under one flag.

The PM said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's dynamic leadership, unwavering faith, perseverance and his vision for Pakistan helped the Muslims of the subcontinent to win freedom in a short period of time despite the fiercest opposition of the Hindus and the British empire.

Referring to the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle against Indian imperialism, the AJK Premier said that India wants to oppress the people of Occupied Kashmir through the use of its military might.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari along with other PRCS members cutting cake on the occasion of 77th Independence Day celebration.

May 9 planned by PTI chief, but failed to achieve results: Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Former federal defence minister and central leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that May-9 incident was a plan of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, but it failed to achieve its results.

He said military installations were attacked and statues of martyrs were also destroyed by the PTI leaders on that day. Now, in the general election, people would have to take revenge from the enemies of the country. With the power of vote, people should eliminate the country's enemies from the political scene forever.

He expressed these views while addressing a special ceremony held in

connection with the Independence Day at Muslim League House Sialkot late at Saturday night.

He said the coalition government steered the country out of minefields laid down by the PTI government. He said that former premier Imran Khan, during around four-year tenure in government, destroyed the national economy.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) steered the country from crises, caused by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government.

Former federal minister said Nawaz Sharif would return to his homeland soon and the journey of country's development and prosperity would be started again.



ISLAMABAD: A rickshaw driver decorate his rickshaw with Pakistani National Flag colors, to celebrate 76th Independence Day in Federal Capital.

MoFE&PT unites depts to commemorate Pakistan's 76th Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a remarkable display of unity and patriotism, multiple departments falling under the umbrella of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE&PT) on Monday came together to mark Pakistan's 76th Independence Day.

The event was an embodiment of the nation's journey, values, and aspirations, celebrated through a series of engaging activities.

The offices of various departments operating under MoFE&PT were transformed into vibrant displays of thematic decorations, capturing the very essence of the occasion. This symbolic gesture paid homage to Pakistan's relentless pursuit of independence and development, underlining the collective commitment towards safeguarding the country's sovereignty. A poignant flag-hoisting ceremony took place across all MoFE&PT departments, accompanied by special prayers that echoed the sentiments of national integrity, solidarity, and progress. This solemn act further reinforced the

unwavering dedication to a united and prosperous Pakistan. The ceremony reached its crescendo with the resonant strains of the National Anthem, symbolizing the unbreakable bonds that bind the nation together.

Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA), and Higher Education Commission (HEC) orchestrated tree plantation drives in schools and universities. This monumental initiative highlighted the shared responsibility of nurturing an eco-friendly and sustainable Pakistan. The celebrations seamlessly merged with the realms of art and culture, as the National College of Arts (NCA) took the lead in orchestrating a multi-faceted tribute. The tribute included an inspiring Art Exhibition, a captivating short video competition showcasing Pakistan's 77-year journey of achievements, and an engaging art competition focused on "Reflecting the Social Challenges of Pakistan."



ISLAMABAD: Master Ayub cuts the cake along with Deputy British High Commissioner to Pakistan Andrew Dalgleish and Islamabad Police Officers at his open Air school at Sector F-6 to celebrate 76th Celebrations of Independence Day, in Federal Capital.