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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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

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, safeguarded 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 hand-



ing 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 becoming the caretaker prime minister and expressed hope that he would ensure free, fair and transparent elections in Pakistan and protect the right

to vote of the people. "The caretaker prime minister is appointed after consultation between him and leader of the opposition Raja Riaz."

He thanked the political leadership and people for reposing trust in his leadership and government.

The prime minister said after the successful conclusion of the agreement with

the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the country achieved economic stability. He said his government was compelled to take loan from the IMF due to the tough conditions agreed to by the previous government. "My government restored the trust of the brotherly countries which always came to the aid of Pakistan in difficult times and helped people of Pakistan during the devastating floods." He said the government provided financial assistance to the vulnerable sections of society after the floods and added 5000 megawatts to the national grid, adding Pakistan stock exchange's 100 index had crossed the mark of 49,000 points which was the highest in the last six years.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori talking to media persons after inspecting the preparations for Independence Day programs and the rally at Mazar-e-Quaid.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif launches the Mobile App Radio Pakistan Awaz Khazana.

We will ensure rule of the people Quaid-e-Azam's philosophy: Asif Zardari

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians Asif Ali Zardari said on the occasion of Independence Day, it should be pledged that the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah will ensure the rule of the people.

In his message on the occasion of Independence Day, former President Asif Ali Zardari said that today the leadership and workers of Pakistan People's Party renew their pledge to make Pakistan a democratic and welfare state according to

the ideology of the Quaid-e-Azam, for which Ms. Benazir Bhutto was martyred after his long struggle.

Asif Ali Zardari said that Quaid-e-Azam Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed had fulfilled the dream of Quaid-e-Azam in the form of 1973 Constitution. He said that dictatorship is actually a terror and no society can develop under dictatorship. The former president said that Pakistan People's Party Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was struggling for a society where humanity is valued without fear and terror.

Caretaker PM Kakar thanks political parties for welcoming his appointment

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

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 interim PM at Punjab

House to offer their extolments.

Fawad Chaudhry said that Kakar's appointment as caretaker prime minister received collective appreciation.

He expressed hope that the interim premier would fulfill 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 fulfill his duties to the best of his ability and that he would work for the betterment of the country.

CM felicitates nation on 76th independence day

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah congratulated the nation on 76th Independence Day.

He pledged to continue the vision of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah. The Chief Minister said that our ancestors struggled for the development of the country. He said, "We salute the sacrifices of our ancestors." Murad said that the leadership of PPP sacrificed for democracy.

He said that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto would always be remembered in the history of the country.

Bilawal condemns terrorist attack on Army Convoy in Gwadar

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has vehemently condemned an attack on the Pakistan Army convoy in Gwadar on Sunday.

He at the same time also paid tributes to the Army cops for retaliatory action against the terrorists.

Bilawal said that terrorists, who were killed in the retaliatory firing should be identified to bring their mastermind to book. He said that the terrorists were not forgivable.

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

Tessori reviews arrangements at Mazar-e-Quaid regarding Jashn-e-Azadi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori Sunday said that we were going to make a record of raising the Pakistani flag tomorrow. He said that millions of Pakistani flags would be distributed among the participants of the rally. Talking to media persons during his visit to Mazar-e-Quaid to review arrangements for Independence Day programmes and rallies, he said that the Mayor of Karachi should come out and see that there was no flag of Pakistan anywhere.

He asked why the flags of Pakistan could not be hung on poles instead flags of political parties were waving. "On August 14, the Indian record of reciting the national anthem will be broken." The Governor said, "Independence Day is important for all of us." He said that the projects of public welfare would continue. He urged to forget all grudges and come from Shahrah Faisal to Mazar-e-Quaid on independence day. He said, "The biggest draw is going to be held tomorrow."

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

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

"There is a need to unite to cope with the social, political, economic and security challenges facing the nation today. So, let's resolve that we will not hesitate to offer any sacrifice for the security, prosperity and development of the country," the president said in a message on the

occasion of the 76th Independence Day anniversary.

The president congratulated all compatriots on Pakistan's 76th Independence Day anniversary, adding that on this day, they paid tribute to the sacrifices rendered by their founding fathers and workers of the Pakistan Movement.

This day also gave the opportunity for introspection, he said, stressing that they should reflect on the nation's progress so far, prevailing challenges, and opportunities for growth.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Senior Deputy Convener, Dr. Farooq Sattar along with others visit to Frisco Chowk during a celebration ceremony in connection of Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, held at Burns Road in Karachi.

Khurshid Shah's statement on Caretaker PM irritates PPP leadership

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership has expressed annoyance over the statement of former federal minister and party leader Khurshid Shah about the appointment of caretaker prime minister.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership fumed at Khurshid Shah over his statement regarding the caretaker prime minister, sources said.

According to PPP, Khurshid Shah made a statement about the caretaker prime minister without permission of the party leadership.

about the caretaker prime minister was against the party policy, said PPP.

After Shah's statement, the PPP leadership stopped the party leaders from making rhetoric about the caretaker prime minister.

Khurshid Shah had said the PPP was not taken on board on the name of Anwarul Haq Kakar as caretaker PM.

He said Anwarul Haq Kakar's name had been taken from the Senate and it would have been better any other person would have been chosen for this coveted slot.

PPP urged nation to void hate, division: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Independence 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 examples of its democracy and prosperity.

While extending greetings to the nation on Independence Day, he expressed good wishes for all Pakistanis.

He said that today is the day to pay homage 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 impossible possible through peaceful political and democratic struggle," he said add-

ing 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 establishment.

"In the light of the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam, we still have a long way to go and work hard to establish a strong federal democratic state and a society based on tolerance and equality," he continued.

Bilawal said that his party is the true torchbearer of the ideology and principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who was a unique democrat and statesman believed in religious tolerance.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's gift of a unanimous constitution to the nation is a reflection of Quaid-e-Azam's vision of

the state of Pakistan, adding that Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto fought her entire life to free the country from dictatorship and protect the rights and freedoms of the people, and embraced martyrdom during that struggle.

"President Asif Ali Zardari, as head of state, followed Quaid-e-Azam's golden principles of decentralization of powers and equitable distribution of resources by devolving his powers to the parliament and gifting federal units with a unified NFC award.

He pledged his commitment that the PPP would continue to play its full role for the supremacy of the constitution and parliament, economic equality, social justice and national harmony in the country, and will ensure that no citizen is deprived of the fruits of freedom.



SIALKOT: The Chief Executive of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Jahangir Tareen, along with President Aaleem Khan and Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan addressing to the media in Kobey Chak.

Dollar hits Rs302 in open market

KARACHI (INP): The US dollar hit 302 against the rupee in the open market, going beyond the boundaries marked by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to keep the difference in open and interbank exchange rates in the range of 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent, says media reports.

"The US dollar rates kept fluctuating during the day and reached as high as Rs302," said Zafar Paracha, general secretary of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan. On Friday, the dollar traded at Rs296 in the open market.

Mr Paracha said the dollar rate was higher than the prices being quoted in the media. Some currency dealers said the dollar's appreciation was not mainly because of the currency's shortage but due to uncertainty surrounding the caretaker government.

"The perception about the interim government in the currency market is that it will be independent of any political pressure, which means it will strictly follow the IMF instructions to implement the exchange rate," Mr Paracha said.

Nation gears up to celebrate 76th Independence Day today with patriotic fervor

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani nation is brimming with excitement as it prepares to mark the 76th Independence Day on August 14 (Monday) with a variety of events and activities have been arranged across the country to pay tribute to the relentless struggle of the forefathers and national heroes in their quest for a separate homeland.

The day will commence with special prayers and a 31-gun salute in the federal capital, accompanied by a 21-gun salute in all provincial capitals. A moving moment will envelop the entire nation at 7:58 a.m. as sirens resonate across the country, heralding the grand flag hoisting ceremony at 8 a.m.

Mosques will reverberate with early morning prayers for the prosperity, solidarity, and peace of the nation.

Various public and private sectors departments are geared up to host a range of special functions and activities, including seminars, discussions,

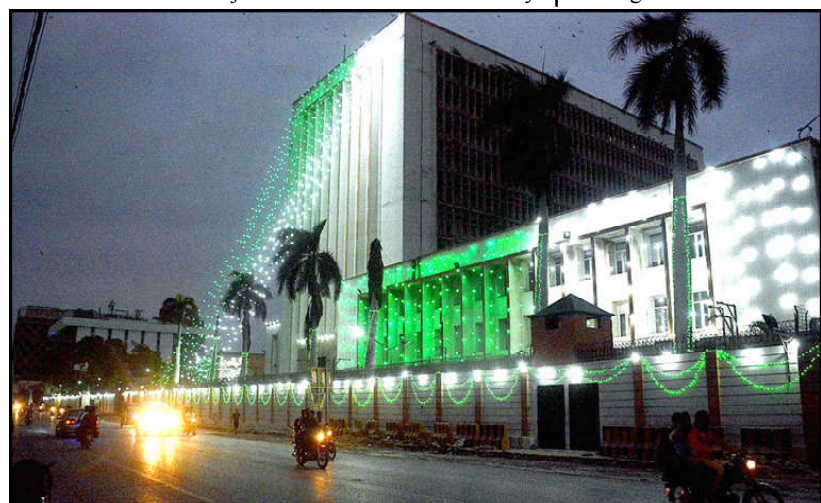
photographic exhibitions, artistic displays of paintings and poetry, national song renditions, and vibrant debate competitions.

The spotlight will be on recognizing the tireless contributions of Pakistan Movement leaders and the sacrifices made by national heroes.

Streets and avenues of the federal capital, as well as other cities, are turned into a sea of colors, adorned with flags, banners, and bunting, creating an ambience of festive jubilation. Prominent public and private edifices are aglow with illuminations, commemorating this significant occasion.

The print and electronic media will reverently spotlight the indelible contributions of Pakistan Movement heroes, paying homage to their extraordinary dedication.

Islamabad Capital Territory Police as well as provincial governments have finalized traffic management plan for convenience and safety of the general public.



KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) building is beautifully illuminated with lights on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

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 compromised over Anwaarul Haq Kakar, a hitherto little-known 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 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 the uncertainty that clouds 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 politically non-controversial and palatable a choice as could be in the present circumstances. Indeed, his selection seems to have been generally well-received, with even PTI 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 only be hoped that Mr Kakar will prove himself worthy.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Mr Kakar may be pressured to stick around for longer than the law would allow. He should resist any such proposal. He must remain focused on the responsibility entrusted to him, which is to hold free and fair elections within the 90-day period provisioned for in the Constitution. There are tangible fears that he may be asked to play a supporting role in a conspiracy to extend the caretaker set-up till such time as the country's unelected decision-makers decide that the public may finally have a say in their future.

He must do all he can within his power to preclude this possibility. The biggest challenge will be to ensure that delimitations under the recently notified census are completed as quickly as possible. Perhaps he can begin by ensuring that the ECP has everything it needs to complete this task without further imperiling constitutional timelines.



Muna Khan

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 but are turned into heroes. That is one of the many tragedies to befall this country.

Mumtaz Qadri was given the death penalty for taking the law into his own hands and assassinating Salman Taseer because he thought Punjab's governor had committed blasphemy. But the 100,000 who attended his funeral in 2016 saw him as a hero. As do the many visitors who come to pay their respects to his grave near Islamabad even today.

I was thinking of heroes and how they are (mis)treated while watching Sarmad Khoosat's Zindagi Tamasha, the much-maligned and banned film, which the filmmaker ended up releasing on YouTube recently. The film is not about heroes, but Khoosat's courage in releasing a film in the face of adversity is pretty heroic. But it is also tragic because there was no other way for him to show people his beautiful film.

Truthfully, I watched the two-hour film wondering which scene/moment led to its banning, despite being cleared for release by the censors. Was this the scene that supporters of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan protested over or was it that scene? We are left wondering because the scope of blas-

This is us

phemy allegations is such that anything can cause offence. Plus, the party warned that the film's screening could lead to unrest in the country. The government — and I mean each one — treats its statements as code red and succumbs to its demands.

The movie is about a real estate agent who is also a naat khwan; he is loved and recognised for his skill and talent. He lives in Lahore with his bedridden wife while his married daughter works as a producer on a morning TV show. Their life is upended 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 community.

A lot has been written 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 country. Those who opposed its release said in a statement that "the characterisation of the naat reader in the film is such that it can cause discomfort to the public and might lead them to deviate from Islam".

The film does cause discomfort because it holds a mirror to society. And it is not a pretty sight. How can anything be so tragic when a law has been so weaponised in the name of security that it is now easy to use to silence dissent?

This kind of intimidation, portrayed so well in the movie, is familiar to anyone who's been up against the powerful, be it an individual or an institution. And because the country doesn't have systems in place to protect the vulnerable from harm — whether it is the police or the legal

system or the community — the intimidators win. They always do.

It is unjust to punish 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 influence people on positions. The important thing is to let audiences choose 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 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 expand 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 meant to be felt by you, 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 the country.

It takes nerve to release this on YouTube, especially since he will incur losses. That kind of courage makes Khoosat a hero among us. -- Courtesy Dawn

Oppenheimer's legacy



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The world's first nuclear bomb was dropped on 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 4).

In reality, no NWS has worked towards complete disarmament of its nuclear arsenal. The US and Soviet 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-based research institute Sipri, the number of operational nuclear weapons has now "started to rise" because 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 have-nots. 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 forces.

The risks of a nuclear confrontation are no less in South Asia. India's Cold 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 nuclear-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 hostility 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 confidence-building measures. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Audit report Economic affairs division incompetence makes institution over 63 crore rupees fine

NBP fined more than 3 billion rupees in last 8 years

ISLAMABAD (Online): Economic Affairs Division had to pay a fine of over 63 crore rupees due to incompetence, non-timely utilization of foreign loans.

According to audit documents, due to non-timely utilization of the foreign loans taken for various projects, the Economic Affairs Division had to pay more than Rs.6373 million.

Documents revealed that during the last fiscal year, approved loans for various projects in the country which are received in the form of installments could not be taken on time and according to the

agreement made for these loans, fines are paid in case of non-payment of installments on time, due to which the Economic Affairs Division had to pay more than Rs.63 crores. According to the documents, due to the incompetence of the Economic Affairs Division, the national treasury has suffered this loss and in this regard, Responsibility should be imposed on the project director of the related projects.

Meanwhile, violations of rules and regulations, National Bank had to pay a fine of more than 3 billion 32 crore rupees during the last 8

years. According to audit documents, National Bank of Pakistan has been fined more than 3 billion 32 crore rupees for serious violations of rules and regulations by State Bank of Pakistan, Competition Commission and various international regulatory bodies during the last 8 years. These payments have been made during the financial year 2012 to 2020.

Documents revealed that National Bank has been fined 3 billion 19 crore rupees by the State Bank of Pakistan and more than 12 crore 80 lakh rupees by other financial institutions in this regard.

Traders hold cake-cutting ceremony in connection with Independence Day

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Muhammad Farooq Shekhani, conveyed heartfelt felicitations to the nation on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

He stated that each year, the sun of Independence Day rises with new hopes, and the Pakistani nation consistently observes this day in a splendid manner.

He remarked that this occasion calls for a renewal of the strong resolve to make the motherland a hub of peace, progress and happiness in accordance with the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

According to a press release issued on Sunday, he expressed these sentiments while addressing a cake-cutting ceremony held in connection with Independence Day at the Secretariat of HCSTSI.



MULTAN: Labourers busy unloading vegetables on the delivery truck at the vegetable Market.

Bumper cotton crop expected this year: Sahu

DG KHAN (APP): Secretary of Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Sahu said that a bumper cotton crop was expected in the province during the ongoing season.

He said this while chairing a meeting to review cotton crops at Commissioner's Office, here Sunday. In the DG Khan division, cotton was sown at an area of 937,000 acres and the next 15 days were vital for the care of the crop.

"There is a need to create maximum awareness among farmers," he added. He directed agriculture experts to expedite their field visits for imparting guidelines to peasants.

He also remarked that irrigation water would be provided to the field without a turn.

Commissioner Multan Dr Nasir Mahmood Bashir, Director General Agriculture Extension Anjum Ali, and many other experts from the agriculture department were also present.



HYDERABAD: Family busy in selecting and purchasing National flag related stuff from vendor in connection with Pakistan Independence Day celebrations

MoU signed to facilitate Pakistani chili export to China

BEIJING (APP): In a development for Sino-Pak trade and agricultural cooperation, Pakistan's Dynamic Engineering and Automation and China's Qingdao Lulu Agri. Equip. Co., Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to carry out a project to processing chillies in Pakistan for export to China.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy in China, Qamar Zaman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce (Agri Division) and Wang Zhihai, Pakistan's Honorable Investment Counsellor to China, China Economic Net (CEN)

PRL 'shunning' over processing of Russian crude oil, report

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) has reportedly expressed concerns about its ability to process large volumes of Russian crude oil in order to reduce domestic fuel prices.

A major blow to the previous government's efforts to increase dependence on cheap Russian crude oil.

reported on Sunday.

With China currently being the world's largest pepper producing and trading country, the MoU opens up new avenues for Pakistani enterprises to tap into the vast Chinese market. It also provides a platform for research collaboration and exchange programs between the two companies, fostering mutual learning and growth.

Under the terms of the MoU, the two companies will jointly develop and coordinate work plans for the establishment of chilli production workshops, personnel management and technology transfer.

At the end of last month, Chinese Vice

Premier He Lifeng and former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif jointly witnessed the signing of a protocol on phytosanitary requirements for the export of dried chillies, showing the huge potential of Pakistan chili and provides a broader market opportunity for chili-related enterprises in the two countries.

Li Zhimin, Chairman of Qingdao Lulu Equip, who participated in the first FoodAg held in Karachi from August 10 to 12, exchanged views with various chilli companies from Pakistan's major chilli growing cities, including Karachi and Lahore, and reached cooperation intentions with six Pakistani companies.

Farmers take out rally to mark I-Day

MULTAN (APP): Scores of farmers and civil society workers took out a rally to mark the ceremonies of Independence Day, here on Sunday. The rally commenced at the local press club and culminated at S.P Chowk. The participants were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans. Chairman Pakistan Kissan Ittehad while addressing the participants.

Careful policy needed to control inflation, high cost of doing business: Saigol

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faheem ur Rehman Saigol has warned that the record inflation and high cost of doing business will continue to hurt economic growth, demanding a careful policy to keep it in control. In a statement on Sunday, he said that the most serious threat to the economy in the current fiscal year would be inflation, as the government plan of approaching the donors for further financial assistance will bring a fresh wave of price-hike, because inflation was already hitting economy due to continuous raise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency.

Faheem ur Rehman Saigol predicted that inflation would remain high and may even increase further due to market frictions caused by relative demand and supply gap of essential items, exchange rate depreciation and recent upward adjustment of administered prices of petrol and diesel. He called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit, as the Pakistan's federal budget deficit projection has been revised to history's highest to over Rs 6 trillion, highlighting the unending fiscal woes that have pushed the country into a debt trap.



LAHORE: Visitors are busy buying handmade decorating items during an exhibition in connection with Independence Day, at Lahore museum in Provincial Capital.

Carpet industry issues to be resolved on priority basis: Rabab Sikandar

LAHORE (INP): Chief Collector Customs Rabab Sikandar said the issues of carpet industry raised by office-bearers of Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMAEA) would be given due consideration and resolved at the earliest. She also assured of due action on all the suggestions made by businessmen.

She acknowledged the role of hand-knotted carpet industry in job

creation and strengthening the economy of the country and assured that her department would support the sector as hundreds of thousands of people were attached with it. She expressed these views during the visit of Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMAEA) along with Focal Person of Member Customs and Collector Sialkot Nair Shafiq.

CM Punjab felicitate nation on Independence Day

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

In his message, released on Sunday, he expressed his warm felicitations to all fellow countrymen on the significant day. He 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

free. He paid tribute to the countless Muslims 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 advancement.

Mohsin Naqvi asserted that the shared responsibility of bequeathing a harmonious, robust, and flourishing Pakistan to the 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 and collaboratively elevate the stature of Pakistan.



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

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 security to large public gatherings, rallies and other events," he said.

"All operational units including Special Branch, Counter Terrorism

Department (CTD), Special Protection Unit (SPU), and executive police should adopt a joint security plan for Independence Day celebrations," he added.

"The regional and district police officers should go out in the field themselves and review the security arrangements," he directed. "Ensure the use of CCTV cameras, walkthrough gates and metal detectors for monitoring and checking of the people," he added.

LG Dept. takes action against illegal constructions

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

More than 51 under-construction commercial and residential buildings have been sealed for being against the approved maps. Even structures built without approved maps are under scrutiny for potential demolition.

Secretary Local Government Dr Arshad

Ahmad told media here Sunday that following Minister for Information and Local Governments Amir Mir's directives, action had been launched against building inspectors involved in facilitating illegal constructions. FIRs have been filed against those engaged in 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 buildings."

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 Mehdi, Mahfoozur Rehman, Brigadier Dr. Muhammad Khaliq Al Rasheed Kayani, Mossadegh Zulqarnain, Lt. Gen. Najibullah Khan, Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Syed Deem Hussain Rizvi, Lt. Gen. Nouman Zakaria, Amdadullah Bosal, Dr. Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women University Dr. Saima Hamid, Education Specialist Asia Khuram Agha, Dean Dr. Saima Siddiqui, Commissioner Rawal Pindi Liaquat Ali Chhata, Secretary Finance Government of Punjab and Secretary School Education Punjab.



KARACHI: Members of Sindh Shagird Forum are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

KP CS felicitates fellow countrymen on 76th Independence Day

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry felicitated the entire nation, especially the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the auspicious occasion of 76th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Terming freedom as a great blessing of Allah 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. He said that development and prosperity of Pakistan is the individual and collective responsibility of all the people living in this country. The Chief Secretary said celebration of Independence Day with great zeal and zest across the country reflects the fact that the green national flag will always fly high. "We should keep security, stability and prosperity of our beloved country above everything and should not hesitate to give any sacrifice for it."

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 India. 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," irrigation department further said. Irrigation officials have apprehended that the floodwater could submerge Chahor, Dogri, Ropowali, Tambah 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.



HYDERABAD: IBA passed candidates are holding protest demonstration for appointment letters, at Hyderabad press club.

CPWB launches social media campaign against child employers

LAHORE (INP): Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Chairperson Sarah Ahmad has announced launching a social media campaign against child employers, under the title of 'Social Boycott of Child Employers'.

In a talk with APP on Sunday, she emphasised the need to take a firm stand against those who employ children as domestic help, saying that the objective of the campaign was to liberate children from domestic labour and ensure a reduction in child exploitation among

domestic helpers. The CPWB chairperson said that so far 25 child protection units had been established in various districts of the Punjab province. She said the CPWB was committed to further extending the scope of its services to all districts, and ensuring effective protection of child rights across the province. She said that the construction of the newly inaugurated building at Kasur had been started in November 2021 at Kutchery Road.

International News

Russia downs 20 drones over Crimea following a spate of attacks on Moscow

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia thwarted an attack by 20 Ukrainian drones targeting Moscow-annexed Crimea overnight, the Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday.

Russian warship fires warning shots on cargo ship in Black Sea

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Russian warship on Sunday fired warning shots at a cargo ship in the southwestern Black Sea as it made its way northwards, the first time Russia has fired on merchant shipping beyond Ukraine since exiting a landmark United Nations-brokered grain deal last month. Russia in July halted participation in the Black Sea grain deal that allowed Ukraine to export agricultural produce via the Black Sea and Moscow cautioned that it deemed all ships heading to Ukrainian waters to be potentially carrying weapons.

Russia said in a statement that its Vasily Bykov patrol ship had fired automatic weapons on the Palau-flagged Sukru Okan vessel after the ship's captain failed to respond to a request to halt for an inspection. Russia said the vessel was making its way towards the Ukrainian port of Izmail.



Rescue personnel bring survivors ashore, after migrants' boat sank in the English Channel.

U.S.-led naval group warns ships to avoid Iranian waters to avoid seizure

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: A U.S.-led naval coalition in the Gulf has warned ships in the region to stay away from Iranian waters to avoid possible seizure, the U.S. Navy said.

The warning shows tensions remain high in and around the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran seized tankers in late April and early May, while Washington and Tehran finalise a deal to free five U.S. citizens detained in Iran and the U.S. allows \$6 billion in Iranian funds held in South Korea to be unfrozen. "The International Maritime Security Construct is notifying regional mariners of appropriate precautions to minimise the risk of seizure based on current regional tensions, which we seek to de-escalate," Commander Timothy Hawkins, spokesman for the Bahrain-based U.S. Fifth Fleet, said late on Saturday.



Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. President Donald Trump campaigns at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.

China, Russia and Iran are engaged in foreign interference in New Zealand, intelligence agency says

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: China, Iran and Russia are engaged in foreign interference in New Zealand, the nation's domestic intelligence agency said Friday after making its threat assessment report public for the first time.

In the report, Director-General of Security Andrew Hampton said the Security Intelligence Service sees enormous value in sharing more of its insights publicly.

China vows 'forceful' response over Taiwan vice president's US visit

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China on Sunday vowed "resolute and forceful measures" over a week-end trip by Taiwan Vice President William Lai to the United States it said it was closely monitoring.

The agency had previously taken a secretive approach. It decided to change course after it and other agencies were criticized for focusing too much on the perceived threat from Islamic extremism and being blindsided when a white supremacist shot and killed 51 worshippers at two Christchurch mosques in 2019.

In the report, the agency says the most notable case of foreign interference is the continued targeting of the nation's diverse Chinese communities by people with links to the intelligence arm of China's ruling Communist Party. It said China's efforts to advance its political, economic and military involvement in the Pacific was driving strategic competition. The agency said it was aware and concerned about ongoing Chinese intelligence activity "in and against New Zealand."

The agency had previously taken a secretive approach. It decided to change course after it and other agencies were criticized for focusing too much on the perceived threat from Islamic extremism and being blindsided when a white supremacist shot and killed 51 worshippers at two Christchurch mosques in 2019.

Six die as migrants' boat sinks in Channel

Monitoring Desk
CALAIS: Six Afghan males died when a migrant boat heading to Britain sank in the Channel in the wee hours of Saturday, French officials said, as a search continued to find those still missing.

Biden's reelection bid faces vulnerabilities in wake of special counsel appointment

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: As he gears up for reelection, President Joe Biden is already facing questions about his ability to convince voters that the economy is performing well. There's skepticism about the 80-year-old president's ability to manage a second term. And on Friday, Biden faced a fresh setback when Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed a special counsel to probe his son, Hunter.

Biden's challenges pale in comparison with his predecessor and possible future rival, Donald Trump, who is facing three criminal indictments, with additional

charges expected soon. But the appointment of the special counsel was nonetheless a reminder of the vulnerabilities facing Biden as he wages another election campaign in a deeply uncertain political climate.

There was little immediate sign that Garland's decision meaningfully changed Biden's standing within his party. If anything, it underscored the unprecedented nature of the next election. Rather than a battle of ideas waged on the traditional campaign trail, the next push for the presidency may be shaped by sudden legal twists in courtrooms from Washington to Delaware and Miami.



Taiwan's Vice President William Lai arrives at Taoyuan International Airport before his departure to the United States for a stopover in New York on his way to Paraguay, in Taoyuan, Taiwan.

China asks Philippines to jointly work on defusing South China Sea tensions

Monitoring Desk
SHANGHAI: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the Philippines to work with China to seek an effective way to defuse tensions in the South China Sea, the official Xinhua news agency said on Saturday. The comments come amid rising tensions between the two countries over the location of a grounded warship that serves as a military outpost in the South China Sea.

The comments were made by Wang during a visit to Singapore and Malaysia which took place on Thursday and Friday, said Xinhua. China has repeatedly expressed its willingness to resolve differences with the Philippines through bilateral dialogue, hoping that the Philippine side would abide by a consensus reached in the past, Xinhua reported Wang as saying. The Philippines intentionally grounded the World War Two-era warship Sierra Madre in 1999 as part of its sovereignty claim to the Second Thomas Shoal.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori presides over a meeting of arrangements for the independence day rally.

33 CDWP, 12 ECNEC meetings held in 16 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has launched a 16-month 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 empha-

sized 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, overcoming financial limitations while ensuring transparency 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-

opment. 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 Ph.D. degrees in the top 25 universities of the world, for which Rs 4.7b had been allocated.

The establishment of Centres of Excellence on Emerging Technologies, the National Centre for Nanotechnology, the National Centre for Quantum Computing and the National Institute of New Manufacturing was a great success of the Planning Ministry.

Mengal expresses strong reservations over caretaker PM in a letter to Nawaz

Says caretaker PM nomination creates more distance between BNP & PML-N

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

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 been unable learn from what had they faced. A solution to the current problems was being found 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 institutions will prove to be the last nail in the coffin of democracy, Mengal warned.

PM, Musadiq discuss political situation

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was called on by former Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadiq Malik here on Sunday.

During meeting, they discussed the overall political situation and issues of mutual interest.

The prime minister appreciated the performance of the ministry led by Dr Musadiq in difficult economic conditions.

U.S. Ambassador felicitates people of Pakistan 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, issued by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the Ambassador said that the past year has been a testament to the strength of our relationship.

'Azadi Festival' held

KARACHI (APP): The Arts Council of Pakistan-Karachi organized a two-day 'Azadi festival' on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day at Jaun Elia Lawn.

The first day of the Azadi Festival started with Aalmi Mushaira in which poets from all over the world, including Pakistan, recited poetry, a communique said on Sunday.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Minority Wing President, Mushtaq Matto distributing national flags and bunting among children during a ceremony in connection of Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, at Malir area in Karachi.

All arrangements finalize to celebrate 76th Independence Day in Larkana Region

LARKANA (APP): Official arrangements are being finalized in the Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kashmir-Kandhkot districts of Larkana Division to celebrate the 76th Independence Day, August 14, 2023 on Monday, with national spirit, great zeal, traditional enthusiasm and renewed commitment to make Pakistan prosperous, strong and progressive.

Apart from official arrangements to celebrate the auspicious occasion, the children, youth and the old belonging to every walks of life buying commemorative material and are busy in decorating their houses, streets and organizing special functions to celebrate the Independence Day.

Colorful bunting and national flags line private and public buildings, as well as the city shopping centres, commercial areas, bazaars, streets and roads. Fancy lighting is also being set up to illuminate the night sky to give a festive look. The sale of National flags, multi-colored garlands, big portraits of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other national heroes is in full swing across Larkana city, towns and villages of the Larkana Division. The people hoist flags on their cars, motorcycles, cycles and auto-rickshaws.

The number of Schools, colleges, Boys Scouts and Girls Guides have chalked out various programmes to highlight the life and achievements of

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, significance of the national ideology and the Pakistan Movement. Besides, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) Larkana and other private FM Channels in Larkana have finalized programmes to celebrate 76th Independence Day of the Country on August 14. The programmes will include national songs and tableaux focusing on national responsibility of the nation. Especially Radio Pakistan Larkana are broadcasting special transmission to highlight the services and sacrifices of heroes of Pakistan Movement and to pay tributes to their extraordinary contributions for making Pakistan a reality.

Anwarul Haq Kakar resigns from senate, BAP membership

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

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

Furthermore, the designated prime minister said that consultation regarding the caretaker cabinet has started, sources added. A day earlier, Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar was selected as Pakistan's caretaker prime minister, PM Shehbaz and Riaz have sent advice regarding Kakar's appointment as the caretaker prime minister to President Alvi, the statement added. The premier thanked the opposition leader for his cooperation in the consultation process for the nomination of the caretaker PM. Shortly afterward, the president approved the summary under Article 224 A of the Constitution.

Ashrafi terms national flag a symbol of unity, solidarity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Sunday underscored the significance 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 International Interfaith Harmony Council categorically stated that disrespecting the national flag should not be tolerated and called for stringent measures against those allegedly involved in this heinous crime.

He further stressed that individuals who dishonored the flag should face immediate legal action, including the confiscation of their identification cards and passports, as a measure against treason.

His passionate appeal 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 Fajr 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.

KARACHI: Insaaf Lawyer Forum leader, Iqbal along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

Brave Pindi's people ready to celebrate Independence Day despite hurdles: Rashid

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the People and state are synonymous; if masses are peaceful and prosperous, the country will be peaceful.

He posted a video message on the social media website X, formerly Twitter, on the occasion of Independence Day on Sunday. He added that brave people of District Rawalpindi is fully prepared to celebrate Independence Day despite all sorts of hurdles.

"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

PM calls for rekindling spirit of Independence Movement, lessons of unity, self belief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has underlined the need to summon the spirit that marked the Independence Movement and employ the lesson of unity and self-belief to chart the way forward.

"There is no denying the importance of many milestones we have achieved in the last seven and a half decades, often against opposing circumstances. We have faced the worst natural disasters, conflicts and wars and always managed to build back better. All along the way, we have jealously guarded the

gift of freedom that we so passionately prize, the prime minister said in a message on the celebration of 76th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence.

The prime minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire nation including overseas Pakistanis on the celebration of the independence day.

"The 14th of August is more than just a date; it is a symbol of the Pakistani nation's resilience, courage and unwavering commitment to freedom. As the nation commemorates this day, it is an opportunity to reflect on the

sacrifices of the past, celebrate the achievements of the present, and envision a brighter future for our people," a press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister said the spirit of independence continued to inspire Pakistanis to overcome challenges and work towards a nation that embodied the principles of justice, equality, and prosperity for all. "On this day, let us remember the sacrifices of our forefathers and pledge to uphold the values that define our great nation," he added.

The prime minister said the day held a special significance in their hearts, for this historic day saw an unprecedented freedom struggle culminating in the establishment of the state of Pakistan.

Today, they paid rich tributes to the men, women and children who got together under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to struggle for the creation of a land they could call home, he added.

In the process, the prime minister said, they established a glorious example of commitment and devotion to the cause of Pakistan.



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

Khalid posted as Secretary Universities, Boards Department

KARACHI (APP): Khalid Hyder Shah, an officer of PAS (BS-21) presently posted as Secretary (SGA&CD) was transferred and posted as Secretary Universities and Boards Department with immediate effect.

According to the notification, on promotion to BS-21, Khalid Hyder Shah was posted as Secretary Universities and Boards vice Muhammad Mureed Rahimoon who was transferred and directed to report to SGA&CD.

PIA first time starts Dubai to Skardu direct flight

KARACHI (Online): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced the launch of its first direct flight from Dubai to Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan, airlines spokesperson Abdul Hafeez Khan said on Sunday.

The inaugural flight will take off on Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14, 2023, he added.

It will be a major milestone in the promotion of tourism in the northern region of Pakistan, spokesperson maintained.

Woman raped by husband's relative in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A woman was allegedly raped by her husband's brother-in-law in the jurisdiction of Gulshan-e-Maymar, Karachi, reported on Sunday.

The police registered a case on the complaint of the victim who told the police that she had got married two months ago.

Pakistan cannot afford any new adventurism at this juncture: PTI spokesperson

FAISALABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) expressed optimism that the caretaker Prime Minister-designate Anwarul-Haq Kakar would leave no stone unturned to ensure free, fair and transparent elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe of 90 days, as the country could not afford any new adventurism at this juncture.

In his reaction to the nomination of the caretaker prime minister, PTI

spokesperson said that despite the fact PTI being the largest political party in and outside the parliament did not consult on the matter, as it was decided by the puppet Prime Minister and bogus opposition leader in the national assembly.

However, he hoped that now Senator Anwarul-Haq Kakar was nominated as the Caretaker PM, who would not allow any further damage to the constitutional and democratic rights of the people.

41 member delegation visits China Yadgar

GILGIT (APP): A 41-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 Karakoram 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 wreath of flowers on the graves of the deceased. Their relatives placed the national flag of China and fruits at the graves of the deceased and

burned Chinese currency, as 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 graves of their dear ones.

The Karakoram 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 through Gilgit-Baltistan, ends at Hasan Abdal region of Punjab.



LARKANA: Deputy Mayor Muhammad Amin Sheikh, President Gomi Bai Ladies Club Fareeda Pechuho, General Secretary Dr. Sakina Gaad along with other Members are cutting cake during Independence Day Celebration at Ladies Club.

MoU signed to facilitate Pakistani chili export to China

KARACHI (INP): In a development for Sino-Pak trade and agricultural cooperation, Pakistan's Dynamic Engineering & Automation and China's Qingdao Lulu Agri. Equip. Co., Ltd signed an MoU here to carry out a project to processing chilies in Pakistan for export to China.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistani Embassy in China, Qamar Zaman, Joint Secretary, Pakistani Ministry of Commerce (Agri Division) and Wang Zihai, Pakistan's Honorable Investment Counsellor to China, reported China Economic Net (CEN). With China currently being the world's largest pepper producing and trading country, the MoU opens up new avenues for Pakistani enter-

prises to tap into the vast Chinese market.

It also provides a platform for research collaboration and exchange programs between the two companies, fostering mutual learning and growth.

Under the terms of the MoU, the two companies will jointly develop and coordinate work plans for the establishment of chilli production workshops, personnel management and technology transfer. At the end of last month, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and former Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif jointly witnessed the signing of a protocol on phytosanitary requirements for the export of dried chillies, showing the huge potential of Pakistani chilli and provides a broader market opportunity for chilli-related enterprises in the two

countries.

Li Zhimin, Chairman of Qingdao Lulu Equip, who participated in the first FoodAg held in Karachi from August 10 to 12, exchanged views with various chilli companies from Pakistan's major chilli growing cities, including Karachi and Lahore, and reached cooperation intentions with six Pakistani companies. Founded in 2015, Qingdao Lulu Agricultural Equipment Co Ltd is a diversified enterprise that integrates research and development, manufacturing and import and export of agricultural machinery and equipment. The company, which created the first chilli handle removal machine and sells well in China, exports its products mainly to India, and began exporting chilli processing equipment to Pakistan four years ago.



LARKANA: Security officials convoy patrol at road during flag march decorate their vehicles with national flags to maintain law and order situation in connection of the Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, held in Larkana.