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QUETTA: A beautiful illuminated view of lighting at Government building on the eve of Independence Day celebrations coming ahead, in Quetta.

Attempts to create a rift in nation and army will fail No power on earth can undo Pakistan: COAS Gen Asim

Expresses confidence, that nation has courage, capacity and capability to face challenges whether they are external or internal

KAKUL (Agencies): Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has emphatically stated that no power on earth can undo Pakistan. Addressing Independence Day Parade at Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul on the midnight between 13th and 14th August, he said nation celebrates country's independence day with great reverence and commitment upholding the message of hope, courage and confidence.

General Syed Asim Munir said the day of 14th August urges us to understand the spirit of the message of what Pakistan means. He said this message is the basis of the two-nation theory and the destination of the Muslims of the subcontinent. The Army Chief said Pakistan is a land of countless resources and countless blessings, and our development will be the realization of the dreams of our forefathers and people. He said Pakistan's development will ensure a better future for our future generations. General Syed Asim Munir said Pakistan is going through difficult period



shall always remain guiding principles of our great nation. The Army Chief said Pakistan is a land of countless resources and countless blessings, and our development will be the realization of the dreams of our forefathers and people. He said Pakistan's development will ensure a better future for our future generations. General Syed Asim Munir said Pakistan is going through difficult period

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said his government steered the country out of severe historic economic and political crises and external challenges and protected the interests of the people and the Pakistani state during the 16 months. Addressing the nation, he said time and history would be witness that his government saved Pakistan from default and the subsequent economic disaster waiting to happen, 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 handing over power to the caretaker government. "My conscience is clear that I served honestly and transparently and followed the constitution." He congratulated Anwarul Haq Kakar for 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).

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 fulfil 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 the 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 fulfil the "heavy responsibility" that he had been entrusted with.

Kakar thanked all the parties who had welcomed his appointment and said that he was grateful to the people who had expressed their good wishes for him. He said that he would strive to fulfil his duties to the best of his ability and that he would work for the betterment of the country.



QUETTA: Provincial Ameer of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam and former Federal Minister Maulana Abdul Wasey meeting with nominated Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

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

INDEPENDENCE DAY QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has greeted the entire nation on 76th Independence Day. In a message issued here on the Independence Day, the Chief Minister said that this country came into being due to the great sacrifices of our forefathers, and now its protection, construction and development is our responsibility. We have to work like a united nation forgetting aside our petty differences and remaining above all

kinds of prejudices to fulfill that responsibility, adding he stressed. Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo regretfully pointed out that the anti-state forces want to weaken and destabilize the country by creating lawlessness, however, we can foil the nefarious designs of the enemies by forging unity among our ranks, he added. He insisted that we can make Pakistan a great Islamic state by following the sayings of father of Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and thinking of Poet of the East,

Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal. He said that on the eve of Jashne Azadi, we should also pay homage to our those martyrs who rendered sacrifice of their lives for defence of the country and its peace. The Chief Minister said that this day reminds us that how big blessing of the independence is. He said that the people of Balochistan stand by their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle. He also strongly condemned the Indian state barbarism and cruelties against the Kashmiris in the Occupied Kashmir.



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

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

Chinese Embassy condemns terrorists' attack on Chinese Convoy in Gwadar

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces on Sunday killed two terrorists in a swift response to the attack made on a military convoy in the morning in Gwadar district. The terrorists attacked a military convoy in Gwadar at 1000 hours, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said.

The terrorists used small arms and hand grenades during the activity, however, due to efficient and swift response, two terrorists were sent to hell with no harm to any military or civil persons, it said. The ISPR said, "Security Forces of Pakistan remain determined to thwart efforts of the enemies of peace and prosperity in the country." Meanwhile, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan

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.

Balochistan CM contacts political leaders for name of Caretaker CM

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Sunday contacted political leaders to develop consensus on the name of the Caretaker Chief Minister. In this regard, he also contacted with Balochistan opposition leader Malik Sikander Khan Advocate and discussed on the establishment of caretaker government. Chief Minister talked with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Mir Khalid Khan Magsoo about setting up of caretaker regime in the province.

The Chief Minister also contacted the senior political leadership of the province saying that soon progress was expected in the name of caretaker Chief Minister in Balochistan by consultation of political leaders including opposition leader.

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

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.

He had faced. A solution to the current problems was being found in consultation with the establishment, instead of politicians, he remarked.

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

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.

He also told Nawaz that the legislations introduced against the human rights concept would ultimately be the last nail in the coffin of democracy, Mengal warned. **Continued on page 2**

We need to make pledge to strive for stability of the country: Kakar

Independent Report

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

In a statement issued here on eve of the Independence Day being observed today, the Governor said that our political elders and forefathers had struggled to get freedom, and as such it is our collective obligation to make pledge to ensure independence and make conscious efforts for its survival and stability. In addition to this, it is also our and especially of the new generation to remain active for its development, adding he stressed.



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

CM Bizenjo calls Kakar; greets him on nomination as caretaker PM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has congratulated Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar on his nomination as the caretaker Prime Minister. The Chief Minister telephoned Anwarul Haq Kakar and expressed best wishes for his success in future.

While speaking to Anwarul Haq Kakar, the Chief Minister expressed the belief that the caretaker Prime Minister would ensure holding of the free and fair elections according to his constitutional mandate. **Continued on page 2**

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

Independent Report

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

Different ceremonies and events have been arranged to mark the celebrations of Independence in the provincial metropolis and other district and divisional headquarters all over the province. The main Independence Day ceremony is scheduled to be held at 08:30 AM today at the lawn of Provincial Assembly.

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar would be the chief guest and hoist the national flag there. The senior high ranking officials as well as the dignitaries from different walks of life, public representatives and civil society would be participating in the flag hoisting ceremony. Similar different activities have also been planned to mark the celebrations which included the flag hoisting at the High Court of Balochistan. Moreover, the flag hoisting ceremonies would also be held at the offices of deputy commissioners and commissioners in the districts and divisional headquarters respectively. A grand ceremony is also scheduled to be held at the Railway station of Quetta.

Similarly, a ceremony would also be held at 12:00 Noon at the Balochistan Boy Scouts Association's headquarter. Qazi Azmat Isa would also be chief guest at the ceremony. Meanwhile, in a meeting chaired by the Commissioner had reviewed the security arrangements made for the ceremony.

The walk through gates would be installed on the entry and exit points of the Railway Station. The special arrangement would also be made for parking of the vehicles visiting the Railway Station for Independence Day celebrations. The activities to be part of the event are included: firework, food festival, musical show, etc.



QUETTA: Participants of jawanan Itihad Balochistan take part in the rally in connection with the Independence Day celebration.

One soldier martyred amid eliminating four terrorists in Bajaur IBO

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

During the operation, an intense fire exchange occurred between the security forces and terrorists, besides four terrorists being sent to hell, and one terrorist was apprehended, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release issued here Sunday. The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Muhammad Shoaib (age 24 years, resident of District Kohat), having fought gallantly embraced Shahadat

Continued on page 2



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

No power on earth can undo..

Continued from page 1
expressed the confidence, that the nation has the courage, capacity and capability to face these challenges whether they are external or internal. The Army Chief said we will not hesitate to render any sacrifice for the sake of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said being a national army, Pakistan Army is committed to the welfare and wellbeing of the people, adding that cynical attempts to create a rift in the nation and the army will fail. He said the forces of Pakistan and the people are one.

General Asim Munir rejected the negative propaganda of those who spread

fear and despair saying these elements are engaged in unsuccessful attempts to spread despair in the society. He said no country and nation can develop without facing such challenges. Turning towards people of Kashmir, the Army Chief said Kashmiri brethren will surely get rid of the oppressive and occupying forces. He said freedom of Kashmir will be the result of the desire for self-determination and eternal sacrifices. He said despite all the nefarious tactics by India, no power can shake the independence of the Kashmiri people.

The Army Chief said no geographical and political

necessity can stand in the way of Kashmiris' right to freedom and self-determination. He assured the Kashmiri brothers of full support from the forces and people of Pakistan. He said Pakistan will never be coerced by any aggressive designs, and neither can the region afford such hostility amongst two nuclear powers. Unfortunately, the adversary continues to peddle its nefarious designs against us for petty political mileage. Talking about Pakistan's fight against terrorism, he said people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have been facing brutal acts of terrorism for two decades.

One soldier..

Continued from page 1
during an intense exchange of fire.

The forces had also recovered weapons, ammunition, and explosives including a suicide vest from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens, especially suicide blasts, it said.

The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

"Security forces of Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan," the ISPR said.

Mengal expresses..

Continued from page 1
mately be used against them [PML-N] in future as they had not considered the Baloch people as a human.

The BNP-M chief said the nomination of such a person meant that the doors leading them to politics had been shut and the similar decisions had created the gulf between the two sides.

Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal expressed his displeasure over the appointment of caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, wrote a letter to PML-N President Nawaz Sharif.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal

wrote in his letter that Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, I hope you and your family will be fine. My message today is a continuation of the previous message dated July 22, 2022, because the problems I mentioned earlier, I wish they would decrease, but as per tradition there was increase in them.

He wrote in the letter that instead of blaming it on someone, it would be better if we name our bad luck, the same Balochistan, the same forced disappearances, trying to solve the problem with guns instead of political solutions, looking towards the establishment instead of politicians.

All set to celebrate Pak I-Day in AJK with traditional zeal, fervor

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): All is set in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan on Monday, August 14, with traditional zeal and fervor and with the renewal of the

pledge to continue all out individual and collective efforts for the safety, solidarity, integrity and prosperity of the country and to translate the ideology of accession of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan into

reality through making the Kashmir freedom struggle complete success.

Like every year, the Kashmiris are fully prepared to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan, their ultimate destination in

all respect, with great enthusiasm and devotion coupled with the renewal of the pledge to continue the ongoing struggle for the right of self-determination till it reaches to its logical end. The day will dawn with

special prayers in the mosques all over AJK for the stability, prosperity, security and speedy progress of Pakistan and for the early success of the Kashmiris indigenous struggle.

CM Bizenjo..

Continued from page 1

Bizenjo also said that his becoming caretaker Prime Minister is a matter of pride for Balochistan.

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

The caretaker Prime Minister also thanked the Chief Minister for expressing best wishes for him.

Two terrorists..

Continued from page 1

on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorists attack on a Chinese Convoy in Gwadar and asked Pakistani authorities to conduct a thorough investigation of the attack, severely punish the perpetrators and take effective measures to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

According to a statement issued here by the Chinese Embassy, "A convoy carrying Chinese citizens was attacked near the port of Gwadar in Balochistan, Pakistan. The incident caused no casualties on the Chinese side, and the relevant personnel have been properly placed in safety. The Embassy and the Consulate General in Karachi launched an emergency response immediately". The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemns this terrorist act, the statement said. China will continue to work with the Pakistani side, to jointly counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel.



Ministry of Science & Technology
Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR)
(Head Office, Constitution Avenue, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad)

Notice Inviting Tender

(Supply and Installation of Instrument/Equipment)

(TENDER ENQUIRY NO: ICCC/ELCFA/DCCFPBB/2023/701)

PCSIR Head Office, Islamabad invites sealed tender under the Project titled "Development of Computer Controlled Fermenters & Production of Biomolecules and Bioproducts" from well reputed & registered Manufacturers, Sole Agents, Authorized Dealers, Suppliers and Government Contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department and who are on Active Tax Payer on List of FBR for the Supply and Installation of Agriculture Machinery/Extraction Units/Instrument/Equipment/Appliances (Package-wise):

S. No.	Package-I Fermentation Probes	Quantity	Work Location*
1.	Fermentation Probes	125	ICCC Islamabad
Total		125	
S. No.	Package-II Mass flow Controller	Quantity	Work Location*
1.	Mass Flow controller	10	ICCC Islamabad
Total		10	

*Instrumentation Control & Computer Complex (ICCC), PAEC, Islamabad

Terms & Conditions:

- Tender Notice of Laboratory Equipment along with terms & conditions can be downloaded from websites of PPRA (www.ppra.org.pk) and PCSIR (www.pcsir.gov.pk).
- Tender/Bid Documents can be purchased against Rs. 3000/- (non-refundable) in cash from Director Technology office, PCSIR Head Office, 1-Constitution Avenue G-5/2 Islamabad.
- Interested Firms may seek any clarification in writing to below mentioned address not later than 25.08.2023.
- The sealed Bid prepared in accordance with the instruction in the bidding documents along with brochures/specifications of the equipment must reach to this office before 11:00 AM 30.08.2023, which will be opened on the same day at 11:30AM by the Tender Opening Committee in presence of the representatives of the bidders at PCSIR Head Office, Islamabad.
- Tender will be submitted on the basis of Single Bid Two Envelope system, marked as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" and "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible, to avoid confusion.
- 2% earnest money is to be deposited in shape of Call Deposit/ Pay Order/ Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favor of Project Director, Development of Computer Controlled Fermenters & Production of Biomolecules and Bioproducts, along with the tender form (dully signed/Stamped).
- The place of delivery will be Instrumentation Control & Computer Complex (ICCC), PAEC, Islamabad. on FORbasis
- The prices should be inclusive of all taxes

Director (Technology),

PCSIR Head Office, 1-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad. Ph:051-9225393, Ph: 051-9225274

Email: technologywing@yahoo.com

PID (I) No.979/23

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کارکن کا دوست - مشکل وقت کا ساتھی

مختار سے شیخ ہسپتال ملتان اور سکھر میں 200 بیڈ پر مشتمل NICVD ہسپتال جس میں مزدوروں اور ان کی فیملیز کیلئے مکمل مفت علاج کی سہولت موجود ہے

- ملک بھر میں مہرنگ گرنٹس، ڈیٹھ گرنٹس اور تعلیمی وظائف
- ڈیٹھ گرنٹ - 200,000 روپے سے بڑھا کر - 400,000 روپے
- 800,000 روپے
- WWF میں ورکرز کی سہولت کیلئے سہولت سٹریکا افتتاح کر دیا گیا ہے
- کے پی کے میں فانا کے نئے مضمون شدہ علاقوں میں کینیڈین سٹریکا قیام
- سلائی مشین، سائیکل، ڈھیل، چیز، داغی بیماریوں کا علاج، سولر ٹریٹنگ، ای کامرس ٹریٹنگ، زون-V میں VTI یونیورسٹی، میڈیکل، ہائیڈرو پیکل، ہائیڈرو پیکل ایب اور ٹیکنالوجی کی تربیت اور لیب ٹاپ کی تقسیم۔

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ کے قابل ذکر کارنامے

- شادی گرانٹ - 200,000 روپے سے بڑھا کر - 400,000 روپے
- ٹرانسپورٹ کی رقم 1500 روپے سے بڑھا کر - 6000 روپے کر دی گئی ہے
- کے پی کے میں فانا کے نئے مضمون شدہ علاقوں میں ہسپتالوں کو ایسویوٹس کی فراہمی
- آرہ ساعت کی امداد / مصنوعی اعضا / جوائنٹ اور ایمپلائٹ، مالی امداد، بجلی کے باکس
- رہنچارج اسمبل سولر پینل کے ساتھ

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KENAD

Promoting Pakistan's ideology in real spirit need of hour: Mian Javed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Nazaria-i-Pakistan Council (NPC), Mian Mohammad Javed emphasized promoting the ideology of Pakistan in real spirit urging the nation to follow the guiding principles of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

In an interview in connection with the Independence Day being marked on August 14, he said: "I belong to the generation who has witnessed the creation of Pakistan, enthusiasm and countless sacrifices of lives, property and honour for the sake of the country. Women and children were even part of this struggle who fearlessly used to raise the slogans 'Ley Key Rahain Gey Pakistan' and 'Ban Key Rahey Ga Pakistan'."

Mian Mohammad Javed said, "Independence Day is a perfect time to acknowledge the numerous sacrifices rendered by our forefathers who gifted this homeland, it is our utmost responsibility to make this country strong, invincible and prosperous for the next

generations."

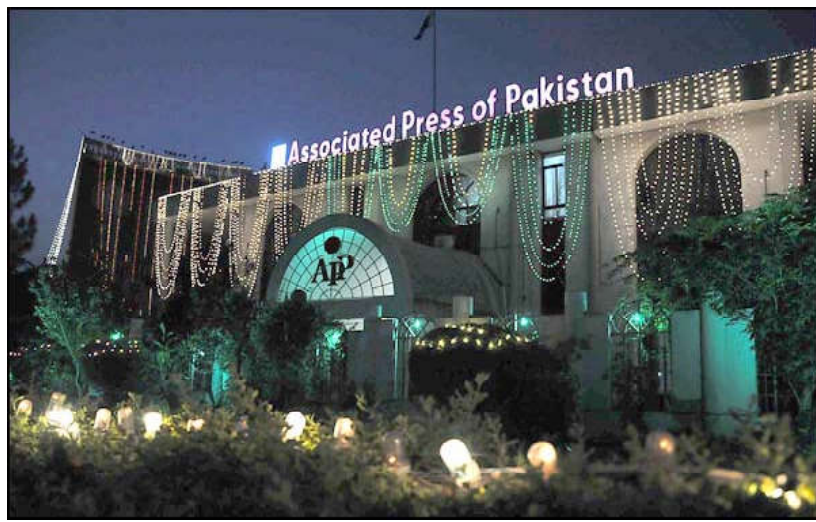
He pointed out, "One thing should be remembered that Pakistan was established through a mass movement under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as per the vision of Allama Muhammad Iqbal to enable Muslims to live with religious and ideological independence. Pakistanis despite belonging to diverse communities and provinces as well as abroad dream to further strengthen the country's ideology and make Pakistan an ideal country in the world. "It is heartening to see that still people have the same enthusiasm and patriotism about running our country according to the principles described by the founder of Pakistan in his speeches however the only need", he said.

Prof. Javed said that Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his speeches, has always advocated the principle of equality and justice to ensure the basic rights and well being of humanity. "Quaid-i-Azam's thoughts to implement an

Islamic democratic system based on equality, justice and human values for all are the beacon of light for the nation", he said.

"Our forefathers have sacrificed their lives to acquire this homeland on the basis of an ideology and now it is our responsibility to transfer this heritage and ideology to the future generations to make this country a prosperous country", he said.

About the NPC activities, the chairman said that the council is diligently working on the promotion of the ideology of Pakistan through conducting programmes in educational institutions besides using social media networks in line with modern requirements. NPC intends to project the image of our leaders and national heroes through educating the youth about their struggles and achievements to enlighten them. "The character building of youth is our national responsibility, as per Quaid's vision, without which we cannot make them a useful citizen", he added.



ISLAMABAD: The Building of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) is decorated with the colorful lights in celebration of Independence Day.

I'bad police chalk out elaborate security, traffic arrangements on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad police have chalked out a comprehensive security and traffic plan on the occasion of independence day (August 14) and decided to deploy security personnel at important installations as well as public places too.

A source said that Police, with the help of sniffer dogs and security equipment, will comb the green areas of Daman-e-Koh, Pir Sohawa and Margalla hills.

Islamabad police and intelligence personnel will search Islamabad's sensitive areas in plain clothes.

It has been also planned to erect police pickets on almost all the city's major roads. The city has been divided into various security zones for In-

dependence Day and extra contingents of Rangers, Frontier Constabulary, and Islamabad Police will be deployed there along with vigilance at various entry and exit points of the city.

"We're fully geared up and exercising extra vigilance. There are over dozen points from Faizabad to Pirwadi Square at GT Road for entering Islamabad and we've covered all these points by deploying extra police force there," a police source said.

He said that the city's forested areas will be scanned with sophisticated security equipment while security personnel on horses will patrol the city.

Islamabad residents and those coming to the city from other areas have been appealed to keep with

them their CNIC or other identification documents.

Islamabad Capital Police (Traffic Division) has also made a specialized traffic plan to ensure smooth traffic and safety precautions across the city.

This plan includes the deployment of a substantial workforce, comprising 550 officers and personnel.

A Superintendent of Police (SP), four Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), and 22 inspectors have also been assigned duties.

To maintain order and security on the roads during the celebrations on August 13 and 14, special squads have been formed.

These squads will be stationed at key locations throughout the city and equipped with roadblocks.

Munza parts ways from PTI

ISLAMABAD (Online): I contempt May 09 incidents of damaging the Military and Government constitutions, PTI leader Munza Hassan.

In one of her statements she said that I contempt the incidents of May 09 incident of damaging the Military and Government constitutions.

Manza Hassan said that everything happened was wrong and it should not be happened, we should respect all our institutions.

She also said that as a patriotic Pakistani I also proud of my army, anything which harms our country and institutes is contemptible.

She also said that as a Pakistani progress of country is our duty, I am separating myself from Pakistan Tereekh e Insaaf



ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying during celebration Independence Day, in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Traffic police wardens busy in issuing challan ticket to motorcyclists for violating traffic rules, in Federal Capital.

Chairman Senate congratulated the nation on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (Online): I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Pakistanis at home and abroad on the auspicious occasion of "Independence Day" of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Chairman senate Sadiq Sanjrani said.

Today, the entire nation is celebrating Independence Day with renewed enthusiasm and fervor, he added. Today, he said, we are celebrating the birthday of Pakistan and I pray that Pakistan continues to flourish in the same way and our future generations also see Pakistan flourishing in the same way.

Chairman upper house said Pakistan came into existence due to the tireless struggle and eternal sacrifices of the Muslims of the

subcontinent. Millions of Muslims sacrificed for the better and free future of their children. Today we are on the path of development and prosperity in a peaceful, dignified country because of their sacrifices.

The sacrifices of our ancestors are owed to us and to our future generations. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had dreamed of a modern democratic state in Pakistan. We face numerous challenges in realizing this dream, he maintained.

Further he said Pakistan has made the greatest sacrifices in the establishment of world peace and the war against terrorism. The endless sacrifices of our armed forces, law enforcement agencies are unparal-

led. The sacrifices and services of the armed forces, civil and armed forces and other related organizations against terrorism are commendable.

We should believe that our Independence Day will bring us the promise of political, economic and social stability in the coming days. By the grace of Allah, the country will be on the path of economic development which will set new heights of development and prosperity. The fruits will be available to the whole nation, he added.

He said our religion Islam teaches love, tolerance and kindness. To protect the blessings of freedom, we have to promote the spirit of mutual cooperation and goodwill.

No proper arrangements to fire prevention in 15 most important buildings of capital

ISLAMABAD (Online): It has been revealed that there are no proper arrangements to prevent fire in the 15 most important buildings of the federal capital.

According to the documents received online, proper arrangements have not been made to prevent fire in 15 very important buildings in the red zone of the federal capital and the recommendations given in this regard have not been implemented.

According to the report, Parliament House, Awan Sadr, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Prime Minister House, Parliament Lodges, MNA Hostel, Islamabad High Court, NAB Headquarters, Cabinet Secretariat, Federal Ombudsman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Secretariat, Diplomatic Enclave and in many other important buildings, proper arrangements have not been made to prevent fire.

Documents revealed that recommendations have already been given to take appropriate measures to prevent fire in all these buildings, but these recommendations have not been implemented, nor has the relevant department of CDA implemented the recommendations. Any kind of action has not been taken against the administrators of these important buildings.

According to the documents, the fire brigade department of CDA in the federal capital only has fire extinguishing equipment on buildings 68 meters high, while the height of some buildings in the capital is up to 113 meters, where there is no provision for fire extinguishing by the relevant departments of CDA.



ISLAMABAD: Participants posing for a group photograph before Golf match title "Mango Fest Diplomat Golf Cup" at Bahria Golf city in Federal Capital.

Pop diva Nazia Hassan being remembered on 23rd death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (INP): August 13 marks the death anniversary of Nazia Hassan, one of the most iconic figures in the history of Pakistan pop music who passed away 23 years ago today at the tender age of 35 following a prolonged battle with lung cancer.

Born on April 3, 1965, the "Queen of Pop", as she was called, started her career at the age of 10 as a child artist. She rose to prominence through the popular Pakistan Television programme 'Sung Sung'. Hassan made her singing debut with the song

Aap Jaisa Koi from a 1980 Indian film, 'Qurbani'. Her debut album, 'Disco Deewane', released in 1981, charted in 14 countries worldwide, and became the best-selling Asian pop record at the time.

She enjoyed widespread popularity across South and Southeast Asia. Along with her brother Zohab Hassan, Hassan went on to sell over 65 million records worldwide.

Her English language single 'Dreamer Deewane' made her the first Pakistani singer to make it to the British musical charts.

PNCA plans culture show, exhibition to mark I-Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to mark Independence Day with tradition zeal and fervor, has planned a series of cultural activities on August 14. According to Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayub Jamali, renowned artists from all four provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir would perform in the grand culture show to be held at PNCA auditorium at 7:00 p.m on the day.

The artists including Fazal Jutt, Wahid Bakhsh Faqir, Sajid Ali, Liaqat Ali Baloch, Malangan Group, Zafar Ali and team, Bano Rehmat, Mubashara Hafeez Mesh Baloch, Sunila Baig and Rizwana Khan would present National songs in the grand show. National Performing Arts Group, PNCA will also present folk and regional dances in the show. Meanwhile, PNCA in collaboration with ForAntSake would present a painting exhibition by Ali Azmat curated by Anna Pataudi.

Dasu HPP completed & Traffic Diversion Tunnel open to traffic at KKH

ISLAMABAD (INP): A traffic diversion tunnel has been as part of the ongoing construction work for the main abutment under the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) by WAPDA.

This tunnel has been strategically created at the existing Karakoram Highway (KKH) to facilitate the uninterrupted flow of general traffic.

This initiative aims to ensure the smooth movement of vehicles while the construction work on the main abutment is underway, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

The tunnel was inaugurated by Anwar ul Haq GM/PM DHPP, WAPDA Kohistan along with Fidecio Mendez Project Manager Dasu Hydropower Consultant (DHC).

Senior Management and members were present on the occasion from WAPDA, DHC and China Gezhouba Group of Companies (CGGC).

The traffic diversion tunnel situated near the Logoro area on the existing KKH will not only main-

tain the flow of traffic but also accelerate the progress of construction on the left-side abutment of the dam at the DHPP.

"After the completion of LBDT, this tunnel will be used as a flushing tunnel to flush the deposited silt from the reservoir of the Main Dam," reads an official statement.

China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) has been working on DHPP as the Main Works Contractor of DHPP. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), Power Construction Corporation of China Ltd (PCCC), Zhongmei Engineering Group Ltd, and CGICOP are also involved in the project.

DHPP is being constructed across River Indus, upstream of Dasu town in Upper Kohistan, KP. The 4320 MW DHPP is planned to be completed in two stages.

The under-construction Stage-I is with an installed generation capacity of 2160 MW and the stage-II will be of 2160 MW capacity.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters busy in selecting and purchasing National flag and related stuff from vendor in connection with Pakistan Independence Day celebrations.

'Pakistan will never abandon Kashmiris under any conditions'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiris in their freedom struggle and will never abandon the Kashmiris under any conditions.

According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service on Sunday, Kashmir is an unfinished agenda of the partition of sub-continent and the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah rightly said Kashmir is a jugular vein of Pakistan.

It said Kashmiris' indigenous freedom struggle is part of Pakistan movement and Pakistan is committed to support the Kashmiris' struggle till freedom from Indian bondage.

It said Pakistan will raise Kashmir dispute at every international forum and will inform the world community about the Indian atrocities in the occupied territory. The international community, it said, must recognize its collective responsibility towards the Kashmiris and help resolve the lingering dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The report said strong, stable & economically powerful Pakistan is must for IIOJK's freedom from Indian yoke, adding the hearts of Pakistanis and Kashmiris throb in unison and Kashmir is destined to become a part of Pakistan.

Archbishop calls for unity on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan, Archbishop Dr. Joseph Arshad, Bishop of Islamabad-Rawalpindi Diocese, on Sunday called on the nation to unite and work together for the prosperity and development of the country.

According to the media reports, he said that Independence Day is a day to remember the sacrifices of our ancestors who fought for freedom, and to renew our commitment to building a better future for Pakistan.

Dr. Arshad also highlighted the role of the Christian community in the freedom movement and in the

development of Pakistan. He said that the Christian community has served the nation in all sectors, especially in health, education, and social services.

He urged the nation to work together to overcome the challenges facing Pakistan and to build a prosperous and peaceful country for all.

In his message, Dr. Arshad said, "On this Independence Day, let us all rededicate ourselves to the service of our country and to the cause of peace and harmony. Let us work together to build a Pakistan where all citizens can live together in dignity and prosperity."

Kashmiris to observe Indian Independence Day as Black Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and worldwide will observe India's Independence Day on August 15 as a "Black Day."

In Mirpur district, a protest rally will be held from the city's District Courts grounds on Tuesday, August 15. Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Amjad Iqbal made this announcement.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture organization and wife of noted Hurriyat Conference leader Yasin Malik, said that Kashmiris would mark the Indian Independence Day as a black day to protest India's ongoing denial of Kashmiris' birthright to self-determination and to inform the outside world of worst Indian

state terrorism actions and policies. She said that every year Kashmiris globally mark this day as black day to protest Indian imperialism, that has been forcibly occupying most of the state illegally and brutally for the last 76 years.

The day will be marked with anti-India marches and protest demonstrations in all towns and cities, big and small, on both sides of the LOC. Protesters will wear black bands in their arms as a symbol of hostility towards India.

People from all walks of life will hold anti-India protests and parades in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, including the capital city of Muzafferabad and all other nine district headquarters, to reaffirm their intense hatred towards Indian imperialism.

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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 imperilling constitutional timelines.



Muhammad Amir Rana

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

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

the party. However, he still needs to answer who dusted off the bill and presented it on behalf of the treasury benches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the other hand, the

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

Pakistan's power holders have a binary perspective, which manifests itself in paradoxical ways. Their approach of 'good' and 'bad' militants is a manifestation of this perspective. This approach has been applied to both international and regional militant forces. The power holders apply a similar approach to political actors in the country, using the same legal regimes against them when needed. The context determines who is considered a threat and who is not.

Political parties and lawmakers are not so naive to support such legislation without the prospect of some benefit accruing to them; ie, they expect something in return. This could be further political engineer-

ing in their favour or the approval of private bills, such as those related to private universities.

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

Leaving Pakistan behind

Ghazi Salahuddin

As we escalated on to the main concourse of the Istanbul Airport, we were greeted by the sound of music. A group of young people was dancing in a corner to a racy rhythm, surrounded by a crowd of appreciative transit passengers. It was apparently an impromptu performance. And that is how I felt to have been ushered into the outside world, leaving Pakistan behind. But leaving Pakistan behind would be a hard thing to do, particularly for someone who is professionally required to chronicle its sorrows.

However, a somewhat extended vacation in Southern California with great expectations of spending time with both our daughters and their families, would be a valid excuse for this diversion.

So, drinking Turkish coffee at a restaurant in one of the busiest airports of the world and watching, literally, the world go by, I made this resolution to genuinely try to leave Pakistan behind for a brief period of time. I am in a foreign land and they do things differently here, I thought. Can I flow in this tide and not worry too much about what is happening in Pakistan?

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

On the other hand, a momentary escape from these highly charged involvements may be therapeutic in some ways, an attempt to protect one's sanity. In any case, this column is not about the evolving political situa-

tion in Pakistan. Though it is obviously not possible to not learn about the main headlines, I have not engaged in any political discourse during this entire week.

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

Yes, during conversations with relatives and friends, there have been references to the general situation that amounts to a loss of hope in the future of our country. Since I have been a proclaimed pessimist for a long time, I just need to nod in agreement. This also means that I seek to dabble in other pursuits.

On that count, there is a touch of magical realism in the life we are leading as a family. In a world

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

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

I know that this thought negates the ravages of climate change and natural disasters in so many countries of the world. Europe, for instance, is visited this summer by an unusual surge in tourism and historically high temperatures, punctuated with thunderstorms. In the United States, the story

this week is of devastating fires in Hawaii. We should be grateful for what we have.

There is so much that I can celebrate during this brief escape from Pakistan, in addition to being in the company of my family and enjoying certain luxuries and freedoms. The rigours of living in Karachi tend to enhance the pleasures of this life. There is a lot of time to, among other things, to watch movies in a cinema and breathe the atmosphere in a large bookstore or a library. Reading a book in any of the coffee shops of a shopping mall while the women are hunting for bargains becomes an experience to remember.

After an initial setback, printed books have regained their dominance in this digital age, despite being high-priced. This is an important measure of a country's intellectual and cultural prowess. What we have in this sector is, in my view, a larger threat to our survival than our economic and political deprivations. The very thought of the overall educational environment that exists on our

campuses causes strong feelings of pain and depression.

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

Still, for this short interval, I can do many things that are denied to the citizens of a country like Pakistan. One of them is the simple pleasure of browsing through books in a large bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, the world's largest bookseller. It would be the same in many other developed countries, but let me conclude with a bit of statistical evidence regarding books in America. In 2021, a record 825 million print books were sold and book publishing revenues rose to \$29.33 billion. Thanks to the IMF, we know how much only one billion dollars would be. -- Courtesy TheNews

This is us

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 Salmaan 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 blasphemy alle-

gations 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 rosy 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 Belarus 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

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: Punjab Assembly building is decorated with the lights in celebration of Independence Day

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 construction of the newly inaugurated building at Kasur had been started in November 2021 at Kutcheri Road, while the child protection office had been operating in Kasur since 2019. She expressed her gratitude to the Punjab chief secretary, additional chief secretary (ACS) Home and the line departments for their cooperation in the endeavour.

Ms Munawar Sultana, National Project Coordinator, Asia Regional Child Labour (ARCL) project, recently said that around 160 million children aged 5 to 17 years were engaged in child labour in 2020, with 79 million children involved in hazardous work. About 3.3 million of Pakistani children are trapped in child labour, who are deprived of their childhood, their health and education, she said.

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 Bakhs Zone had been stopped.

"This measure was taken to avert the risk of collapsing adjoining buildings. This unauthorized work was carried out without any approval.



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

PHA hosts art contest to celebrate I-Day

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

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

Governor KP visits Jahanzeb's house, expresses condolence

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Sunday visited the residence of the slain Danyal Zeb, who was tragically murdered the other day, and expressed his condolences to his father Jahanzeb and grandfather senior Journalist Hazrat Khan Mohmand.

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

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali emphasized that such incidents could not be tolerated and affirmed that strict action would be taken against those responsible and no leniency would be shown to those involved in such incidents. Those who committed the crime will face the consequences of their actions, he said.

Highlighting the importance of maintaining peace and security in the province, the Governor reiterated that the province was already faced with security challenges and such incidents that further disrupt the peace could not be tolerated.

He said that the local police were actively investigating the incident and were determined to apprehend the culprits.

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

Flooding in Nullah Dek after water discharge from India

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



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shabbaz 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.

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

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 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."

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.

"Coordinated arrangements should be made for the safety and security of women and children in parks, highways and public places on Independence Day," he emphasised.

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

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



LAHORE: Students busy in painting competition in connection with Independence Day, at Lahore museum in Provincial Capital.

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

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

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

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

Advisers and special assistants will not be part of the caretaker cabinet. As per the 18th Constitutional Amendment, there will be only 15 ministers in the caretaker cabinet. Reportedly, the names of the new caretaker

cabinet are likely to be finalized next week.

Earlier this year, members of the caretaker cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had taken oath back in January.

KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath to the cabinet members in a ceremony held at Governor House in Peshawar. The KP governor had announced the caretaker cabinet members' names, including former senators and other prominent names. The cabinet members included former MNA Abdul Haleem Qasoriya, former MNA Hamid Shah, former inspector general of police Syed Masood Shah, former Senator Zafran, and former Senator Taj Mohammad Afridi. Moreover, Advocate Sawal Nazir, Bakht Nawaz, Fazal Elahi, Adnan Jilil, Shafiqullah, Shahid Khan, Malik Khushdil Khan, Mohammed Ali Shah, Justice Irshad Qaiser, and Manzoor Khan Afridi were also part of the caretaker KP cabinet.

Husband kills his American wife

LAHORE (Online): Gurkin (Grave Digger) reported that the accused had killed his wife and reached the graveyard alone to bury the body.

In Lahore, the husband killed an American woman. According to the police, the murder of an American woman by her husband took place in the factory area of Lahore.

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

According to the police, the accused Kazim Khan was arrested from the cemetery while burying his wife's body and the murder weapon was also recovered from the accused.

Man arrested for sexually harassing girl

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab police have arrested a man for harassing a girl in Lahore.

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

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

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

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.

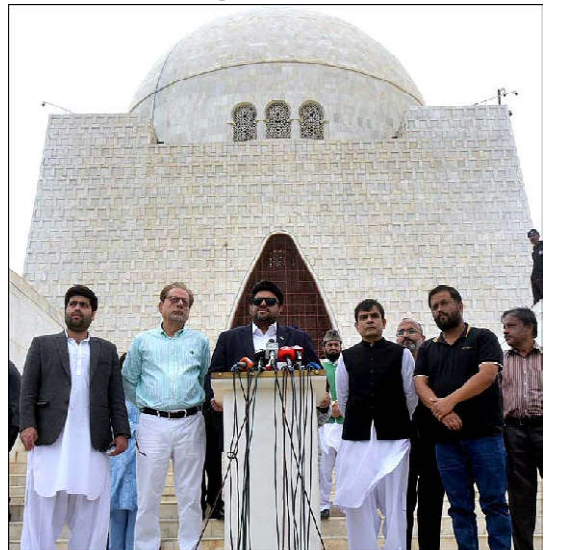
He expressed these views while presiding over the 101st Board of Governors meeting of Cadet College Hasan Abdal. According to the management of the Cadet College, the members of the Board of Governors who attended the meeting included Chairman POF Lt. Gen. Ali Amir Rawan, Principal Cadet College Hasan Abdal Brigadier Nasir Saeed Khattak,

Muhammad Saeed Mehdhi, Mahfoozur Rehman, Brigadier Dr. Muhammad Khaliq Al

Rasheed Kayani, Mossadegh Zulfqarnain, 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 Khurram Agha, Dean Dr. Saima Siddiqui, Commissioner Rawal Pindi Liaquat Ali Chhata, Secretary Finance Government of Punjab and Secretary School Education Punjab.

The annual budget was approved in the meeting and important issues related to the College were taken into consideration.



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.

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 Quaid-e-Azam 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," he added.

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

7 dead, 1,335 injured in Punjab road accidents

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

As many as 673 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 662 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 693 drivers, 45 underage drivers, 178

pedestrians, and 471 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 315 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 305 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 84 in Faisalabad with 71 victims and at third Multan with 78 accidents and 81 victims.

According to the data, 1,145 motorbikes, 92 auto-rickshaws,



LAHORE: Visitors seeing the model of Bab-e-Pakistan Monument, the first stay of refugees in 1947.

Ombudsman orders Rs. 35mln relief to complainants

LAHORE (APP): Taking action on complaints received at the regional offices, the office of the Punjab Ombudsman provided relief to complainants to the tune of Rs. 35.23 million through different provincial departments.

Official source told APP on Sunday that stock-up scholarships amounting to Rs. 672,000 were also

paid to students on the directions of the ombudsman.

Moreover, relief was also provided to complainants, including Rs. 1.96 million under the head of family pensions, Rs. 8.553 million for repair and maintenance of a building, Rs. 1.773 for payment of outstanding rents, Rs. 670,000 as death grants.

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 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.

Penalties have been levied by State Bank for non-implementation of prevailing rules during various inspections.



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

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.

He further emphasized that Independence is blessing of Almighty Allah. It has been 76 years since Pakistan was formed but still we have not reached the point where we should be economically.

It is the responsibility of the government, the business community and every Pakistani to construct a strong and prosperous nation with abundant resources for the coming generations.

Import, export volume of China's Jiangsu reaches 2.93 trln yuan in Jan.-July

NANJING (Xinhua/APP): East China's economic powerhouse Jiangsu Province recorded a total import and export volume of 2.93 trillion yuan (about 409.29 billion U.S. dollars) from January to July, the customs of Nanjing, capital city of Jiangsu, said Sunday.

The figure, including exports of 1.89 trillion yuan and imports of 1.04 trillion yuan, accounted for 12.4 percent of China's total volume of imports and exports during the same period.

Growth of private enterprises in terms of imports and exports over the past seven months was outstanding, totaling 1.28 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 4.4 percent, while the province's foreign-invested enterprises and state-owned enterprises achieved import and export volumes of 1.39 trillion yuan and

255.9 billion yuan, respectively. Jiangsu's trade with countries along the Belt and Road reached 853.92 billion yuan, accounting for 29.2 percent of the total. The amount of 853.92 billion yuan was an increase of 3 percentage points compared to the same period last year.

Exports of mobile phones, automotive parts and ships showed rapid growth in the first seven months of 2023, reaching 79.19 billion yuan, 46.46 billion yuan, and 35.09 billion yuan, respectively. These figures represented year-on-year growth rates of 31.6 percent, 17.7 percent, and 43.8 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, exports of lithium-ion batteries and electric passenger vehicles amounted to 55.21 billion yuan and 4.93 billion yuan, increasing 51.4 percent and 408.5 percent, respectively.

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.

Wapda generates 8,158MW hydel electricity during peak hours

ISLAMABAD (INP): Electricity generation by WAPDA hydel power stations crossed 8000 MW mark following resumption of power generation from 969 MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project a couple of days ago.

The WAPDA is contributing 8158 MW to the national grid during peak hours on Saturday night. Effective operation and maintenance of WAPDA hydel power stations and better hydrological conditions are the other contributing factors behind this increase in WAPDA hydel generation. Tarbela Hydel Power Station generated 3478 MW, Tarbela 4th Extension 1410 MW.



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 Zihai, Pakistan's Honorable Investment Counsellor to China, China Economic Net (CEN)

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, including 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.

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.

According to media reports, analysts say that due to the embargo on its oil in European markets due to Russia's war against Ukraine, the processing of Russian oil, available at a

discount, is limited by the shortage of foreign currency and Pakistani refineries and ports. Difficulties due to capacity.

Another obstacle is that local refineries cannot extract as much petrol and diesel from Russian crude as they can from Middle Eastern crude. The first cargo ship of crude oil from Russia arrived in Pakistan in June and was paid for in yuan. The target was to get 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Russia, which is about two-thirds of Pakistan's total import.

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 stated that Independence was a great blessing.

He paid rich tribute to the workers of the Pakistan Movement for their matchless determination to achieve a dear homeland.

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 despite putting additional burden of billions of rupees on industry in the current fiscal year.

Expressing serious concern over the high jump in country's budget deficit, the PIAF Chairman said the revision has been made in light of agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which exposed the massive underreporting of expenditures at the time of budget presentation by the Finance ministry.

This was a highly unsustainable level and has already pushed the country into a situation where debt restructuring seems to be the only viable option, he added.

Saigol maintained that the failure to reform the tax system and increase revenue collection was a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government.

In view of the low level of available FX reserves, the debt management strategy of Pakistan may have to be revisited, to ensure the stability of Pakistani rupee and restoration of international capital markets' confidence in the economy of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: View of a petrol pump is decorated with the colorful lights in celebration of Independence Day.

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 Shaqif.

Rabab Sikandar also urged the Carpet Association to prepare a comprehensive presentation regarding all their problems and the concerned officers of the department will personally come to you for briefing. She said, "The concerns

and suggestions raised regarding the suspended SRO 492 and newly issued SRO 545 related to carpet products temporarily imported for repair, rewash and refinish will be taken into consideration immediately and there is an effort to give a positive reaction regarding the extension of the period ending this month."

On this occasion, Senior Vice Chairman of the Association Usman Ashraf, Senior Central Leader Abdul Latif Malik, Shahid Hasan Sheikh, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute Ejazur Rahman, Senior Member Riaz Ahmed and others were also present.

Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf and Shahid Hasan Sheikh informed Chief Collector Customs Rabab Sikandar about the long-standing problems faced by exporters of handmade carpets and requested him to solve them. They said that the concerned departments should increase communication with the exporters to solve the problems and it is suggested to appoint a focal person for effective communication and problem solving.



QUETTA: People purchase used goods due to price hiking, at makeshift weekly market located on Benazir Flyover road in Quetta.

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. PIA spokesperson Abdullah Hafeez Khan said

that this is an important occasion for PIA and the people of Pakistan. The launch of this new flight route will make Skardu more accessible to international travelers, and help boost tourism in this beautiful region.

Skardu is a beautiful valley situated at an altitude of 7000 feet above sea level. It is surrounded by snow-capped mountains, ancient lakes and lush green valleys. The region is home to a variety of wildlife, including snow leopards, ibex and markhor, he added.

Khan said that Skardu is a hidden gem, and we believe it has the potential to become a major tourist hub in the region. This new flight route will allow people to visit Skardu and all that it has to offer. It will be easier to experiment.

Airline Spokesperson said Dubai Skardu flight will operate once a week on Saturdays. The flight time is approximately four hours and 30 minutes. PIA is introducing special introductory fares on this route. "We are confident that this new flight route will be a success. Skardu is a truly unique destination,



QUETTA: A man buys seasonal fruit from a roadside vendor at Airport Road.

IMF accord halts erosion, sparks hope for sustainable growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The recent Stand-By Agreement (SBA) signed between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has proven to be a crucial lifeline, staving off the impending economic crisis that had cast a shadow over the country.

The accord, inked in the second week of July, has not only halted the alarming economic erosion but has also paved the way towards stabilization and potential growth.

However, the continuation of economic policies and structural reforms was vital to

achieve sustainability. The nine-month \$3 billion agreement with IMF is aimed at supporting immediate efforts to stabilize the economy and guard against shocks while creating the space for social and development spending to help the people of Pakistan.

This infusion serves a dual purpose, providing immediate support to stabilize the economy against external shocks while concurrently carving out a fiscal space for social and developmental expenditures that will directly benefit the people of Pakistan.

While the IMF deal has offered a much-needed reprieve, economic experts emphasize that its true value lies in its function as a catalyst for fiscal discipline.

"It is encouraging to have deal with the IMF, but fiscal discipline is more important," former Finance Minister, Dr. Hafeez Ahmed Pasha told APP.

He however contended that the accord is but a foundation and the pivotal task of maintaining fiscal responsibility remains the cornerstone for steering the nation toward sustainable economic growth.

"Pakistan had twenty-two programs with the IMF. However, their implementation and maintaining fiscal discipline were always vital to bring about structural reforms," Pasha said also highlighting the importance of long-term planning for sustainable economic development.

The far-reaching impact of this agreement is manifested across various sectors.

The restoration of investor and business confidence has breathed fresh life into the economy, creating a favorable climate for increased investments.

President Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Irfan Iqbal Shaikh, predicts a surge in foreign investor confidence and an overall enhancement of market sentiment, not only revitalizing Pakistan's internal landscape but also augmenting its external profile.

Swiftly following the accord's approval, the foreign exchange reserves strengthened as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates deposited \$2 and \$1 billion respectively, lifting the reserves up to around \$13 billion from a very low.



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

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. Fourteen drones were shot down by Russian air defenses and a further six were jammed electronically, the ministry said in a Telegram post. No casualties or damage were reported. Kyiv officials neither confirmed nor denied Ukraine's involvement in the attacks.

As videos circulated on Russian social media Saturday appearing to show smoke rising above a bridge linking Russia to Crimea, the annexed peninsula's Moscow-appointed governor, Sergei Aksyonov, reported that

Russian air defense had also prevented an attack there by shooting down two Ukrainian missiles.

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.



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.

U.S., Japan to develop hypersonic missile interceptor - Yomiuri

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan and the U.S. will agree this week to jointly develop an interceptor missile to counter hypersonic warheads being developed by China, Russia and North Korea, Japan's Yomiuri newspaper said on Sunday.

The agreement on interceptors to target weapons designed to evade existing ballistic missile defenses is expected when President Joe Biden meets Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in the U.S. on Friday, the report said, without giving any source for the information. Officials at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs could not be reached for comment outside business hours.

Unlike typical ballistic warheads, which fly on predictable trajectories as they fall from space to their targets, hypersonic projectiles can change course, making

them more difficult to target. Biden and Kishida are to meet the sidelines of a trilateral summit with South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, the Yomiuri said. The U.S. and Japan agreed in January to consider developing the interceptor at a meeting of Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin with their Japanese counterparts, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada.

An agreement would be the second such collaboration in missile defence technology. Washington and Tokyo developed a longer-range missile designed to hit warheads in space, which Japan is deploying on warships in the sea between Japan and the Korean peninsula to guard against North Korean missiles strikes.

Explosion at restaurant in eastern China kills two

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A gas explosion Sunday at a restaurant in eastern China killed two people, state media reported, two months after a deadly restaurant blast prompted the government to order a safety crackdown.

The explosion at 7:15 a.m. at a grilled fish restaurant in the city of Gaomi was powerful enough to knock a passing car sideways on the street outside, according to a video on the website of the Beijing Youth Daily newspaper. The cause was under investigation, state TV reported on its website. The reports gave no details of who was killed or how. State TV said two people also were taken to a hospital with minor injuries. Chinese leader Xi Jinping ordered a national safety campaign in June after 31 people were killed in cooking gas explosion at a barbecue restaurant in the northwestern city of Yinchuan.

Nigerian delegation says Niger junta is open to diplomacy

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: Coup leaders in Niger are open to diplomacy to resolve a standoff with West Africa's regional bloc, a group of senior Nigerian Islamic scholars said on Sunday after meeting the junta in Niamey.

Their visit comes as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) explores its options to restore civilian rule in Niger, including potential military intervention, following the July 26 ouster of President Mohamed Bazoum - the seventh coup in West and Central Africa in three years.

In a sign the bloc is still pushing for a peaceful resolution, ECOWAS chairman and Nigerian President Bola Tinubu approved Saturday's mission to Niamey by the delega-

tion of Islamic scholars, who had vowed to promote dialogue.

The group's meeting with junta leader General Abdourahmane Tiani lasted several hours, said Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau, who led the delegation.

"He said their doors were open to explore diplomacy and peace in resolving the matter," Lau said in a statement on Sunday. Tiani reportedly emphasised the historic ties between Niger and Nigeria, saying the countries "were not only neighbours but brothers and sisters who should resolve issues amicably".

There was no immediate comment from the junta on the meeting, but Tiani's reported comments are one of the few recent signs he is open to negotiation.

Iran says unblocked S.Korea funds to be used for 'non-sanctioned goods'

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's central bank chief said on Saturday that all of Iran's frozen funds in South Korea had been unblocked and would be used for "non-sanctioned goods".

Mohammad Reza Farzin's post on social media appeared to confirm comments a day earlier by Washington, which said there would be restrictions on what Iran could do with any funds unfrozen under an emerging deal that has led to the release of five Americans from prison to house arrest in Tehran.

White House spokesperson John Kirby said Iran could only access the funds "to buy food, medicine, medical equipment that would not have a dual military use." An estimated \$6 billion in Iranian assets have been held in South Korea.



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.

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 inter-

ference 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."

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

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

Lai - the frontrunner in Taiwan's presidential elections next year - is officially making only transit stops in the United States en route to and from Paraguay, where he will attend the inauguration of president-elect Santiago Pena.

Taiwan is claimed by China, which has vowed to take the island democracy one day - by force, if nec-

essary - and ramped up political and military pressure.

"China is closely following the development of the situation and will take resolute and forceful measures to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," an unnamed spokesperson for the foreign ministry said in a statement published online.

Lai has been far more outspoken about independence than Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, to whom Beijing is already hostile as she refuses to accept its view that Taiwan is a part of China.

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. The deputy public prosecutor for the French coastal city of Boulogne, Philippe Sabatier, told AFP all six fatalities were Afghan men, believed to be in their 30s. He added the rest of the passengers were "almost all Afghans with some Sudanese, mostly adults with some minors".

Sabatier said 49 survivors were rescued - 36 by the French coastguard and 13 by their British counterparts.



People wait to cast their votes during Argentina's primary elections, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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 Con-

struct 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. "Vessels are being advised to transit as far away from Iranian territorial waters as possible."

About a fifth of the world's crude oil and oil products pass through the Strait of Hormuz, a choke point between Iran and Oman at the mouth of the Gulf.

Bomb alert prompts Eiffel Tower evacuation

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France's most emblematic symbol, was evacuated for several hours on Saturday after a bomb alert.

SETE, the body running the site which draws millions of visitors every year, said bomb disposal experts and police scoured the area, including a restaurant located on one of the floors.

"It's a usual procedure in this kind of situation which however is rare," a spokeswoman said.

Visitors were evacuated from the tower's three floors and the square under the monument, while a security perimeter was set up and people directed away.

Hawaii fire death toll nears 100, anger grows

LAHAINA (AFP/APP): The death toll in Hawaii from the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century was expected to cross the 100-mark Sunday, fueling criticism that an inadequate official response contributed to the heavy loss of life.

Officials updated the toll to 93 late Saturday, but warned the figure was likely to rise as recovery crews with cadaver dogs continued the grim task of searching burned out homes and vehicles in the epicenter of Lahaina.

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.

"Prior to Trump, this would be a big deal," New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley said of Friday's announcement. "Now, I don't think it means anything."

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 was 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, which lies within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and rotates a handful of troops through the ship.

The Philippines won an international arbitration award in 2016 against China's claim over almost all of the South China Sea, after a tribunal ruled Beijing's sweeping claim had no legal basis, including at the Second Thomas Shoal.

China, which does not recognise the ruling, has built militarised, man-made islands in the South China Sea and its claim of historic sovereignty overlaps with the EEZs of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia.

King of Jordan approves a bill to criminalize online speech. Human rights groups call it draconian

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: The King of Jordan approved a bill Saturday to punish online speech deemed harmful to national unity, according to the Jordanian state news agency, legislation that has drawn accusations from human rights groups of a crackdown on free expression in a country where censorship is on the rise.

The measure makes certain online posts punishable with months of prison time and fines. These include comments "promoting, instigating, aiding, or inciting immorality," demonstrating "contempt for religion" or "undermining national unity."

It also punishes those who publish names or pictures of police officers online and outlaws certain methods of maintaining online anonymity.

With the approval of King Abdullah II, the bill now becomes law - set to take effect one month after it is published in the state newspaper, Al-Rai. The newspaper is expected to publish the law tomorrow.

After amending the bill to allow judges to choose between imposing prison time and fines, rather than ordering combined penalties, the Senate passed the bill Tuesday, Jordan's state-run news agency reported. The measure was passed by Jordan's lower house of parliament in July.

Lawmakers have argued that the measure, which amends a 2015 cybercrime law, is necessary to punish blackmailers and online attackers.

But opposition lawmakers and human rights groups caution that the new law will expand state control over social media, hamper free access to information and penalize anti-government speech.

A coalition of 14 human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, has called the law "draconian." The groups say "vague provisions open the door for Jordan's executive branch to punish individuals for exercising their right to freedom of expression, forcing the judges to convict citizens in most cases."

Over 48,000 evacuated in Myanmar floods

Monitoring Desk
BAGO: A baby slept peacefully under a mosquito net oblivious to hundreds of evacuated flood victims lined up for food at a monastery in Myanmar on Saturday, all waiting for water levels to recede before they can return home.

Floods and landslides caused by monsoon rain have killed five and forced around 48,000 people to flee their homes, the relief ministry said.

On Saturday in Bago city, northeast of Yangon, children floated on rubber tyres squealing with joy, while adults paddled wooden canoes with supplies through the murky brown and yellow water to evacuation shelters.

Hundreds of families sat fanning themselves in an open-air hall at a monastery as volunteers distributed meal packs of rice and egg curry. Parents and children curled up on mats surrounded by bags of their meagre possessions - clothes strung up on makeshift washing lines above.

Tin Win, 52, said although the conditions at the

shelter were cramped and people were only receiving two meals a day, she was thankful to be safe and dry. "The space is tiny and there is not much space to sleep. We have to lie down next to each other," she said. "If there is no more rain, we hope to go back home in three days."

Across the city, dogs scrambled onto Buddhist pagodas and steps to escape the flood water as rain pelted down. The Myanmar weather bureau said the Bago River had risen a foot higher on Saturday but was expected to start going down over the coming days.

Myanmar experiences heavy monsoon rains every year, but scientists believe extreme weather events are being exacerbated by climate change. Escaping the deluge was a struggle, said Ohm Kyi. "We rented a boat to move some stuff from home, but the boat couldn't come very close. So, we had to walk in the water and carry everything we could," the 64-year-old said. "We only took some clothes, pots and plates."



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

Alvi 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 con-

gratulated 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.

"It is a time to renew our commitment to building a stronger and more prosperous Pakistan as envisioned by the Father of the Nation. I urge my fel-

low countrymen to work for the welfare and uplift of deprived sections of our society. Let's pledge to uphold the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, forgiveness, socio-economic justice and moral and ethical values, as enunciated by Islam," a press release quoted the president as saying.

He said 76 years ago, on this day, Pakistan gained independence after the historic struggle of the Muslims of the sub-continent under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The Muslims of India

wanted a homeland for themselves where they could freely order their individual and collective lives in accordance with the teachings of Islam, he added.

"The stories of those people, who faced hardships, endured oppression and braved immense challenges to reach Pakistan, serve as a source of inspiration for our future generations.

We should value the sacrifices of our forefathers for the creation of Pakistan and work for the prosperity of our people," the president observed.



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



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Abdul Kareem Jamali presides over the meeting to review performance of Field Operation Officers.

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

Independence Day
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has condemned the incident of firing by terrorists in Gwadar on Sunday.

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

human loss was occurred in the incident.

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

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

He said that the anti-state elements can't have an effect on the public joys and enthusiasm of Independence day.

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.

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.

Anwar 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.

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 adding that the Day is also the occasion to ask ourselves whether today's Pakistan has succeeded in achieving all goals that our founding fathers had set and dreamed of at the time of its establishment.

"In the light of the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam,

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Sunday congratulated the people of Pakistan on its 76th Independence Day.

In his statement, 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.

He said "We worked together on health, energy and climate to support the Pakistani people's recovery from last year's floods.



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) leader, Malik Abdul Ghani addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Great nation celebrates Independence Day in grand manner: Samina

QUETTA (APP): Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Sunday said that August 14 is our Independence Day and we will celebrate the Independence Day in a dignified way.

The so-called well-wishers focused on their personal development and prosperity instead of the development and prosperity of Balochistan, due to which Balochistan was left behind in the race of development.

On this occasion, she congratulated the entire nation on Independence Day and said that Pakistan was achieved after a long struggle and sacrifices, but even today there are elements in Balochistan who do not appreciate the blessing of independence and Pakistan.

Some are playing in

the hands of their enemies, but history is a witness that the nations who did not value freedom were left behind.

We should value freedom; she said that we will celebrate independence with national dignity and pride.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri expressed these views while addressing the ceremony.

Looking forward, the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance is a transformative initiative between our two countries that will address environmental challenges, and create new jobs, industries and livelihoods for our people, he added.

Five burnt to death as car catches fire after overturns

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

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

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

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

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.

NA Speaker condemns terrorists' attacks on Army in Gwadar, Bajaur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Sunday condemned the attack by terrorists on the convoy of security forces in Gwadar and Bajaur. The Speaker expressed regret over the martyrdom of Sepoy Mohammad Shoaib during the encounter of security forces against terrorists in Bajaur, a news release said. The Speaker expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of Sepoy Mohammad Shoaib.

Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said, "Inimical elements are trying to sabotage the peace of the country. The whole nation is standing

like a leaden wall with its security forces in the war against terrorism." The Speaker underlined that the enemy could not alter the unshakable spirit of the security forces against terrorism through their nefarious intentions. On the occasion of Independence Day celebrations, he said the hostile elements wanted to sabotage the peace of the country through their clandestine designs. The National Assembly Speaker also prayed to the Almighty to raise the ranks of martyred Sepoy Mohammad Shoaib and grant patience to the bereaved family to bear his irreplaceable loss.



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

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.

Ali Hassan greets nation on occasion of Independence Day

QUETTA (APP): President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Hub district Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has congratulated the nation on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

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

He expressed these views while addressing an event organized regarding Independence Day on Sunday.

He said on this occasion that great nations celebrate their Independence

Day with enthusiasm.

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

Tributes will be paid to the martyrs.

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

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 signifi-

cance were considered and approved during this period, said the report.

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

Two workers lose lives in mine incident

QUETTA (INP): In a tragic incident, two workers on Sunday lost their lives due to a lethal build-up of toxic gas within a mine at Harmai district, Balochistan.

According to the Levies force, the incident took place within the confines of mines area no 151, Block no. 4. The suffocating grasp of poisonous gas proved fatal and the two miners lost their lives as a result. The deceased were close relatives, hailing from Shangla, Swat



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

Anwaar Kakar cannot hold 'transparent' elections: Aimal Wali

QUETTA (INP): Awami National Party (ANP) has raised reservations about the transparency of the elections under the supervision of caretaker PM Anwarul Haq.

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

Awami National Party President Aimal Wali Khan claimed there was no role of PM Sharif and Raja Riaz

in the nomination of Anwarul Haq and added there can be no transparent elections under his supervision?

Aimal added that the caretaker prime minister in 2018 failed to hold free and fair elections and the current caretaker PM is also not different.

He said that elections should be free of any interference as Constitution has been on ventilator since 2018.

Replying a question, the ANP leader said whatever is happening with the PTI chairman is in accordance with the law.

PBF felicitates Kakar as 8th caretaker PM

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

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

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

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



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