

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Pir: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXIV No 353, Muharrumul Haram 27, 1445 AH Tuesday August 15, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

## Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar takes oath as caretaker PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan's armed

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

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

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

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

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

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

The PM sought briefing from all ministries on important matters.

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as the caretaker prime minister of Pakistan at an oath-taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali hoisting flag of Pakistan on the occasion of 76th Independence Day celebration at Balochistan Assembly.

### Our development to guarantee better future of our coming generations, says Speaker

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has stated that the country's development and future is connected with Balochistan, and, on the day of Independence, we have to make pledge to develop the country and province. The Speaker said that our development would guarantee better future of our coming generations.

He also said that there's no dearth of anything in our country as it is the land of rich resources and coast. The Speaker was addressing the flag hoisting ceremony held to mark the 76th Independence Day at the lush

green lawn of Balochistan provincial assembly here on Monday.

The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, senior civil and police officers besides dignitaries from different walks of life participated in the flag hoisting ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker said that it gives him utmost pleasure to join the Independence Day celebrations. He said that he has come to remind you all (participants) the days of independence.

He said that as you know all that our beloved country Islamic republic of Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947.



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

Services for Pakistan:

### President confers civil awards on 696 Pakistani, foreign nationals

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

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

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

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

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

### Any attempt to sabotage CPEC won't succeed: China

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

"China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan," Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing which resumed here at the International Press Center (IPC) after the summer holidays.

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

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

### PM meets delegation from Balochistan

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

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

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

### Relations with Russia, priority of Pak foreign policy: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Russia Shafiq Ali Khan on Monday said relations with Russia was the priority of Pakistan foreign policy.

Addressing an event in Moscow, Russia to mark 76th anniversary of Pakistan's independence, the Ambassador said that relations between Pakistan and Russia are on very positive trajectory. He expressed confidence in further strengthening relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador praised the invaluable role of the Pakistani community in Russia in enhancing cooperation and bringing the two countries closer to each other.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow hosted an event to celebrate the 76th anniversary of independence of Pakistan.

A Russian string quartet of Moscow Conservatory - Home performed classical adaptations of Pakistani songs 'Jeevay Jeevay', 'Sohni Dharti' and 'Dil Dil Pakistan'.

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

Says Pakistan is rich with resources, no danger to country

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir has cautioned against spreading despair among the people, and asked to give hope instead. The army chief was speaking to the media in an informal discussion after the swearing-in ceremony of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at the President House on Monday.

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

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



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Balochistan comprising Senator Sarfraz Bugti and Mir Khalid Lango called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

### Chief Justice BHC emphasizes National solidarity, pensiveness & spirit of patriotism needed more than before for stability & prosperity of motherland

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan has emphasized that today the national pensiveness, solidarity and spirit of patriotism is needed more than before for the stability and prosperity of the motherland.

He stressed that our political elders have to think and act in the best interest of the country remaining above our cast.

In the same way, the government's functionaries and officers have to work for development and prosperity of the country with more hard work and dedication.

The Chief Justice stated so and expressed similar other views while

addressing the flag hoisting ceremony at the High Court's premises on Monday morning. The ceremony marked the Independence Day celebrations, which was attended by the judges of High and subordinate courts, senior lawyers and staff of the court.

The Chief Justice on the occasion paid tributes to all the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the protection and survival of the country besides safeguarding its geographical and ideological borders.

He said that this Jashne Azadi is quite unique due to certain aspects. He said that our national and provincial assemblies completed their due tenure on August 12, digital population and housing census was com-

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and other civil and military officials standing in respect of National Anthem during a ceremony held in Balochistan Assembly in connection with 76th Independence Day

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

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

Addressing a flag-hoisting ceremony held here in connection with the 76th independence day of Pakistan, the president expressed the hope that Pakistan would soon become

other founding leaders, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of people.

He said the country's armed forces, police and the public were still sacrificing their lives for the country's security as over 100,000 people had rendered their lives in the war against terrorism.

He said the aim of Pakistan's independence was the establishment of an independent state for the

other founding leaders, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of people.

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other founding leaders, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of people.

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### CM Bizenjo greets Anwar Kakar on assuming office of caretaker PM; expresses best wishes

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has congratulated Anwarul Haq Kakar on assuming office of the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan and termed it as a good omen on an important national occasion.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister said that the whole nation is eyeing at caretaker Prime Minister. He said that it is to the utmost priority of the caretaker Prime Minister to conduct free and fair general elections in the country within the stipulated period.

He said that it is also a matter of pride for all of us that caretaker Prime Minister belongs to Balochistan.

He mentioned that Anwarul Haq Kakar was an important leader of Balochistan Awami Party and our trusted companion.

The Chief Minister said that he would always pray for the success of caretaker Prime Minister.

Expressing best wishes for the caretaker Prime Minister, Chief Minister hoped that he (Anwarul Haq Kakar) would use his energies and capabilities for performing his constitutional responsibilities.



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC) Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan addressing a ceremony in connection with Independence Day celebrations

### 76th Independence Day celebrated in Quetta & all over Balochistan with national spirit, enthusiasm

Independent Report

QUETTA: The 76th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated with national spirit and great enthusiasm in Quetta and all over Balochistan province on Monday.

The national flag hoisting ceremonies and different events were held and rallies taken out marking the celebrations of Independence in the metropolis and almost all the divisional and district headquarters of the province.

The main ceremony of Independence Day and flag hoisting was held at the spacious lawn of Balochistan's provincial assembly on Monday.

The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali was the chief guest at the flag hoist-

ing ceremony. He hoisted the flag at the lawn of provincial assembly.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, General Officer Commanding of 41 Div, other senior officials, dignitaries from different walks of the life besides children of different schools.

Another ceremony was arranged at the Balochistan High Court's courtyard where the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan hoisted the national flag.

The ceremony was attended by the judges of High Court, senior lawyers and other staff of the High Court.

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## 14th August: A day of national pride, tribute to founders of Pakistan

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Painted his car with green and white colours of the national flag, Ehtisham Khan (25), lecturer of Urdu literature, was over the moon after visiting his dream place Thandiani along with childhood friends to celebrate Jashn-e-Azadi with great pump and show on Monday.

Enjoying the national songs of 'Dil Dil Pakistan and Sohni Dharti' with his friends, Shahryar Haider and Umar Khan on his music system, Ehtisham was seen busy hammering and fixing tents' bolts at Thandiani top Abbottabad to enjoy the pleasant change in weather on Jashn-e-Azadi without any charge.

"We started our journey towards Thandiani after performing Fajar prayer and reached here in five hours amid hide and seek between sun and black clouds sometimes with erratic rainfalls, which doubled our joy on Pakistan birthday," said Ehtisham

while enjoying fruits with friends in the jampacked Galiyat.

"We selected Thandiani as the first camping site as tourists can easily see the snow-covered Pir Panjal mountain range of Kashmir and lush green terrains of Kaghan and Kohistan besides snow-clad ranges of Swat and Chitral from Thandiani top," he said. Carrying a height of 2,750 meters above sea level, Thandiani takes tourists, nature lovers and adventure sports enthusiasts into the lap of serenity." Ehtisham Khan who was wearing the traditional Peshawari Chappal and green shirt told APP, "Pakistan, being the most beautiful country, had given us everything including identity, prestige and honour. Our identity as a Pakistani, that we must cherish and protect it as we guard our caste and family name," he said.

"Celebrated Pakistan's birthday today like my own birthday. Independence of

Pakistan is a great blessing from Allah Almighty and cherish it like you cherish other blessings with great enthusiasm," he said.

Every year, 14th August reminds us of the supreme sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for Pakistan, adding the incredible fervour and enthusiasm displayed on this Jashn-e-Azadi should remain alive throughout the year and this spirit be visible in every good step we take for the betterment of our beloved country. Shahryar, who was an X-Ray technician said that 64 per cent of the population of Pakistan comprises youth and great responsibilities rest on them to work tirelessly for its economic prosperity. He said every nation has its milestones to reach up to development and prosperity. "We as a nation need to work hard, show more dedication and commitment to reach up to the high skies by making Pakistan an economic power," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Former Provincial Ministers Mir Ziaullah Lango and Mir Saleem Khosa holding a meeting

## National flag hosted at Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat on Independence Day

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Sibi Division Shahid Saleem Qureshi on Monday said that we all have to play a role as one nation against the elimination of corruption in order to put the country on track for durable development.

He expressed these views while addressing at ceremony of hosting the national flag at Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat.

Earlier, the Commissioner hosted National flag at the Quaid-e-Azam Residency.

The ceremony was attended by Frontier Corps (FC) Loralai Brigadier Razak, Deputy Commissioner Ziarat and Assistant Commissioner Ziarat and others.

Addressing at the ceremony, the Commissioner said that if we want to move the country towards development, then we have to eliminate corruption from this country.

He said that we all have to play our role as a nation to eliminate corruption

saying that the event of the May 9 tragedy has been rejected by every patriotic Pakistani.

"The Muslims of the Indian sub-continent have achieved this country under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah", he said.

He said that our forefathers have made eternal sacrifices for this country, our elders have got this country by sacrificing their lives.

"This country has come into being in the name of the Kalima Tayyab, which would remain forever", he said and added that Pakistan has the honor of being the world's first nuclear power.

He said that peace was established in Balochistan thanks to the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs of the security forces saying that measures were being taken to improve the law and order situation for the interest of province development.



ZIARAT: Commandant FC Loralai Scouts Brig. Razaq Ahmed and Commissioner Sibi Division Shahid Saleem Qureshi hoisting national flag at Quaid-e-Azam Residency on eve of Independence Day

## Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar takes oath...

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It is worth mentioned here that Anwaarul Haq Kakar, who hails from Qilla Saifullah, was one of the original architects of the Balochistan Awami Party. He is the second person from Balochistan to spearhead the interim set-up after Mir Hazar Khoso, who became the caretaker premier in 2013. His appointment comes with less than a year left in the completion of his six-year term in the Senate, which will conclude in March 2024.

Kakar made his electoral debut in 2008 on a PML-Q ticket, contesting polls in the NA-272 constituency, but lost to PPP candidate Nasir Ali Shah. Later, he joined the PML-N and served as then-PM Sanaullah Zehri's spokesman for almost three years. In 2018, he "led" a

no-trust vote against Zehri, which saw the PML-N chief minister step down from the post, paving the way for Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

In the same year, he became a senator as an independent candidate. Soon after, he announced the formation of BAP with the help of Syed Saeed Ahmed Hashmi. At the time, the PML-N and Baloch and Pashtun nationalist parties had labelled the hastily-cobbled alliance of the province's electables "a move of the establishment".

INP adds: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjarnani on Monday accepted caretaker PM-designate Anwaarul Haq Kakar's resignation from the upper house of the Parliament.

The resignation has been accepted as Kakar is

likely to swear-in as the caretaker prime minister today.

A notification issued by the Senate Secretariat on Monday notified Kakar's resignation.

"Anwaarul Haq Kakar, member Senate of Pakistan, has resigned his seat, as his principled stance of neutrality on becoming the caretaker prime minister, by writing under his hand in person before the Senate chairman," the notification, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, said.

"The honourable Senate chairman has been pleased to accept the resignation and consequently his seat has become vacant in terms of clause (1) of Article 64 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with effect from August 14," it added.

## Impressive Flag-lowering ceremony held at Wagah border

LAHORE (INP): An impressive flag-lowering ceremony was held at the Wagah border on Monday afternoon to commemorate anniversary of 76th Independence Day.

Crop Commander Lahore Lieutenant General Aamer Raza also witnessed the ceremony.

The soldiers of the Punjab Rangers lowered the flag in a formal manner. The venue was decorated with national flags, bunting and banners.

On the occasion, a huge number of the spectators, personnel of armed forces and their families were present in the ceremony.



QUETTA: Children are reciting the National anthem during Flag hoisting ceremony at Balochistan Assembly on the occasion of 76th Independence Day celebration.

## PSA announce 2023-24 World Tour calendar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Professional Squash Association (PSA) has announced its 2023-24 PSA World Tour calendar, with 36 events scheduled to take place across five continents from August 2023 to June 2024.

The season begins in Canada for the inaugural Windsor Cup, which would be held between from August 15 to 19. The first Platinum event of the new campaign would then see France hold a major squash tournament for the first time since 1994 when the Paris Squash event marks its debut on the calendar from August 27 to September 2. The event would take place on the grounds of the Palais de Tokyo in the shadow of the iconic Eiffel Tower, said a press release.

The Q-Terminals Qatar Classic will take place in September, featuring a women's draw for the first time since 2015, with the prestigious U.S. Open taking place the following month.

The City Tattersalls Group Australian Open - held in Sydney between November 8-12 - would rejoin the World Tour in what will be the biggest PSA event held in the country since 2012.

2023 ends with the

Hong Kong Squash Open at the end of November and beginning of December, before the tour signs off for the winter break following the culmination of the women's Barfoot & Thompson New Zealand Open and the men's Robertson Lodges New Zealand Open on December 10.

2024 kicks off with the Gold-level Kinetic Orange Ball Florida Open in what would be the State's biggest ever PSA event. The J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions then follows, with the first Platinum event of the New Year being staged yet again in the stunning Vanderbilt Hall at New York's iconic Grand Central Terminal.

The Windy City Open presented by the Walter Family returns to the calendar at the end of February after being replaced in last season's calendar by the PSA World Championships in Chicago. The tour returns to Egypt in April for the Black Ball Open and El Gouna International, while the biggest tournament in squash - the PSA World Championships - will be held in May, with the venue for that tournament set to be announced

soon.

The British Open would return to the spectacular Birmingham Rep Theatre at the start of June, before the season wraps up at the PSA World Tour Finals at the end of the month.

In addition to the various trophies on offer, points for the PSA World Tour Finals Leaderboard would be available at all PSA World Tour events throughout the season.

The top eight players on the standings qualify for the season-ending PSA World Tour Finals, whilst all Platinum winners and the reigning PSA World Champions qualify automatically for the season-ending spectacle, which was won by Egyptian duo Mostafa Asal and Nouran Gohar last season.

Classic (Bronze): New York, United States; October 7-14 U.S. Open (Platinum); Philadelphia, United States; October 17-22 Grasshopper Cup (Gold); Zurich, Switzerland; October 23-27 QSF 4 (Bronze); Doha, Qatar; November 1-5 Ace Malaysia Squash Cup (Bronze); Seremban, Malaysia; November 8-12 City Tattersalls Group Australian Open (Bronze); Sydney, Australia; November 14-19 Vitagen Singapore Squash Open (Gold); Singapore; November 21-25 The Hong Kong Football Club Open (Bronze); Hong Kong; No-

ember 27 - December 3 Hong Kong Squash Open (Platinum); Hong Kong; December 5-10 Barfoot & Thompson New Zealand Open (Silver); Tauranga, New Zealand; December 5-10 Robertson Lodges New Zealand Open (Silver); Tauranga, New Zealand; January 8-14 Kinetic Orange Ball Florida Open (Gold); Boynton Beach, United States; January 17-25 J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions (Platinum); New York, United States; January 25-29 Carol Weymuller Open (Bronze); New York, United States.



BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, Anna Baloch hoisted the national flag on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan in Brussels.

## APHC leader thanks Pakistan for unflinching support for Kashmiris just struggle

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader Mir Tahir Masood on Monday said Kashmiri people were highly grateful to the government and people of Pakistan for their continued moral, political and diplomatic support to their just struggle for right to self-determination.

Talking to APP, he said Pakistan's Independence Day on 14th August was

the day of thanksgiving and day of rejoice for the Kashmiris.

Felicitating the people and government of Pakistan on the Independence Day, he said that alongside the supreme sacrifices of valiant

Kashmiris, Pakistan's intense diplomatic efforts have highlighted the Kashmir dispute and exposed Indian ugly colonial face at the international level.

## Alvi for promoting rule of...

Continued from page 1

Muslims of the subcontinent to live their lives according to Islamic principles.

The president paid the heartfelt tributes to the founders of Pakistan who struggled for independence of Pakistan and the hundreds of thousands of people who embraced martyrdom for Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

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

The president said although it was necessary to explore natural resources

buried under the land but the actual wealth was built in our minds which should be fully utilized. He stressed the need to look into the areas of the latest technologies, IT, industries and agriculture.

He quoted Allama Iqbal as saying that without women's participation; no nation could develop and prosper. Therefore, he called upon the women folk of the country to work for the development of the country by actively participating in all areas.

Quid-i-Azam, he said also encouraged his sister Fatima Jinnah to fully participate in the country's politics.

The president also expressed solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. He hoped that by the will of God, soon Kashmir would become part of Pakistan. He vowed to the people of Kashmir not to leave Pakistan's support for their just struggle.

He also thanked the friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Turkey, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for supporting Pakistan in its difficult time.

## National solidarity, pensiveness...

Continued from page 1

economic mess and inflation being faced by the masses of the country.

He said that we have to stop unnecessary use of the national exchequer and adopt austerity. He said that the dream of country's development and prosperity can't be materialized until the process of accountability effective and impartial.

The Chief Justice said that incidents of terrorism are occurring once again in the country especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that all other institutions and general public would have to play their wholehearted role along with the security agencies for elimination of terrorism in the country.

Referring the last few years, the Chief Justice said that all the responsible persons failed to maintain financial discipline, which resulted in the debt increase,

## Shaheen Afridi joins UAE's ILT20 Season 2

DUBAI (INP): All-format Pakistan superstar Shaheen Shah Afridi spearheads the new players' signings list for the DP World ILT20 Season 2. The fast bowler who has made a stunning impression around the world with his pacy left-arm deliveries (229 wickets in 161 T20s) will play for the inaugural season's finalists Desert Vipers. The full list of new signings for Season 2 will be unveiled in the next few days, the tournament is scheduled to take place in January-February 2024. Since his T20I debut in 2018, Shaheen has made phenomenal progress across formats. Last year, he was adjudged the ICC Player of the Year and earned The Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy - the biggest ICC annual award for a cricketer. His international wickets tally stands at 239 (105 Tests, 70 ODIs and 64 T20Is).

Shaheen has a real knack of taking wickets at the start of his bowling spells, the 23-year-old has so far captured 42 first over wickets in the T20 format.

## 76th Independence Day celebrated...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Justice spoke his heart out at the ceremony referring the importance of Independence Day for the nation.

Similarly, a grand ceremony marking Independence Day was held at the Balochistan Boy Scouts Association's headquarter the same noon.

The renowned leader of Pakistan movement and companion of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Qazi Muhammad Isa's son, Qazi Azmat Isa was the chief guest at the ceremony.

The provincial commissioner of scouts and eminent lawyer, Amanullah Kanrani Advocate and a large number of people from different walks of life participating in the rally were decorated with national flags. The tribal elders and civil society took out Independence Day rally in Dera Bugti.

Different other programmes marking the Independence Day were also held in Quetta city besides other parts of the province.

Another important event of flag hoisting was held at the lawn of Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat the same morning.

The tribal elders as well as the Commissioner Sibi Division, Deputy Commissioner Ziarat and other senior officials of Frontier Corps, police and other departments were among those participated in the ceremony. The Commissioner along with FC's Brigadier and Principal of Al-Hijra School Ziarat hoisted the national flag.

A boat rally was taken out by the fishermen in sea of Gwadar. The boats participating in the rally were decorated with national flags. The tribal elders and civil society took out Independence Day rally in Dera Bugti.



CHAMAN: Commandant Chaman Scouts Brig. Ghaffar Haider along with tribal elders hoisting flat on eve of Independence Day at Pak-Afghan border



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

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

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

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

He said Muslim history was also rich in arts

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

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

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

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

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

in the lives of people.

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

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

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

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



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

## Ethiopian Envoy felicitates Pak on 76th Independence Day

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

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

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

silient nation.

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

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

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

"The exchange of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA), and Higher Education Commission (HEC) orchestrated tree plantation drives in schools and universities. This monumental initiative highlighted the shared responsibility of nurturing an eco-friendly and sustainable Pakistan.

The celebrations seamlessly merged with the realms of art and culture, as the National College of Arts (NCA) took the lead in orchestrating a multi-faceted tribute. The tribute included an inspiring Art Exhibition, a captivating short video competition showcasing Pakistan's 77-year journey of achievements, and an engaging art competition focused on "Reflecting the Social Challenges of Pakistan."



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

## Educational institutes ring in 76th Independence Day with zeal, zest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 76th Independence Day reverberated through the corridors of various educational institutions in the capital city as they came together to celebrate the historic occasion with unparalleled fervor.

With a united spirit, students and staff from multiple Islamabad Capital Territory colleges orchestrated a symphony of events that showcased their deep-rooted patriotism and commitment to the nation.

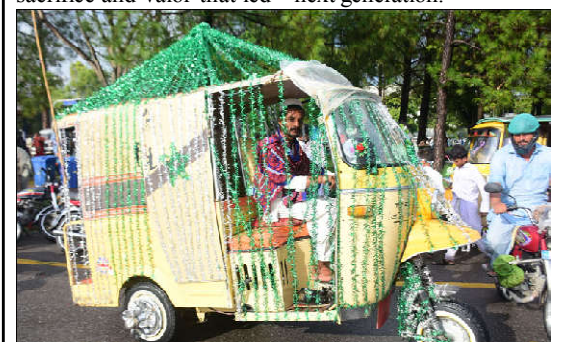
The festivities commenced at Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8, where the national flag was unfurled by Dr Muhammad Khalid, the

esteemed principal of the college. Standing alongside dedicated college staff, the flag rose high, embodying the ideals of freedom and unity. Professors Imran Shehzad and Khalid Mahmood took the stage to shed light on the historical underpinnings that culminated in the birth of Pakistan, rekindling the flame of sacrifice and valor that led

to the nation's independence.

Across town, Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) I-8/3 bore witness to a heart-warming flag-hoisting ceremony that set the tone for a day of profound significance. Principal Professor Sadia Ibrar led a tree-planting initiative that symbolized growth, mirroring the nation's evolution since its inception. The college grounds became a canvas for students to showcase their talents through painting and essay competitions, while soul-stirring renditions of national anthems echoed in the air.

At Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) H-9, the air was charged with an air of historical reverence. As the flag soared to the heavens, enlightening speeches delved into the historical tapestry that wove Pakistan into existence. Principal Professor Javaid Iqbal Mughal emphasized the pivotal role of educators in nurturing the next generation.



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

## DG ISSI says: Abiding commitment to Quaid's vision best path forward for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Ambassador @ Sohail Mahmood on Monday said abiding commitment to the vision of founding Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is the best path forward for Pakistan on its way to sustainable peace, progress and prosperity. This was stressed by Ambassador @ Sohail Mahmood, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), at the Institute's web celebration of Independence Day 2023, a news release said.

Hosted by ISSI's Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC), the web celebration was moderated by Director ACDC

Malik Qasim Mustafa and attended by the research faculty and staff of ISSI.

A presentation on the theme "Peace Within and Peace Without," was given by ACDC Research Associate Aamna Rafiq. She stated that despite complex and difficult geopolitical, economic, and geostrategic dynamics in the regional and global landscape, Pakistan has faithfully adhered to the Quaid's vision of peaceful coexistence with all states.

Also, any challenge could be tackled with tolerance, patience, mutual respect, and discipline. "We must continue to celebrate the diversity of cultures, languages, and ethnicity to achieve unity, prosperity,



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

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

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

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

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

The first meeting on

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

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

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

from the relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Health, Planning Commission, NADRA, Bait-ul-Maal, and the MoHR, also attended the meeting and provided their recommendations and suggestions.

## Rotary Intl marks 76th Anniversary of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rotary International marked the 76th Independence Day on Monday that brought together Rotarians, Rotractors, Interactors, and members of civil society here at educational institution TMUC.

The event began with a tree-planting ceremony as a resolute mission to contribute to a greener future for Pakistan, symbolizing Rotary's commitment to environmental sustainability and its role in safeguarding Mother Earth from climate hazards, said a press release.

The event continued with a flag-hoisting ceremony that showcased the unity and strength of the country. The participants, including Rotarians, Rotractors, Interactors, and members of civil society, united under the banner of Rotary International District 3272 to demonstrate their dedication to the greater good.

## IIUI holds grand I-Day ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a spirited display of patriotism, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) on Monday commemorated Pakistan's Independence Day with a flag hoisting ceremony at its new campus. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President of IIUI, and Brig. Shehryar Farouq Lodhi, Sector Commander Panjnad Rangers, Islamabad. With precision and pride, the Pakistani flag soared to new heights as Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and Brig. Shehryar Farouq Lodhi hoisted it in unison, symbolizing unity and devotion to the nation. A dedicated squad of university guards stood in formation, underscoring the significance of the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi eloquently expressed that Pakistan's inception owed itself to the visionary ideals and relentless endeavors of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

## NHMP North Zone celebrates I-Day with enthusiasm

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

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

DIG Motorway North Zone, Mohammad

Yusuf Malik was the chief guest of the event.

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

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

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

## Skardu Airport starts operating int'l flights

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

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

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



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

## PIE celebrates 76th Independence Day with flag hoisting ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) on Monday commemorated the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with a grand flag hoisting ceremony and celebration at its premises.

The event was attended by esteemed guests and dedicated officials, reaffirming the commitment to the nation's progress and unity.

Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya, Director General of PIE, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he urged all staff members to actively contribute to the enhancement of education quality across the country.

He also extended his heartfelt prayers for the prosperity, integrity, and

solidarity of Pakistan. Notably, he emphasized the significance of standing in solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri brethren.

The highlight of the ceremony was the inspiring sight of Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya hoisting the national flag, accompanied by the soul-stirring national anthem playing in the background. This symbolic gesture embodied the spirit of patriotism and unity among all participants.

Adding a touch of green to the occasion, a tree plantation ceremony was also held within the premises of PIE.

## Lok Virsa, NLP celebrate Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lok Virsa in collaboration with National Library of Pakistan (NLP) celebrated the Independence Day in a befitting manner at the Heritage Museum, Garden Avenue, Shakarparian.

Special cultural activities were organized including cake cutting ceremony of Pakistan's Birthday, screening of video documentaries on Pakistan, an exhibition of artisans at work and Milli Naghma show featuring a number of live performances.

Besides several other activities by Lok Virsa, exhibition of artisans at work was a major attraction for the visitors. The craftspeople were seen actively demonstrating their works in front of Heritage Museum, mesmerizing the visitors with their unique artisanship. The crafts represent a valuable material heritage, which forms a tangible part of our historical and contemporary culture.

Lok Virsa also organized exhibition of books in collaboration with National Library of Pakistan (NLP). Several bookstalls were set up to showcase titles on variety of topics particularly books on National heroes, Pakistan Movement, science fiction and Islamic history. The visitors took keen interest in titles of their choices.



ISLAMABAD: Bikers sits surround the traditional mud stove of vendor to dry their clothes and enjoy roasted corns after being wet in the rain at Federal Capital.

## AIOU marks Pakistan's 76th Independence Day with grand celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Monday resonated with patriotic fervor as it commemorated the 76th anniversary of Independence Day.

The campus came alive with spirited festivities, reflecting the nation's unity and pride.

The celebrations kicked off with a display of honor and respect as the university's security guards extended a ceremonial guard of honour to AIOU's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. With pride and solemnity, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood hoisted the national flag, symbolizing the enduring spirit of Pakistan.

Amidst the air of unity, a collective prayer was offered, invoking blessings for the prosperity and

progress of Pakistan. Decked in vibrant shades of green and white, exuberant children expressed their profound love for the nation through heartwarming performances of national songs, eloquent speeches, and a captivating tableau aptly titled "Pakistan Zindabad" (Long Live Pakistan).

Distinguished guests graced the occasion, underscoring the international significance of the day. Among those in attendance were Aleksandr Mikhailov, Anastasia Temkhina, and Rasim Akhatov from Russia. The Turkish delegation was represented by Dr. Halil Tokar, Director of Yunus Emre Institute, Balqees, Consul of the Turkiye Embassy, and Education Attaché, Mehmet Toyran.



ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying at Sight Seen Double Decker bus of Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab, after visiting the tourists spot during the celebrations of Independence Day in Federal Capital.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Tuesday August 15, 2023

## Jinnah to now

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Maleha Lodhi**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Breaking from the past

## Our story is ours to write



**Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and playing havoc with the lives of people. Sometimes the energy sector feels like a train wreck full of 240 million Pakistanis. In the face of Pakistan's gravest energy crisis, it is the countless people unable to pay their exorbitant bills we should be most worried about. It is precisely these citizens that the country is failing. The urgency of the energy transition has grown astronomically. Our challenge is to break away from the state-controlled arrangement. Our new mindset if we believe to adapt it is to move away from tinkering with policies. Our problems require deep surgery from us. Our judgment should be better.

The level of debt we are carrying is untenable. Debt restructuring is ours to do. Delaying this may put us on an uncomfortable path of forced restructuring. Our inability to push innovation, productivity, and investments is keeping us globally less competitive. Initiatives like Special Investment Facilitation can hopefully bypass the slow-moving state apparatus and help in spurring both domestic and much-needed foreign direct investment in tradable sec-

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

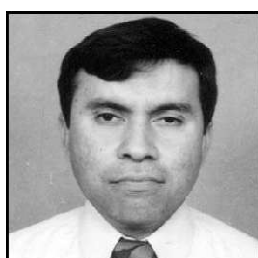
Pakistan's agriculture is ours to make more productive. Our duty is to reach those farmers who are producing wheat at 33 per cent less than the few progressive farmers in Pakistan. Better seeds, controlling adulteration, finances, and mechanization hold the key in this area. Our private sector, now aided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

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

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

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

## Killing tracks



**Dr Noman Ahmed**

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

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

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

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

responsive.

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

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

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

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

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

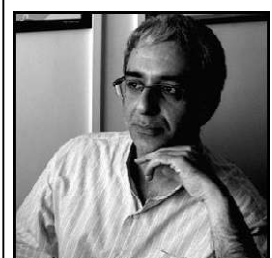
train has lower fuel consumption, and can be 10 times cheaper than other modes of transportation.

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

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

Even though station masters and other staff concur with these observations, they expressed their helplessness as such large-scale interventions can only be initiated by the senior management. Hence, a leadership committed to radical reforms with progressive ideas and implementation capacity is needed to resuscitate the performance, credibility and image of our railways. Cosmetic modifications are futile. The foremost issue pertains to political will for extensive restructuring. At present, this appears difficult to achieve as the administration is inclined to auction railway lands. These had been reserved for the operational needs of the system at various locations. The railways are a matter of public debate; civil society should assert that governments must prioritise the transformation of a vital department and encourage private sector participation to innovate and establish a proper regulatory structure to modernise rail travel and transport. -- Courtesy Dawn

## DNA diaries



**Zarrar Khuhro**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# CM highlights unity, determination on Independence Day

**CM Naqvi launches urban-style cleaning initiative for villages**

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

Mohsin Naqvi underscored the nation's bright prospects, despite his own transient presence, and expressed confidence in Pakistan's positive trajectory. Speaking at the main Independence Day ceremony here at Huzuri Bagh, he urged the

government officials, teachers, and doctors to fulfill their duties with integrity and punctuality.

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

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to its duties and emphasized that this responsibility will continue with the incoming government. He envisioned

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

Drawing inspiration from Quaid-i-Azam's emphasis on unity, Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that the nation's progress hinges on collective strength and consensus.



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

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

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

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman while congratulating the entire nation on the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan said that every Pakistani should play his role in the development of the country.

He said that this day reminds us of the immense sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for a separate homeland.

He said that today is the day to renew our pledge to forget mutual differences and get united. He reiterated that the challenges facing the country can be overcome only by promoting unity, mutual tolerance and brotherhood.

Today, we have to reaffirm the commitment that we will live up to the guiding principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Unity, faith and discipline. He also paid tributes to the martyrs of armed forces and security forces who laid down their lives for the sake of the dear homeland.

## Pakistan to be made modern, prosperous country: Faryal Talpur

KARACHI (APP): The Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party Women's Wing Faryal Talpur has said that today is the day of renewal of pledge to make Pakistan a truly modern, prosperous and democratic country.

In her message on the occasion of Independence Day, she congratulated the countrymen on Independence Day and said that freedom was a great blessing, and Pakistan was our identity.

She said that our elders under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah fought a long and historic struggle and made unprecedented sacrifices to

achieve this blessing and recognition.

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



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

## Caretaker CM to be finalized in a day or two: CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori while congratulating the nation on 76th Independence Day, reiterated his commitment to follow the principles of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Talking to media persons at Mazar-e-Quaid on Monday, he said that the country was achieved after many sacrifices.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on the occasion said, "We are celebrating today the 76th Independence Day".

He said that the Caretaker Chief Minister would be finalized in a day or two.

He said that the Caretaker Prime Minister would take the oath of office today.

## Boating facility provided at Canal Park

FAISALABAD (APP): Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) has provided boating facility at Canal Park Samundri Road here on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ali Anan Qamar inaugurated the boating facility and took a round of Canal Park lake in a boat. Speaking on the occasion, he said that boating facility at Canal Park would be a great entertainment for the people while other facilities in this park would be improved very soon.

Director General (DG) PHA Zameer Hussain briefed the deputy commissioner about boating facility and said that it was a gift for the people on 76th Independence Day.



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on the eve of Independence Day visited the Police lines here on Monday to pay tribute to martyrs.

During the visit, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence in their honor.

He also offered Fatiha and prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks.

Accompanying the Chief Minister were Chief Secretary Nadim Islam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, and other officials.

The Chief Minister's visit emphasized the significance of remembering and honoring the sacrifices made by the brave martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom.

The CM conveyed heartfelt felicitations to the entire nation and especially the people of KP.

He emphasized the importance of renewing the commitment to the ideals that led to the creation of Pakistan and highlighted the sacrifices of the Muslims of the subcontinent.

Chief Minister Azam Khan recognized that Pakistan's establishment was the culmination of the immense struggle and sacrifices made by millions

of Muslims, which has resulted in the current era of peace and prosperity.

He acknowledged the monumental debt of gratitude owed to the forefathers and called for sustained efforts to transform Pakistan into a prosperous and developed nation.

Chief Minister Azam Khan expressed that the birth of Pakistan was the result of the sacrifices made by countless Muslims, and it is due to those sacrifices that Pakistan now breathes in an atmosphere of peace.

He underscored the duty of every citizen to play a role in building a progressive and flourishing nation.

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

FAISALABAD (APP): Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) has distributed more than 40,000 plantlets free of cost under "Green flag, lush green Faisalabad" drive.

Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed visited the PHA stall established at Zila Council Chowk here on Monday and appreciated its role for promotion of tree plantation on the 76th Independence Day.

She said that trees were imperative for arrest of environmental pollution

in addition to adding natural beauty on the earth.

She directed the PHA officers to arrange maximum saplings for the free distribution among the general public so that Faisalabad could be converted into a lush green metropolis of the country as early as possible.

Director General (DG) PHA Zameer Hussain, Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Faisalabad Muhammad Zubair Watto and others were also present on the occasion.

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

Toba Tek Singh (APP): One person was killed and another injured on Monday when a parked truck was hit by a maza near Toba Tek Singh.

According to the official source, the truck was parked near Motorway 253 and a Mazda was going from Lahore to Multan.

The parked truck was hit from behind, as a result, truck conductor Jahangir and a man named Abid were seriously injured

## CM Murad performs soft launch of Karachi safe city

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Karachi Safe City Project is not just a collection of surveillance cameras and technological advancements; but it also embodies our collective aspiration for a safer and more secure urban environment.

"With the challenges that a rapidly growing city like Karachi faces, it is our duty to ensure that every citizen must feel safe and secure and this project brings us one step closer to achieving that goal," he said.

The CM said that he was aware of the urgency attached to this project. "The safety and well-being of our citizens cannot wait, and we must remain steadfast in our pursuit of its successful implementation," he said.

"I am honored to launch the much-awaited launch of the safe city project before leaving the charge of this office," he said and added that it was a testament to the foresight and dedication of the Sindh government.

The program was attended by former IT Minister Taimur Talpur, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, MD NRTC Brig Asim Ishaq Chairman P&D, Secretary LG Najam Shah, Home Secretary Aijaz Shah, DG Safe City Authority Asif Aijaz Shaikh, and others.

Mr. Shah said that the Karachi Safe City Project



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arriving to the Mazar-i-Iqbal for laying floral wreath during the celebrations of 76th Independence Day in Provincial Capital.

## Minister celebrates Independence Day with medical professionals

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram participated as a special guest in the Independence Day celebrations being organized at University of Child Health Sciences, Services Institute of Medical Sciences, Fatima Jinnah Medical University, Mayo Hospital and King Edward Medical University, here on Monday.

Dr Javed Akram hoisted the flag and cut celebration cake while male and female students presented 'milli naghmas' and speeches in the best

manner.

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

Vice Chancellors, principals and medical supervisors were also present.

## Independence Day celebration at NESPAK

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

NESPAK's Acting Managing Director Zargham Ishaq Khan started the ceremony by hoisting the national flag while the national anthem echoed in the air.

On the occasion, Acting MD announced NESPAK's record breaking business acquisition in

2023, citing that the company achieved a business of Rs 17 billion, which is 20 percent higher than last year. He disclosed that one of the newly projects was acquired in Saudi Arabia worth Rs. 1.3 billion. It is noteworthy that seven divisions of NESPAK have earned more than Rs one billion, he added.

He assured that the benefit of this development would also be given to the staff in the form of additional salary and bonus. On this occasion, appreciation shields were presented to employees who performed exceptionally well throughout the year.



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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta has urged the tourists to strictly abide by traffic rules to avoid traffic congestion and untoward incidents in Murree.

According to a Commissioner Office spokesman, the Commissioner during a visit on Sunday night reviewed the traffic situation in Murree and visited various roads to observe the traffic load. He also issued necessary instructions to the authorities concerned to regulate traffic.

Traffic was normal on Jhika Gali, Lower Topa and Guldana Road but, there was heavy traffic load at GPO Chowk and Kashmir Point due to Independence Day celebrations.

The Commissioner was informed that traffic was being diverted to other routes by installing diversions at Toll Plaza and Satra Meel.

Entry of more vehicles in Murree had been stopped on Sunday

night as over 14,000 vehicles were present in Murree.

Traffic police and administration were working hard to control heavy traffic load, he added.

The spokesman said that a comprehensive security and traffic plan had been devised by Rawalpindi District Police for Independence Day that includes the deployment of more than 800 personnel during the night of August 13 and 14 as well as the establishment of several checkpoints to control one-wheeling in Murree.

The district and traffic police were implementing special security and traffic plan for Murree to facilitate the tourists coming to the hill station to celebrate Independence Day.

He said, depending upon the crowd and parking situation, the entry of vehicles would be restricted in Murree.

Special police squads had been formed to prevent one-wheeling and maintain traffic in Murree, he said.

## Seven killed, one injured in three different incidents

ATTOCK (APP): Seven persons were killed while one another shot and injured in three different incidents in various parts of Attock, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, in a gloomy incident, five persons belongs to same family were burnt to death on Hazara motorway (M-15) near Jehri Kass interchange on early hours of Monday.

National highway and motorway Police sources said that the fatal family belongs to Bannu were going towards Haripur in their Suzuki van when it catches fire apparently due to short circuit at Kalla Katha range subsequently all on board burnt to death. On getting information, rescue 1122 launched operation and shifted the bodies after extinguishing fire.

In the second two teenage friends drowned in a stream near Jand on Monday. Police and hospital sources while quoting eye witnesses has said that 18 years old Javaid along with his 19 years old friend Ramzan



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

## I-Day celebrate with full enthusiasm in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Like other parts of the country, 76th independence day was celebrated with full enthusiasm across South Punjab including Multan.

The day was started with special prayers into mosques for the progress and prosperity of the country.

The rallies and colourful events were organised in which rich tribute was paid to martyrs and heroes. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held and

national anthem and national songs were played.

The speakers highlighted the importance of trees and urged the participants to plant saplings on their part and nurture it.

The kids also celebrated independence day by wearing colourful dresses related to the day while they also look busy in installing bunting in houses and national flag badges on their dresses.



## Chinese company to help Pak boost edible oil production

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's annual consumption of edible oil is around 5 million tons, but due to the low economic potential of oilseeds in the local market, they are not preferred by the farmers. The country has to import about 89 percent of oil to meet the demand, spending US\$3.6 billion annually.

Pakistan's iron brother, China, also has great demand for edible oil. Last year, China's cooking oil consumption is about 13.44 million tons. China also suffered a short domestic supply of edible

oil until the mid-1950s, when China began to promote brassica napus, also known as victory rapeseed. Brassica napus plants are tall, disease resistant, and more importantly, the yield is very high. The improvement of rapeseed varieties laid the foundation for China to greatly increase rapeseed production.

In recent years, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has made a great breakthrough in breeding new varieties of rapeseed, which have been extended

to some parts of northern China. Rapeseed now realized seasonal rotation with rice, wheat and other staple crops, which maximizes the utilization of arable land. Such Chinese experience and technologies can be a good reference for Pakistan, according to CEN.

Chinese company Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng and a Pakistani company Eyoil Group jointly provide high-quality hybrid rapeseeds to Pakistani farmers. "It took us 10 years to produce a variety that is compatible with the local climate,

produces a good yield and is good for human health," said Ghazanfar Ali, head of marketing in the Eyoil group. "The crop provides an increased profit for the farmers. They can get 1.5 tons of yield out of 2 acres of land, which is over 10 percent more than the yield from other varieties currently available in Pakistan." "This year we sold 11 tons of seeds across Pakistan, which will be cultivated on 20,000 acres, and our target for next year is 100 tons," said Zhou Xusheng, director of the international business department.



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



PTCL group celebrated the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with great zeal and fervor, followed by a flag hoisting ceremony. Management, staff and their families were present during the occasion.

## FTO emphasizes significance of Independence Day, pays tribute to freedom fighters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Monday said that Independence Day represents the culmination of colossal sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters who dreamt of and worked tirelessly for a free and sovereign Pakistan.

Speaking at a function held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank to celebrate "Independence Day", he said it is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the struggles and achievements of our nation and to renew our commitment to its progress and prosperity, said a news release issued here.

He said as we gather together on this auspicious occasion, we are reminded of the sacrifices, struggles, and unwavering determination that led us to the cherished freedom we enjoy today.

He said August 14th

## PTCL, Ufone mark I-Day with week-long company-wide celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunication company, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) marked the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with a week-long celebrations at PTCL Group offices nationwide.

The week-long activities culminated in the main flag hoisting and cake-cutting ceremony, held at PTCL G8 Office in Islamabad said a news release.

The ceremony was attended by top leadership, senior management, employees and their families. The celebration was an employee-driven initiative, featuring cultural days, local cuisines, patriotic movie screenings and much more. The PTCL Group team participated in these activities with great zeal and fervour.

The teams dressed in

marks a significant milestone in our nation's history, a day when we broke free from the shackles of colonial rule and embarked on a journey towards self-governance and sovereignty.

This day is a testament to the unity and resilience of our people, he remarked.

From the countless heroes who laid down their lives for the cause of independence to the collective spirit that drove us to overcome challenges, our nation's story is one of courage, hope, and progress, he added.

He said as we raise our flags high and sing our national anthem with pride, let us remember those who made it possible for us to breathe the air of liberty.

Meher Kashif Younis said Independence Day isn't just a celebration; it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and democracy.

## Tokyo's Nikkei open lower after New York ends mixed

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo's blue chip shares opened lower Monday after falls of US tech stocks although the dollar's strength provided support for Japanese exporters.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.14 percent, or 44.51 points, to 32,429.14 in early trade, while the broader Topix index edged up 0.08 percent, or 1.93 points, to 2,305.44.

The Tokyo market was seen coming under pressure after the Nasdaq lost 0.6 percent Friday, while the Dow ended up 0.3 percent.

After the US markets without a clear sense of direction, the Tokyo market "was seen to start in a narrow band," brokerage Monex said in a note.

"A key now is whether the Nikkei average can test 32,500 by using the cheap yen and other supporting factors," it said.

The yen on Monday morning hit its weakest level against the dollar since November. The US currency was trading at 145.10 yen, up from 144.93 yen seen Friday in New York.

## China to host major services trade fair in Sept.

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): This year's edition of the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), one of the world's largest and most comprehensive fairs for trade in services, is scheduled to take place in Beijing from Sept. 2 to 6.

According to the press conference held on Sunday, the fair will be held in the China National Convention Center and Shougang Park, covering an exhibition area of 155,000 square meters.

Themed "openness leads development, cooperation creates a win-win future," the 2023 CIFTIS is expected to see 202 varied events including forums, negotiations, and summits.

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

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Addressing the flag hoisting ceremony to mark the 76th Independence Day at State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) headquarter at Karachi, Governor SBP, Mr. Jameel Ahmad paid rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions who despite adversities, led the freedom struggle and won an independent state for Muslims of subcontinent. He recalled the hostile circumstances the nascent state of Pakistan endured during its initial days and how it made to rely on others in order to perform financial and banking activities. These unfavorable circumstances eventually culminated in the establishment of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for economic independence of the country.

The ceremony, attended by the senior

management of the Bank and a large number of SBP officials along with their families, commenced with the hoisting of National Flag by the Governor SBP amid playing of the national anthem by a band of Pakistan Navy. A smartly turned out contingent of the Internal Bank Security Department (IBSD) presented the Governor the Guard of Honor. A choir consisting of students from the Garage School of Karachi presented heartwarming national songs, which were highly appreciated by the audience. Mr. Jameel Ahmad also planted a tree to commemorate the Independence Day of the country.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Mr. Jameel Ahmad recounted the extraordinary achievements of the central bank during the last 76 years.

## LCCI celebrates 76th Independence Day, hoists national flag

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) reverberated with patriotic zeal as the national flag soared high on its mast, commemorating the 76th anniversary of Pakistan's emergence as an independent and sovereign nation.

To the harmonious strains of the national anthem, LCCI Acting President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, along with Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President SAARC Chambers Mian Anjum Nisar, former presidents Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Ali Mian, Chairman PIAF Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol, LCCI former office-bearers,

Executive Committee members, market leaders and representatives of associations ceremoniously raised the flag before an exuberant assembly here at the LCCI building on Monday. The event commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran.

The LCCI acting president extended heartfelt felicitations to the entire nation on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan's 76th Independence Day.

While celebrating the momentous day, he paid tribute to the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, underscoring his pivotal role in shaping the destiny of Pakistan.

## Asian markets fall on China property woes

HONG KONG (APP): Asian markets posted sharp losses in Monday trade, after falls in US tech stocks and as concerns over China's property sector weighed on sentiment.

Leading the losers in Hong Kong—where shares were down nearly two percent—was developer Country Garden, after it missed bond payments and warned of multibillion-dollar losses, deepening concerns over the nation's heavily indebted real estate sector.

Its shares were down more than 17 percent as of 3:00 pm (0700 GMT). Country Garden is a

privately owned real estate giant named in Forbes' list of the 500 largest companies in the world. Its boss, Yang Huiyan, was until recently one of the richest women in Asia.

The firm has long been deemed financially solid but was unable last Monday to make two bond payments, and after a 30-day grace period the company risks defaulting in September if it still cannot pay. Like its heavily indebted competitor Evergrande, any collapse of Country Garden would have catastrophic repercussions for the Chinese financial system and economy.

## UAE's Blue Carbon signs MoU with Zimbabwe to develop carbon projects on 7.5 million hectares

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a landmark development for climate action and community empowerment, Blue Carbon and the Government of Zimbabwe have joined forces through a momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing carbon projects and sustainable initiatives in the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector on 7.5 million hectares of land under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

Under this historic partnership, Blue Carbon and the Government of Zimbabwe are embarking on a transformative endeavor dedicated to the advancement of

environmental conservation, the well-being of local communities, and the stimulation of economic growth. This visionary partnership is poised to create a lasting impact on a massive scale, as the combined efforts of both entities converge to facilitate pioneering conservation initiatives. Spanning across an impressive expanse of 7.5 million hectares within Zimbabwe, this initiative holds the potential to effect profound positive changes. Blue Carbon is a Dubai based company under the patronage of the Member of Dubai Ruling Family Sheikh Ahmed Dalmooh Al Maktoum, where the capital received from carbon credits will be used.

Beyond the immediate goal of carbon emissions reduction, the heart of these carbon projects pulsates with the intent to bring about tangible improvements at the grassroots level. The project's blueprint extends beyond the mere realm of environmental betterment, extending its reach to encompass the holistic welfare of local communities. One of the standout features of this collaboration is the establishment of the Community Welfare Programs, where the capital received from carbon credits will be used.

assets, nature-based solutions and register carbon projects under eligible methodologies.

Beyond the immediate goal of carbon emissions reduction, the heart of these carbon projects pulsates with the intent to bring about tangible improvements at the grassroots level. The project's blueprint extends beyond the mere realm of environmental betterment, extending its reach to encompass the holistic welfare of local communities. One of the standout features of this collaboration is the establishment of the Community Welfare Programs, where the capital received from carbon credits will be used.

## SCCI holds flag-hoisting ceremony

SIALKOT (APP): Leading exporters hosted a national flag-hoisting ceremony at the lawns of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Monday in connection with Pakistan's 76th Independence Day celebrations.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik hoisted the national flag besides cutting a special cake to rejoice the celebrations at a special ceremony, held at the SCCI auditorium. He highlighted the Pakistan Movement and paid tribute to national heroes over their struggle and role in getting an independent state in the shape of Pakistan for the Muslims of the Indo-Pak Subcontinent, a Pakistan as envisaged by Poet of The East Allama Iqbal.

The LCCI building was illuminated.

SCCI Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh.

## Malik congratulates Kakar on becoming interim PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Monday extended warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to Anwar Ull Haq Kakar on assuming the coveted office of the prime minister.

Iftikhar Ali said, by upholding the principles of fairness and impartiality, he will undoubtedly foster a stronger sense of trust in our democracy and empower the electorate to actively participate in shaping the future of our nation, said a news release issued here.

He said his vision for a just and prosperous Pakistan combined with his determination to conduct elections with integrity and revitalizing the economy, instills confidence in the hearts of every citizen.

He said his journey to

this pinnacle of leadership is a testament to his dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our great nation.

He said I am confident that his leadership will guide us towards innovative strategies that invigorate industries, generate employment opportunities, and establish an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and investment. He said by placing the revival of our economy at the forefront of his priorities, he will be demonstrating his firm commitment to uplifting the living standards of the people. He hoped as PM embarks on this remarkable journey, his emphasis should be on two crucial pillars of governance includes the conduct of fair.



Lahore: Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Regional Chairman FPCCI and Mian Anjum Nisar, Vice President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry cutting the cake on the eve of 76th Independence Day.

## Bajaur turns olive green with locals adopting this profitable business

BAJAUR (APP): Together with abundance of minerals, gemstones reservoirs and scenic natural beauty, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's seven merged tribal districts especially Bajaur and Waziristan are most suited for olive farming due to their compatible soil, climate condition and ecological diversity.

Once became aware of the potential of their fertile land, the hardworking tribal people's response to this profitable olive farming business have turned Bajaur green.

Thousands of olive trees planted in plains and mountains of seven tehsils of Bajaur district on Mohmand-Bajaur road as well as lush green olive valleys of Talash at Dir

Lower catch attention of visitors once they pass through these areas.

From Barang to Khar and Nawagai to Chamarkand tehsils of Bajaur, the locals with active support of KP agriculture and forest departments have planted olive trees in abundance whose yields are contributing greatly to their wellbeing.

Sharifullah Bacha (64), a progressive farmer from Salazarai tehsil, has hired extra labourers to plant the available olive stock on his eight-acre land during monsoon season. "I have planted 5,000 olive plants in spring season this year and would plant another 5000 saplings during current monsoon

through Ashar Bajanation," he said.

Hoping for monsoon rains in the mountainous region for his new plants, Bacha said, "provision of ample water for these plants is must, without which farmers can suffer great financial losses."

Ziaul Islam Dawar, Director Agriculture Extension Bajaur said under KP government's olive promotion project, grafting in over 250,000 wild olive trees was achieved while olive orchards on 150 acres were successfully raised in Bajaur.

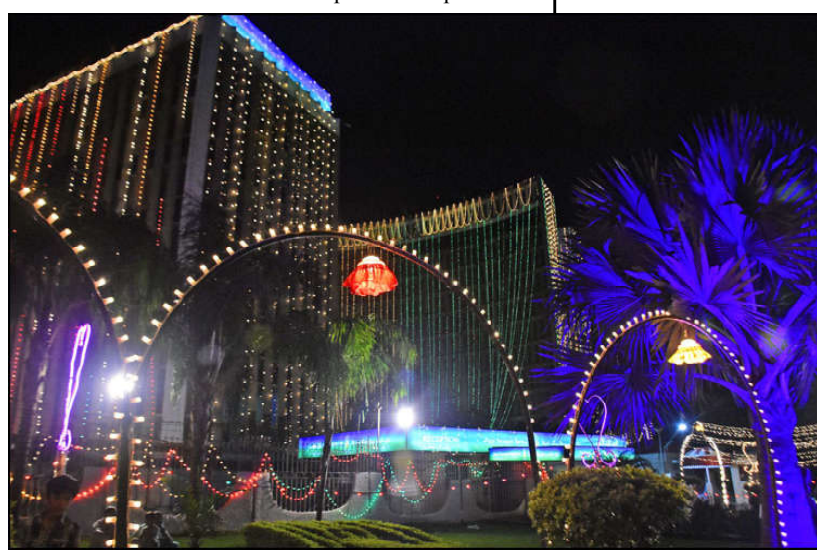
Ahmad Said, former Project In-charge, Promotion of Olive Trees Cultivation on Commercial Scale (POTCCS) Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa told APP that the entire Malakand division including Bajaur and Dir districts, merged areas' South Waziristan, Orakzai and Khyber tribal districts were most suited for olive cultivation.

He said around 4.4 million hectares land in KP, Punjab, Balochistan and erstwhile Fata were suited for olive cultivation.

Talking to APP, Ahmad said Spain was producing about 45 percent of the total world's edible oil from olive cultivation on 2.6 million hectares, while Pakistan despite having a vast suitable area of 4.4 million hectares for olive farming was importing around 75 percent edible oil to cater its domestic needs.

When asked about measures needed to enhance olive production, Ahmad said the first olive promotional project funded by the Italian government was launched on June 1, 2012 under which olive cultivation on over 1,500 hectares were achieved. Later, this project worth Rs 3.82 billion was handed over to Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) after devolution of Pakistan Oil Development Board (PODB) on February 12, 2012, which was later completed on June 30, 2015, he added. The federal government in order to capitalize on the good work of the Italian-funded project launched Promotion of Olive Trees.



ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the ZTBL building illuminated with colorful lights during the celebrations of 76th Independence Day in Federal Capital.



## North Korea's Kim orders sharp increase in missile production, days before US-South Korea drills

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un again toured major munitions factories and ordered a drastic increase in production of missiles and other weapons, state media said Monday, as the South Korean and U.S. militaries announced they will begin major drills next week to hone their joint capability against the North's evolving nuclear threats.

Kim's push to produce more weapons also comes as U.S. officials believe Russia's defense minister recently talked with North Korea about selling more weapons to Russia for its war with Ukraine. The Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited factories producing tactical missiles, mobile launch platforms, armored vehicles

and artillery shells on Friday and Saturday. He visited a spate of other munitions factories in early August.

During a stop at the missile factory, Kim set a goal to "drastically boost" production capacity so the facility can mass produce missiles to meet the needs of front-line military units, KCNA said.

"The qualitative level of war preparations depends on the development of the munitions industry and the factory bears a very important responsibility in speeding up the war preparations of the (North) Korean People's Army," Kim said, according to the report. Visiting other factories, Kim called for building more modern missile launch trucks and said there is an urgent need to boost

production of large-caliber multiple rocket launcher shells "at an exponential rate," the report said. Kim also drove a new utility combat armored vehicle, KCNA said.

Kim has been focusing on enlarging his nuclear and missile arsenals since his high-stakes diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. Since the start of 2022, Kim's military has conducted more than 100 missile tests, many of them in the name of warning the U.S. and South Korea over their expansion of joint military training exercises. Many experts say Kim eventually aims to use his modernized weapons arsenals to wrest U.S. concessions, such as sanctions relief, whenever diplomacy resumes with Washington.



Hawaii's Governor Josh Green looks on as Maui County mayor Richard Bissen speaks about the Maui fire during a media conference in Kahului on Maui island, Hawaii, U.S.

## Egypt, Jordan and Palestinian president slam Israel, say it's fueling violence against Palestinians

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: The leaders of Egypt and Jordan, and the Palestinian president on Monday slammed Israel, saying it was fueling chaos and violence in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank as bloodshed surges between Israel and Palestinians.

The condemnation came at the end of a three-way summit in the northern Egyptian city of el-Alamein that brought together Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The three accused Israel of a number of violations against Palestinians, including what they said were incursions by Israeli soldiers at a contested holy site in east Jerusalem and illegally withholding Palestinian money.

The site, known to

Jews as the Temple Mount, is the holiest site in Judaism. Today, it is home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam. The competing claims lie at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel's government did not immediately respond to the statement from the summit.

The past months have seen one of the deadliest periods in years in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. More than 160 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire this year in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Palestinians have killed 29 people on the Israeli side during that time.

Israel's new ultra-nationalist government, formed last December, has adopted a hard-line approach to the Palestinians.

## Iran arrests 8 'foreigners' after fatal shooting at Shia shrine

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iranian security forces have arrested eight foreign suspects after detaining a gunman in the killing of one person at a Shia Muslim shrine, state media reported on Monday.

The attack came less than a year after a mass shooting at the same holy site, the Shah Cheragh mausoleum in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province in Iran's south.

"Eight people suspected of links with the terrorist attack... have been arrested," according to the judiciary's Mizan Online website, quoting Fars province chief justice Kazem Mousavi.

"All the people arrested are foreigners," Mousavi said, without elaborating. The eight are in addition to the main suspect arrested on Sunday night after the attack.

## Chinese defence minister Li Shangfu to visit Russia, Belarus this week

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu is all set to visit Russia and Belarus this week, an online statement issued by the Chinese defence ministry Monday confirmed.

Relations between Beijing and Moscow have remained friendly ever since China declined to criticize Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has been denounced by the world community.

"At the invitation of Russian Defence Minister (Sergei) Shoigu and Belarusian Defence Minister (Viktor) Khrenin, from August 14 to 19, State Councillor and Defence Minister Li Shangfu will go to Russia to attend the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security, and visit Belarus", a Chinese defence ministry spokes-

person said.

Li's visit to Russia will also involve discussions with the heads of the defence ministries of Russia and other nations, as well as a speech at the international security forum, the spokesperson added.

Vladimir Putin's adviser said last month that the Russian leader intended to visit China in October. Moreover, President Xi Jinping announced that the two nations' relations were entering a new era during a state visit to Moscow in March. Frequently praising their "no limits" alliance and cooperation in the economic and military domains, China and Russia are strategic friends. After Russia started its military campaign in Ukraine in February of last year and due to the ensuing Western economic sanctions.

## German FM temporarily halts Australia trip due to plane issues

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock was forced to temporarily halt a trip to Australia on Monday due to mechanical issues with her plane, according to a ministry spokesperson.

The government plane was forced to return to Abu Dhabi for safety reasons after a technical malfunction with the wing flaps, said the spokesperson on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The German Air Force said its crew was working to ensure Baerbock can continue her trip, which also includes stops in New Zealand and Fiji, and would issue more information when the Airbus A340 was ready to go. Baerbock was stranded in Doha in May after problems with the tyres on the plane she was travelling on.



A security personnel carries the belongings of a villager from the site of a landslide after heavy rains at Jadon village in Solan district of India's Himachal Pradesh state.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy awards a Ukrainian service member as he visits a frontline, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near the city of Solodar in Donetsk region, Ukraine.

## Palestinian gunmen say they're fighting for Jenin, not foreign backers

**Monitoring Desk**  
JENIN: Sitting in a bullet-scarred building in the city of Jenin, two fighters from Islamic Jihad - a militant group funded by Iran - celebrated what they said was a victory for Palestinians over the biggest Israeli operation in the West Bank in decades.

Israeli commanders said the two-day incursion in Jenin last month succeeded in seizing weapons and smashing infrastructure used by fighters funded by Iran, who use a crowded refugee camp - where thou-

sands live packed into an area of less than half a square kilometre - as a base to attack and kill Israelis.

Israel's National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said on Aug. 7 that Iran was trying to "draw a ring around our neck" through militant groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas in the West Bank and its proxy Hezbollah in neighbouring Lebanon.

While the fighters make no secret of the fact money comes from Iran, for them, the battle is a local

one, fuelled by anger over the Israeli occupation, and they show no interest in the broader geopolitical issues, according to dozens of conversations with fighters and sympathisers in Jenin.

"We are sons of the Islamic Jihad fighters, who identified himself as Abu Salah. A thin, bearded 36-year-old, dressed in black athletic gear and trainers, he said fighters felt they had no alternative. "We are surrounded and we are under siege. We have no choice but to fight."

## At least 41 killed in Indian Himalayas as rain triggers landslides

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Torrential rain in India's Himalayas triggered landslides over the weekend that have killed at least 41 people, with over a dozen trapped or missing, officials said on Monday. Unusually heavy rain and melting glaciers have brought deadly flash floods to the mountains of India and neighbouring Pakistan and Nepal over the past year or two, with government officials increasingly blaming climate change.

Television footage from India's Himachal Pradesh state showed houses flattened by landslides, buses and cars hanging on the edge of precipices after roads gave way, and

hundreds of people at rescue sites as emergency workers struggled to clear debris. "Again, tragedy has befallen Himachal Pradesh, with continuous rainfall over the past 48 hours," the state's chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, said in a post on the messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Reports of cloud-bursts and landslides have emerged from various parts of the state resulting in loss of precious lives and property." At least 41 people have died in rain-related incidents since Sunday and 13 were still missing, according to a report by the state disaster management department, seen by Reuters.

## Russia to equip new nuclear submarines with hypersonic missiles

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia is in the process of equipping its new nuclear submarines with hypersonic Zircon missiles, the head of Russia's largest shipbuilder told the RIA state news agency in an interview published on Monday.

"Multi-purpose nuclear submarines of the Yasen-M project will... be equipped with the Zircon missile system on a regular basis," Alexei Rakhmanov, chief executive officer of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), told RIA.

"Work in this direction is already underway."



Taiwan's Vice President William Lai waves while attending a luncheon in New York City, New York, U.S.

## Anger grows as Hawaii fire death toll nears 100

**Monitoring Desk**  
LAHAINA: The death toll in Hawaii from the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century was expected to cross the 100-mark on Sunday, fuelling criticism that an inadequate official response contributed to the heavy loss of life.

Officials updated the toll to 93 late on 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 epicentre of Lahaina.

The historic coastal town on the island of Maui was almost completely de-

stroyed by the fast-moving inferno early on Wednesday morning, with survivors saying there had been no warnings.

When asked on Sunday why none of the island's sirens had been activated, Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono said she would wait for the results of an investigation announced by the state's attorney general.

"I'm not going to make any excuses for this tragedy," Hirono, a Democrat, told CNN's "State of the Union." "We are really focused, as far as I'm concerned, on the need for rescue, and, sadly, the location of more bodies."

## Indonesia disaster agency warns of drought in Java, Bali amid El Niño

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia is expecting a longer dry season, lasting until October, due to the El Niño weather pattern, threatening clean water supply and increasing the risk of forest fires, the country's disaster agency said on Monday.

Indonesia's weather agency has pushed back its forecast for the peak of the dry season due to El Niño's impact to September and October, compared with its previous estimate of August to September, Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for the disaster agency BNPB,

told an online media briefing. This has the potential to exacerbate drought in islands below the equator in the archipelago, which include Java - home to over 150 million people, as well as Bali and Nusa Tenggara.

"It has been two months of dry weather in Java and it's worrying because the extreme impact of El Niño will last until October," Abdul said, warning that water levels at a reservoir near Jakarta have significantly dropped.

## At least 3 killed, 7 wounded in blast at hotel in Afghanistan's Khost

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: At least three people were killed and seven wounded on Monday in an explosion at a hotel in southeast Afghanistan's Khost province, the province's media office said.

The cause of the blast was not immediately clear though the region, near the border with Pakistan, has long been plagued by violence between militants and their enemies.

The Khost media office said people originally from Pakistan's Waziristan region, which is just over the border and where for years various militant groups have operated, were among the casualties.

Pakistan's foreign office did not immediately respond to a request for

comment. Afghanistan's Taliban-run administration has faced an insurgency by militant group Islamic State terrorists, who have claimed a series of deadly attacks targeting civilians, foreigners and Taliban security forces in recent months.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has seen an increase in violence by Pakistani Taliban militants fighting the state, and it has complained that Afghanistan's Taliban are not doing enough to suppress the militants based on their soil.

The Taliban have said they are focused on securing Afghanistan and have carried out several raids against IS cells in recent months.



Christian Zurita and Andrea Gonzalez attend a press conference at a hotel, wearing police vests, after the political party of slain Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio picked Gonzalez, the vice-presidential running mate, to replace him as the party standard-bearer, in Quito, Ecuador.

## US, Japan to jointly develop hypersonic missile intercept systems

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan and the United States will jointly develop new missile systems to intercept hypersonic projectiles currently being developed by China, Russia, and North Korea, Japanese newspaper Yomiuri reported on Aug. 13. The agreement is set to be announced at the trilateral summit between the leaders of Japan, the U.S., and South Korea on Aug. 18.

The cooperation is aimed at strengthening the capabilities of both countries to counter potential threats and will represent the second joint missile development between Japan and the United States, following the completion of the Standard Missile-3 Block 2A in 2017, Yomiuri reported.

Prime Minister Fumio

Kishida and U.S. President Joe Biden are expected to hold separate talks before the summit, which could affect the details of the deal's announcement.

Hypersonic missiles are capable of reaching speeds five times higher than the speed of sound (Mach 5), and follow irregular trajectories at low altitudes, making it difficult to detect and track with existing radars.

To successfully intercept hypersonic missiles, it is important to have the ability to detect and track missiles at an early stage, Yomiuri stated.

This is confirmed by practical experience in Ukraine, where Russian hypersonic missiles have been successfully intercepted by the Patriot missile system.

## Taiwan will not back down to threats, Taiwan VP says on US trip

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan will not be afraid nor back down in the face of authoritarian threats, the island's vice president told supporters on a U.S. visit that Beijing has condemned, while reiterating a willingness to talk to China.

William Lai, also frontrunner to be Taiwan's next president at January elections, is in the United States on what is officially a transit stop on his way to Paraguay for the inauguration of its new president. Paraguay is one of only 13 countries to maintain formal ties with the Chinese-claimed island.

Taiwan and the United States both say the stop-

overs, including one in San Francisco on the way back, are routine, but China has denounced them and called Lai a separatist "troublemaker".

Lai told a supporters lunch in New York on Sunday that "if Taiwan is safe, the world is safe, if the Taiwan Strait is peaceful, then the world is peaceful", according to Taiwan's presidential office.

"No matter how great the threat of authoritarianism is to Taiwan, we absolutely will not be scared nor cower, we will uphold the values of democracy and freedom," he said.

## Indonesia to start random emission tests as poor air chokes Jakarta

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's capital will force drivers to undergo emission tests and consider ordering half of its civil servants to work from home, officials said on Monday, amid deteriorating air quality that has made Jakarta one of the world's most polluted cities.

Jakarta has been consistently ranked among the 10 most polluted cities globally since May and last week topped global rankings compiled by Swiss air quality technology company IQAir. On Monday, Jakarta ranked second.

The government has blamed the problem largely on industry and excessive road traffic but environmental groups point to a coal-fired power plant as the cause, which authorities reject. The government announced on Monday it would carry out random checks on vehicles and

force drivers to undergo emission tests. It will consider fines for those who fail and license revocation for repeat offenders.

It will also require emission tests to be part of the process of obtaining a vehicle registration license. It did not say when the measures would be introduced or how they would be enforced.

"We will start in Jakarta and when it gets better, we will expand it to greater Jakarta," environment minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar told a press conference.

Other measures under consideration include requiring cars with 2,400 cc engine capacity and above to use 98-octane fuel, and requiring each vehicle to be carrying four people.

Jakarta residents, which number well over 10 million, have long complained of poor air.



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

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

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

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

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

Paying eulogizing tributes to the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and

other founding leaders of the Pakistan movement, the PM said that Quaid-e-Azam organized the Muslim League on the basis of a two-nation theory and united all the Muslims of the subcontinent under one flag.

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

and the British empire.

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

The observance of Pakistan's independence day on both sides of the line of control (LOC), he said, ignites the passion of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and rekindles their hope that the sacrifices made by them in the ongoing freedom struggle would never go in vain.



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



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

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

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

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

"Freedom is never free," Ambassador Akram said, pointing out that "our founding fathers faced vig-

orous opposition and secured Pakistan through determination, resolve, wisdom and democratic struggle.

"Hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters sacrificed their lives just to reach their promised homeland; to fulfill their dream of nationhood and liberty. We must never forget their heroism; their ideals; and their sacrifice."

"Today, as we celebrate our independence, we stand firmly with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their struggle for right to self-determination and

freedom," the Pakistani envoy added.

As a resilient nation, he said, Pakistanis overcame security and economic challenges with strength and fortitude, as manifested in the nation's response to the massive floods of 2022.

"Our Quaid prescribed the principles of unity, faith and discipline as the cornerstones of nation-building. We must work day and night to realize the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam and make our society humane, inclusive, and tolerant for all," Ambassador Akram said.

## PYPM cut cake on I-Day in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Central Chairman of Pakistan Youth Peace Movement (PYPM) Arbab Nasir Haider Kasi on Monday said that August 14 reminded us to follow the decrees and principles of the Quaid-e-Azam and to live with hard work and honesty.

He expressed these views while addressing the ceremony organized on the occasion of Pakistan's 76th Independence Day at the Central Secretariat of PYPM.

Pakistan's independence cake was also cut on this occasion.

Arbab Nasir said, "During the establishment of Pakistan, the promises

made by our relatives while making sacrifices, we have renewed our commitment to take Pakistan forward with the same spirit."

"Pakistan is the fort of the Islamic world and the hope of the entire Islamic world, we have to make Pakistan stronger and stronger and to eliminate terrorism and corruption from the country," he said.

He said that we would not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the survival and security of Pakistan saying that Pakistan was achieved after endless sacrifices and we have to take practical steps to achieve the goal for which Pakistan was established.



QUETTA: Quetta Administrator, Jabbar Baloch along with others cutting cake during a ceremony on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan, in Quetta.

## Freedom is great blessing, its protection collective task: DC Duki

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Duki Mehran Baloch on Monday said that freedom is a great blessing and its protection is our collective and national responsibility.

The value and price of freedom should be asked from the Muslims of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine who are victims of oppression by India and Israel, the young generation should remember that if today we are breathing in a free country, it is because of those martyrs who had sacrificed their precious lives for our future, he added.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony of hoisting nation flag in Duki to celebrate the 76th Independence Day. The district officer was also present on this occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner said that while celebrating the independence, we should pledge that we would make every possible effort for the development of Pakistan.

The integrity of the beloved country will never be compromised and when the time comes, the Pakistan Army, Police and law enforcement agencies will stand side by side, he mentioned. He said that we would not hesitate to make any sacrifice for our country because the blood of millions of martyrs is included in the foundations of Pakistan and Muslims made countless sacrifices for an independent state. He said that history is a witness even when the train from India reached Lahore full of dead bodies of Muslims.

## 76th I-Day of Pakistan celebrated in New Delhi

ISLAMABAD (APP): High Commission for Pakistan, New Delhi celebrated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan with national zeal and patriotic spirit on Monday.

Aizaz Khan, Chargé d'Affaires, hoisted the national flag on the occasion.

Officers and staff of the High Commission along with their families were present. Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out to the audience. The Charge d'Affaires in his remarks paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and other leaders of

the freedom struggle, who carved out a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent, where they could live in accordance with their own values and traditions. He stated that supreme sacrifices rendered by our founding fathers could not be forgotten. "We can achieve new heights of greatness and prosperity for our country if we remain united as a nation and focus our efforts towards economic progress and social justice," he added. Recounting the great sacrifices of the armed forces of Pakistan in the defense of the motherland, the Cd'A paid homage to the brave sons of soil.

## 2 local tourists dead, one injured in road accident at Domiara

INDEPENDENT REPORT  
QUETTA: Two local tourists died and another injured when a vehicle carrying them overturned and fell in a ditch at the tourist site located between Ziarat and Hamal on Monday afternoon.

According to reports reaching here, a vehicle on way to tourist place Domiara carrying three persons when it overturned and fell in a ditch along the road. As a result, two of them died on the spot while another got injured.

The area levies and administration reached the spot and shifted bodies of deceased and injured persons to the District Headquarter Hospital Ziarat.

According to the reports, the deceased and injured persons, all belonged to Gulistan area of Killa Abdullah, came to Domiara on picnic. The dead were identified as Mohibullah and Muhammad Usama.



GWADAR: Local fisherman participated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan boat rally arranged by Pakistan Navy at Gwadar.

## Envoy Masood vows to continue work for Pakistan's prosperity

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has reaffirmed resolve to continue work towards crafting a bright future and destiny of the people of Pakistan. In his message on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan, he said Pakistan is aware of the external threats being faced by the country and will eliminate them. He said that Pakistan is a dream for hundreds of millions of Muslims of South Asia. He said Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, gave the country concrete form and substance. He paid tribute to Father of the Nation, his comrades and followers for making this dream, this miracle a reality. He said Pakistan has an ideology, a vision and a destiny and gives us identity.

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

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

The Ambassador further said that Pakistan's forthcoming electoral processes would usher in an era of political resilience and economic viability. Masood Khan expressed also gratitude to the US Government, Congress and the American people for their support for stronger bilateral relations and for standing by Islamabad during last year's devastating floods. He was particularly grateful to Secretary Blinken for his message of solidarity and friendship on our Independence Day. Talking about Pakistani-Americans, he said their numbers have grown and they have become more prosperous and politically savvy.



HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed located near Hub River Road in Hub.

## Kakar country's 8th caretaker PM since 1990

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

President took over office as 2nd caretaker prime minister on April 18, 1993, and held the office only for one month and eight days as Supreme Court overturned Presidential order and restored Nawaz Sharif's government.

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

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

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

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

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

## Iranian envoy felicitates Pakistan on I-Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam has congratulated the government and nation of Pakistan on the 76th Independence Day.

In a message on the eve of the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan, he said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt felicitations to the government and honourable nation of Pakistan."



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazam Muhammad Baloch hoisting flag on occasion of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan.

## China greets Anwaar Kakar as Caretaker PM

BEIJING (APP): China on Monday congratulated Anwaar ul Haq Kakar on his nomination as the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, according to a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson here.

China congratulates on his (Anwaar ul Haq) nomination as Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister, Wang Wenbin said during his briefing while responding to a question asked by APP.

No matter how the international and Pakistan's domestic landscapes evolve, our relationship will be ironclad, he added.

## Pak HC London celebrates 76th Independence Day

LONDON (APP): The Pakistan High Commission in London marked Pakistan's 76th Independence Day with a dignified flag hoisting ceremony on Monday.

## PTI takes out rally to celebrate I-Day in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial leader Hamza Khan Nasir led a rally on Monday from Quetta Airport Road to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. The participants of the rally reached at Manan Chowk after marching different routes including Airport Road, Samnguli Road, Zarghun Road, Insoombe Road and carried Pakistani flags and placards.

PTI's Provincial leader Hamza Khan Nasir, addressing the participants of the rally and said that freedom is a blessing and we should appreciate it, its protection and development is now our responsibility.

In order to assume the position, we have to forget all our sub-group and differences and rise above all