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Gwadar

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Grand Jashne Azadi ceremony at Bugti stadium: CM Bugti invites all angry people for negotiations

Says "come your state guarantees you the bright future, leave the weapons and come down from the mountains, the state would embrace you"; Vows to take revenge of every single drop of blood of martyrs; Directs to ACS Home to submit detailed report about the Mastung incident; seeks report about implementation on existing SOPs during movement of officers; asserts we would not take breathe without getting terrorists till their logical end

Independent Report

on Tuesday. The prominent personalities present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Ishaq Dar, Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister, Jam Kamal, Governor sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Corps Commander Lt General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan, provincial ministers and other high ups.

A large number of people gathered at the spacious stadium to witness the ceremony. The Chief Minister said while addressing the grand ceremony held marking the 77th Independence Day here at the Bugti stadium

pleasure that we are celebrating our Jashne Azadi. He said that we have to make pledge on this day that we would make the country stronger and stronger. The Chief Minister highlighted different initiatives taken by the government for uplift of different sectors and wellbeing of the people. He said that youth of the province are being kept away from the state under an organized conspiracy. He also said that attempts being made to weaken the province through negative propaganda on the social media.

He said that he had also recommended conferment of Hilal-i-Imtiaz award upon Arshad Nadeem. The prime minister said that it was a moment of immense pride to host



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar being briefed by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan regarding law and order situation and ongoing development projects in Balochistan

PM Shehbaz reaffirms commitment to building a strong, prosperous Pakistan

Cabinet approves enhancement in Privatization Commission Board members' strength

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed his strong commitment to transform Pakistan into a prosperous and robust nation through the collective efforts of all segments of society, working together

as a united team.

In his opening remarks at the federal cabinet meeting, he expressed his deep belief that teamwork is essential for achieving success. He emphasized the importance of learning from past mistakes and moving forward with re-

lentless day-and-night efforts to build the nation envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

This year on Independence Day, he said, the entire nation will reaffirm its commitment to work tirelessly for the country's progress.

All stakeholders to be taken on board for resolving issues of province: Balochistan close to heart of PM and federal govt, measures to be taken to address issues: Ishaq Dar

Chief Minister says strong relation of trust can be established between state & general public, reforms being brought for improving governance being top priority of provincial government

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has stated that Balochistan is close to the heart of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and the federal government and as such steps would be taken to resolve the issues being faced by the province and its people. He said that it is necessary that Balochistan gets its genuine rights. He said that economic situation of the country is surely hard but it is not disappointing. He said that the future of Pakistan is bright and this country

has come into being for ever. The Deputy Prime Minister was presiding over the meeting about the law and order situation and development projects in Balochistan here at the Chief Minister secretariat on Tuesday. Also present in the meeting were the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Muhammad Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Federal Minister for Trade, Jam Kamal Khan, Member National Assembly, Mir Ejaz Jhakrani, provincial ministers and other senior high ups.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail receiving Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq upon arriving at Quetta Airport

We have to realize new generation about great sacrifices of our elders for independence, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that there is a need to remind and realize the new generation that our elders had rendered great sacrifices for the independence of Pakistan.

In an official message issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said that we are celebrating 77th anniversary of Pakistan on this 14th August.

He said that we are actually remembering numerous sacrifices rendered for acquiring the freedom of Indo-Pak subcontinent, we are enjoying with.

The Governor said that

we pay tributes to the sacrifices, hardships and struggle of our forefathers while celebrating the Independence day with pride.

However, we need to realize the new generation about the sacrifices rendered by our elders in freedom of our country.

He mentioned that our forefathers have been in forefront in strengthening the All India Muslim League.

He said that freedom is a great blessing, and it is our responsibility to maintain it.

He stressed that let's unite for celebrating our freedom, unity and unwavering spirit of Pakistan.

PM announces cash price of Rs150m for Arshad Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced a cash award of Rs150 million (15 crore) to Olympian and gold medal-

ist Arshad Nadeem besides, a number of other initiatives to recognize his historic feat in javelin throw competition of Paris Olympics 2024.



Addressing a special ceremony held at the PM Office and televised on TV channels, the prime minister said that the road between F-9 and F-10 sectors of Islamabad would be renamed as 'Arshad Nadeem road', besides Arshad Nadeem High Performance Academy would be established at Jinnah Stadium to groom the young talent for the upcoming 2028 Olympics.

The prime minister announced establishment of Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund with Rs1 billion to support the players whereas a committee would be set up to give recommendations for the promotion of sports in the country.

On the occasion, the prime minister also announced an award of Rs10 million (1 crore) for Salman Iqbal Butt, Arshad's coach.

He said that he had also recommended conferment of Hilal-i-Imtiaz award upon Arshad Nadeem. The prime minister said that it was a moment of immense pride to host

the nation's hero Arshad Nadeem who had won the gold medal in Paris Olympics after a gap of 40 years, on the basis of his hard work.

The entire nation thanked him as his success had doubled the celebrations of the Independence Day, he said, adding Arshad Nadeem, with his javelin throw, had also set a new Olympics record.

The prime minister opined that his achievement had set the morale of entire nation very high and gave a message that one should not be bogged down before problems and challenges but face them with courage and determination.

"The precedent you set in Paris is a beacon for us all. Your success came at a time when the preparations for the Independence Day are in full swing. Your precedent has given us courage. The Himalayan-like challenges will be surpassed and we will transform Pakistan into a great country," he added.

President strongly condemns attack on Panjur DC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on the Deputy Commissioner of Panjur Zakir Baloch in the Mastung district of Balochistan. The president expressed his deep grief over the martyrdom of the deputy commissioner in the attack.

Conveying condolence to the bereaved family of Zakir Baloch, he prayed to Allah Almighty to grant them strength to bear the loss and also for the elevation of the martyred soul's ranks in paradise.

Opposition evolves plan to give tough time to government

ISLAMABAD (Online): Opposition has evolved a plan to give tough time to government.

According to sources opposition held a meeting here to review overall situation of the country. The meeting was attended by Mehmood Khan Achakzai, chairman Tehreek-e-Tahaafaz-Ayeen, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of JUI-F, Chairman PTT Gohar Ali Khan, Asad Qaisar, Umar Ayoub and others. The sources said the recent decision of Supreme Court (SC) was discussed in details in the meeting and the decision was taken to give tough time to government.

Sources said PTI leaders heard complaints of Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

BLF most wanted terrorist Shambin alias Shahak killed by his own colleague

QUETTA (Online): Most wanted terrorist of Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) Shambin alias Shahak has been killed by his own colleague.

According to security sources internal differences in the tanks of BLF have deepened. Its ring leader and most wanted terrorist Shambin alias Shahak has been killed by his own associate. He remained involved in high profile terrorist activities.

He was wanted by law enforcement agencies for attacking forces and killing his old comrades.

Funeral prayer of martyr Deputy Commissioner Panjur offered

Independent Report

QUETTA: The funeral prayer of martyr Deputy Commissioner Panjur, Zakir Baloch was offered at the Central Police Office on Tuesday morning.

The funeral prayer was attended by the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Corps Commander, Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of Police, Abdul



Khaliq Sheikh, Deputy Inspector General of Police and other high ups.

After offering funeral prayer, the body of Deputy Commissioner Panjur was sent to the native town, Turbat for burial.

Earlier, the Governor, Chief Minister and other high ups laid floral wreath at the coffin of martyr Deputy Commissioner.

It may be mentioned here that Deputy Commissioner Panjur, Zakir Baloch was gunned down by unknown armed assailants while he was on his way to Quetta from Panjur on Monday night.

The Chairman Municipal Committee Panjur, Abdul Malik Baloch, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, was also injured in the firing incident.

Pakistan expresses grave concern over recurrent theft of radioactive materials in India

ISLAMABAD (Online):

In response to a question about Pakistan's reaction to the arrest of a gang in India with radioactive material, the Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mumtaz Zahra Baloch stated the following:

"Pakistan is gravely concerned at the reports of recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in India.

In the latest incident, a gang of individuals were found in illegal possession of a highly radioactive and toxic substance Californium, worth US\$ 100 million in quantity. Three incidents of theft of Californium were also reported in 2021.

Last month, five individuals with a radioactive device reportedly stolen from Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) were also found from Dehradun.

These recurring incidents call into question the measures taken by New Delhi for the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive material.

These incidents also suggest the existence of a black market for sensitive, dual use materials inside India.

The international community seeks an earnest disclosure from the Indian authorities as to how a sealed Radioactive Source (SRS) material, like Californium, was in the possession of the apprehended individuals.

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs8.47 per litre

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a relief for the masses reeling under the skyrocketing inflation, the government has reduced the petrol price by Rs8.47 per litre.

A notification in this regard has also been issued by the finance ministry in which the diesel price also reduced by Rs6.07 per litre.

The decision comes mainly due to a drop in fuel prices in the global market.

The new price of the petrol stands at Rs260.96 per litre while that of diesel, it is Rs266.07 per litre.

The fuel price cut comes as a major relief for the masses on the occasion of Independence Day, as the country gears up for the celebration of 77 years of independence today (August 14).

Man dies, six injured in Quetta hand grenade blast

QUETTA (APP): A man died and six other sustained injuries in a hand grenade blast at the Liaquat Bazaar area of the provincial capital on Tuesday.

According to the police sources, unknown men hurled a hand grenade near China Chowk which went off.

As a result, a man namely Irfanullah died on the spot while Muhammad Zainullah, Amanullah, Habibur Rehman, Sagar Govind, Yousuf Masih and Shabir received injuries. The body and the injured were rushed to Quetta Civil Hospital's Trauma Center where the injured treat-

ments were started. While talking to the media, MD Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran confirmed that six injured people in the Liaquat Bazaar bomb blast were brought to the trauma center after first aid in the accident department of Civil Hospital Quetta.

Provincial Health Minister Balochistan Sardarzada Mir Faisal Khan Jamali and Health Secretary Saleh Muhammad Baloch directed to MD Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran and MS Civil Hospital Quetta Dr. Ishaq Paniz to provide best medical facilities to the injured.



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (F) chief of Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing on the All Parties Tahaffuz Namooos-e-Risalat conference.



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti head to the Governor House from Quetta Airport.

Bilawal reaffirms PPP dedication to uphold principles of democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed his party's dedication to upholding the core principles of democracy, constitutionalism, and equality on which Pakistan was founded.

In a message on the occasion of 77th Independence Day, he emphasized that the 1973 Constitution embodies the spirit of the Freedom Movement and provides a unified vision for the nation's future.

Bilawal Bhutto reiterated the PPP's commitment to advancing the nation's progress and unity by strengthening democracy in line with the vision of Pakistan's founding fathers.

"As we celebrate Independence Day, we honor the sacrifices made by our forefathers who fought for our freedom and sovereignty. Today is a day to reflect on the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his democratic ideals. It is also a day to confront our challenges and learn from our past. Despite being founded by a leader who championed constitutionalism and democracy, our nation has faced periods of autocratic rule that undermined basic freedoms and rights."

Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that the PPP remains committed to the principles and vision of the founding fathers.

He remarked, "The ideology of Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto serve as guiding lights for us. Under President Asif Ali Zardari's vision of reconciliation and national unity, we find hope and strength to navigate our challenges."

He further assured, "The PPP is dedicated to lifting our nation from the grips of inflation, unemployment, and poverty, while continuing the fight against terrorism. Let us unite as one nation, driven by our shared values, to overcome any obstacle and build a brighter future for all Pakistanis."

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

School massacre in Gaza

Early on Saturday morning, Israel struck a school sheltering around 2,400 displaced Palestinians in Gaza City. At least 100 people have been reported killed in this atrocity. The accounts given by eyewitnesses are horrifying; many of the bodies were charred and dismembered.

When TTP terrorists struck the APS in Peshawar a decade ago, there was worldwide revulsion at the fact that the militants had slaughtered over 140 people, primarily minors. While that tragedy has not been forgotten by Pakistan, Israel has been unleashing similarly monstrous violence upon Gaza's civilians since last October.

Throughout this one-sided conflict — perhaps better described as a genocidal campaign — Tel Aviv has hardly batted an eyelid as it hit schools, hospitals and people queuing for food, all in the name of targeting Hamas. Even after the latest tragedy, Israel said it had hit "Hamas terrorists and commanders". Does this justify the burning alive and dismemberment of countless non-combatants, including children, in the process? Clearly, in Israel's twisted worldview, it does.

Can Tel Aviv's assertions that it is ready to discuss a ceasefire really be taken seriously in the aftermath of such bloodbaths? The US, Qatar and Egypt have recently called for resuming truce talks. But it appears that Israel is only playing for time, and is not serious about peace, or else it would not slaughter 100 people after agreeing to attend the talks. The fact is that the longer the slaughter in Gaza continues, the longer Benjamin Netanyahu can cling to power. Perhaps this is a reason why the Israeli prime minister is determined to set the Middle East on fire by provoking Iran and its armed regional allies. If a bigger conflagration ensues, Mr Netanyahu can claim he is defending his country from "evil" Iran, and most of his Western friends may lap it up.

There are considerable chances of the war expanding. Iranian and Israeli and US officials have been exchanging combative rhetoric; it is perhaps only a matter of time before these verbal attacks turn into an actual confrontation. The US has reportedly asked one of its carrier strike groups to speed up its arrival in the Middle East, while its defence secretary has been regularly exchanging notes with the Israeli defence minister. None of this bodes well for the region, or for the larger international community. Clearly, the West is unwilling to rein in Israel. On Monday, the UK, Germany and France called upon Iran not to "escalate". Perhaps they would be better off advising Tel Aviv to stop murdering civilians in Gaza, and end the campaign of assassinations in Iran, Lebanon and Syria. Unless Israel is muzzled, there will be no peace in the Middle East, and the chances of escalation will gather pace.

Australia's recipe

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

With more than 100 different faiths and over 300 languages, Australia is one of the world's most culturally and linguistically diverse nations. Promoting social cohesion is a big challenge for it, but Australia has enjoyed a peaceful history, relatively free from violent extremism. Still, the threat of VE is not non-existent, and it threatens Australia's core values of respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equal opportunity, and freedom.

In Australia, VE refers to the beliefs and actions of individuals who use violence or support the use of violence to achieve ideological, religious, or political goals. It includes terrorism and other forms of politically motivated and communal violence that seek to bring about change through fear and intimidation.

Radicalisation is a complex process that involves a person's beliefs shifting from relatively conventional to radical, with a desire for a drastic societal change. According to the Australian belief, when a person radicalises, the community and government are responsible for acting and intervening to prevent harm to both the person and wider society.

In Australia, new migrants with low income and high unemployment rates are often vulnerable to extremist narratives. New migrants for whom English is a second language are uncertain about navigating systems in a new country and may feel isolated. Those with low education levels also have low awareness of their rights and may feel voiceless, marginalised, and susceptible to VE. Feelings of helplessness may

drive them to amplify their voices online, further exposing them to extremist influences. This is why reducing access to extremist material and empowering communities to combat terrorist narratives are among Australia's priorities.

After 9/11, Australia enacted various laws to prevent acts of VE. In the past, the Australian authorities had to wait until a terrorist attack was imminent or underway before they could intervene. The updated Australian legal framework allows them to disrupt acts of VE while they are still being planned.

The Australian approach to CVE (countering violent extremism) comprises robust security, strong law enforcement, effective community engagement, and extensive partnerships. Australia invests considerable resources in community engagement and building social harmony. Key areas of focus include supporting individuals' participation in education, improving social and economic participation, increasing community harmony, preventing crime, and building effective families and community organisations.

Australia's recipe for CVE is based on the belief that unity of effort works, partnerships matter, and teamwork makes everything possible. Australia's approach acknowledges that the threat is persistent and dynamic; hence, it never remains static. Since the world is rapidly changing, threats are also continuously evolving. The causes of VE can be better understood, mitigated, and reduced through collaborative partnerships. Australia also recognises the engagement of the private sector and civil society as essential. That's why, to counter VE, Australia has worked

collaboratively and quietly at the global, regional, and bilateral levels.

In the 2002 Bali bombings, 202 people, including 88 Australians, were killed, representing the single most significant loss of Australian life due to terrorism. Afterwards, Australia started a CVE collaboration with Indonesia and other countries. Australia is also part of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, which was formed in 2014.

The Australian strategy includes six principles: lives must be protected; the government and the community must tackle terrorism together; terrorist acts should be prosecuted through the criminal justice system; international partnerships should be built; community and national resilience should be strengthened; and Australia's counterterrorism (CT) arrangements should reflect the changing threat environment. Its approach is based on four complementary streams of activity, which seek to build strength in diversity and social participation, work with vulnerable communities and institutions, address online terrorist propaganda, and support deradicalisation. Since 2003, the appointment of an ambassador for CT to deal with terrorism-related issues speaks of Australia's commitment to CT. This ambassador coordinates Australia's international CT efforts by building international linkages, leading diplomatic efforts in the domain of CT with partner countries, and facilitating Australia in benefiting from global best practices. Pakistan must evaluate the need for such a diplomatic position, which may benefit it and friendly countries equally. -- Courtesy Dawn

Saving lives

Naseem Salahuddin

Sanitation and immunisation stand as the most effective defences against disease, disability, and death caused by infectious diseases. As our population reels from public health diseases, neither individuals nor the government observe the basic principles of hygiene and sanitation. Overpopulation exacerbates these issues, straining civic resources and impacting public health.

Babies born to undernourished mothers are destined to die from preventable diseases even before they reach toddler age. Although early childhood vaccinations are offered free through the government's Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI), their acceptance is inconsistent. Adults, too, are vulnerable to viruses or bacteria that can be prevented through vaccination.

Immunisation induces immunity against specific diseases. The selected bacteria or virus is modified, scientifically processed, and injected. It mimics the original disease, albeit mildly, and provokes the host immune system to produce antibodies that counter the infectious agent without causing the disease.

The history of vaccination began with smallpox. Older readers may remember the consequences of smallpox that killed, blinded, or disfigured millions everywhere. Medical history is replete with tales of this highly contagious disease that continued for centuries. In England, Edward Jenner's ground-breaking experiment in 1796 involved using fluid from eruptions on the hands of a milkmaid who milked the udder of a cow that had pustules. He injected the fluid into an incision on the arm of a healthy

boy and observed that his subject remained protected. He used his innovation in his native town, stemming the spread of smallpox.

The Latin word for cow is 'vacca', and cowpox is 'vaccinia'; Jenner called this procedure vaccination. The process was subsequently refined and became mandatory globally. The last naturally occurring smallpox case was reported in Somalia in 1977. Routine smallpox vaccination ceased worldwide in 1980. Smallpox is the only ID to have been eradicated and is among the most remarkable of public health successes.

Efforts expanded to combat other IDs. Universal immunisation against Hepatitis B has saved millions from liver failure and liver cancer. Life-saving vaccines are available today against viral influenza, bacterial pneumonia, meningitis, tetanus, typhoid, and cholera. Shingles, caused by the herpes zoster virus, is reactivated chickenpox virus acquired in childhood. The reawakened virus often causes relentless pain but can be prevented with the shingles vaccines. The Human Papillomavirus (which causes cervical cancer in women) is preventable with shots given during adolescence.

Childhood infections such as measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, diphtheria, and tetanus are vaccine-preventable. Polio, which killed or maimed thousands of children globally, has virtually ended through mass vaccination, with ongoing challenges in a few places including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Covid-19 pandemic was met with swift vaccine development, illustrating the critical role vaccines play in combating global health crises. Encouraging results from

field trials of vaccines against malaria, dengue, and TB are in the development or testing phases. However, not all IDs are vaccine-preventable. While they are playing havoc globally, Hepatitis C and HIV elude attempts at vaccine production.

Modern vaccines are safe and generally effective, although some people may express side effects, like a slight fever or rash. An intriguing feature of the human immune system is the presence of 'memory cells'. Even years later, a booster shot will awaken resting cells and enhance protection. The evidence of res-p-onse is the detection of measurable antibodies in the blood, but many such tests are not commercially available. Data on the efficacy of a vaccine is credible only if obtained through well-conducted human trials, validated, and published in reputable journals.

If at least two-thirds of a population is vaccinated during an outbreak, it will create a shield that will protect those who are not. Travellers heading to areas where a disease is endemic are advised to receive vaccinations. Pilgrims to Haj and Umrah are vulnerable to meningitis, influenza, or pneumonia and must receive these preventive shots.

Almost all vaccines in Pakistan are imported and hence expensive and erratically available, depending on their demand and import policies. Ironically, EPI vaccines for children are supported through international funding agencies, yet they are inadequately used. Vaccines for specific infections must be prioritised but must not replace water, sanitation and hygiene. This is the responsibility of individuals and our municipalities. -- Courtesy Dawn

International News

Israel-Hamas war latest: Iran rejects European leaders' call to refrain from any retaliatory attacks

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Iran rejected a call Tuesday by three European countries urging it to refrain from any retaliatory attacks that would further escalate regional tensions. Iran calls it an "excessive request."

The leaders of Britain, France and Germany in a joint statement Monday asked Iran and its allies to refrain from retaliation for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Iran has blamed Israel.

The European leaders also endorsed the latest push by mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States to broker an agreement to end the Israel-Hamas war. Talks are expected to resume Thursday. And they called for the return of scores of hostages held by Hamas and the "unfettered" delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Mediators have spent months trying to get the

sides to agree to a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the remaining hostages captured in its Oct. 7 attack in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, and Israel would withdraw from Gaza.

After more than 10 months of fighting, the Palestinian death toll is nearing 40,000 in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry there. Israel's military says Palestinian militants have fired two rockets from the Gaza Strip and one of them landed in the sea off central Israel. It says the other projectile did not cross into Israeli territory.

Hamas' armed wing said it fired two rockets at Tel Aviv, located on the coast in central Israel.

Palestinian rocket fire has dramatically quieted during Israel's 10-month offensive in Gaza, which was launched in response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel. The last rocket attack on Tel Aviv was on

May 26.

Militants still launch sporadic rocket and mortar attacks near the border, but nearly all the projectiles are intercepted or fall in open spaces without causing casualties or damage.

More than 200 prisoners are evacuated in Lebanon amid concerns about wider war Lebanese authorities have evacuated prisoners from police stations in Beirut's southern suburbs and southern Lebanon to other parts of the country out of concerns about possible war with Israel, judicial and security officials say. The officials say about 220 prisoners were moved. It comes amid concerns that the ongoing exchange of cross-border fire between Israeli troops and members of the Lebanon-based militant Hezbollah group might expand after Israel killed a top Hezbollah official last month. Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate.

US says it had no role in ousting of Bangladesh's Hasina

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States had no role in ousting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who recently quit her position and fled the South Asian nation, the White House said on Monday, calling allegations of US interference "simply false." "We have had no involvement at all. Any reports or rumors that the United States government was involved in these events is simply false," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said at a press briefing when asked about reported claims of U.S. involvement. A report in the Economic Times newspaper in India on Sunday had cited Hasina as accusing the U.S. of playing a role in ousting her because

it wanted control over Bangladesh's Saint Martin island in the Bay of Bengal. The newspaper said Hasina had conveyed that message to it through her close associates.

Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed, in a post on X on Sunday, said she never made any such statement.

"We believe that the Bangladeshi people should determine the future of the Bangladeshi government and that's where we stand," the White House added. An interim government in Bangladesh, led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, was sworn in on Thursday with the aim of holding elections in the Asian nation. Bangladesh was engulfed by demonstrations.

House explosion in Maryland kills 2 and damages nearby homes

Monitoring Desk

BEL AIR: Two people were killed and 12 families displaced after a Maryland house exploded Sunday amid reports of a possible gas leak, fire officials said.

Neighbors described feeling and hearing the early morning blast that damaged a number of surrounding houses in Bel Air, a town about about 30 miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Baltimore. Firefighters were called to the area around 6:40 a.m. for a report of a gas leak and an outdoor odor of gas, said Oliver Alkire, a master deputy with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Alkire said that as firefighters were approaching, they began receiving calls that the house had exploded.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas outside Moscow, Russia.

US lifts restrictions on Saudi weapons, with eye on resolving Gaza crisis

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States confirmed on Monday it would resume sales of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, as concerns over human rights in the kingdom's Yemen war give way to US hopes for it to play a role in resolving the conflict in Gaza.

More than three years after imposing limits on human rights grounds over Saudi strikes in Yemen, the State Department said it would return to weapons sales "in regular order, with appropriate congressional notification and consultation." "Saudi Arabia has re-

mained a close strategic partner of the United States, and we look forward to enhancing that partnership," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters. US President Joe Biden took office in 2021 pledging a new approach to Saudi Arabia that emphasised human rights, and immediately announced that the administration would only send "defensive" weaponry to the longtime US arms customer. The United States is again hoping for support from Arab partners as Iran threatens another reprisal against Israel over the killing in Tehran of Hamas's political leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

Indonesian president holds first cabinet meeting in future capital

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday held his first cabinet meeting in the country's future capital, despite much of the city remaining under construction as it runs behind schedule.

The \$32-billion megaproject Nusantara was widely expected to be inaugurated on August 17, Indonesia's Indepen-

dence Day, but building delays and funding woes have cast doubt on the schedule. Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, still hailed the city-in-progress, which is expected to be fully ready in 2045.

"Not all countries have the opportunity, have the ability to build their capital starting from zero," he said.

Muslim guard rescues girl from knife attacker in London

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: A 29-year-old guard at a nearby store, who gave his name as Abdullah, saved an 11-year-old girl from a knife attack in the British capital on Monday.

Abdullah said he heard a scream and then saw someone "stabbing a kid". "I jumped on him, held the hand in which he was (carrying) a knife, and just put him down on the floor and just held him and took the knife away from him," he said.

"Then a couple of more people joined as well, and we just held him until the police came", he added.

700 migrants reach Britain on 11 boats

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Over 700 migrants in small boats crossed the Channel to Britain on Sunday, the highest number on a single day since Prime Minister Keir Starmer took power vowing to tackle people-smugglers. Two migrants who attempted the crossing died. French authorities said earlier, taking the number of people to lose their life on the dangerous sea journey to 25 since the start of the year.

Putin tells Abbas of 'great pain' at Palestinian plight

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin told visiting Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday that Moscow was pained by the plight of his people and backed their aspiration to create a fully fledged state.

Putin said Moscow was paying attention to events in the Middle East despite the demands of its own war in Ukraine. He did not refer directly to Ukraine's week-old incursion into western Russia, an operation that has caught Russia's military off guard and forced more than 130,000 people to flee their homes.

"Everyone is well aware that Russia today, unfortunately, must defend its interests and defend its people with arms

in hand. But what is happening in the Middle East, what is happening in Palestine, of course, does not go unnoticed on our part," Putin said, according to a Kremlin transcript.

"And of course, we are watching with great pain and anxiety the humanitarian catastrophe that has unfolded in Palestine," he added.

Putin noted the death toll of almost 40,000 Palestinians in the course of the Gaza war since the Islamist militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people and taking more than 250 into captivity in Gaza. Item 1 of 3 Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas outside Moscow, Russia.

Kursk attack will pressure Russia and 'restore justice,' Zelenskiy says

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and pressure Moscow's forces, in his first acknowledgement of Kyiv's surprise offensive into the western Kursk region.

Moscow's forces on Sunday were in their sixth day of intense battle against Kyiv's largest incursion into Russian territory since the start of the war, which left southwestern parts of Russia vulnerable before reinforcement started arriving.

Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions on Saturday, while Belarus, a staunch ally of Moscow, sent more troops to its border with Ukraine, accusing Kyiv of violating its air space. In his nightly video

address, Zelenskiy said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskiy, vowing to respond in kind after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

"Today, I received several reports from Commander-in-Chief Syrskiy regarding the front lines and our actions to push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said late on Saturday.

"Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed - pressure on the aggressor."

Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday it had destroyed 14 Ukrainian drones and four Tochka-U tactical ballistic missiles overnight over the Kursk region, and 18 drones over other Russian regions that Ukraine frequently attacks.



Pakistan was inevitable

By Prof Dr M Yakub Mughul

The Muslims were a political power in India for more than one thousand years. Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered Sindh in 712 AD

and since then Sindh became the Gateway to Islam in India. Shahabuddin Muhammad Ghauri was the first Muslim warrior who was responsible for the establishment of Muslim rule in India. After the defeat of Pirthvi Raj in the second battle of Tarain in 1192, Sultan Mohammad Ghauri appointed Qutbuddin Aibak as his Viceroy to consolidate his empire. The last Muslim dynasty, which ruled in India was the Mughul dynasty. In 1857, the Muslims lost the War of Independence and last Mughul Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, was deposed and made prisoner, hence, the Muslims became subjects of British India. Thus, Hindus got new masters and the British needed for their support, against the Muslims, who favoured them in every walk of life. For about a century Indians remained under the British rule, who were not only deprived of their majority provinces in all respects but at the same time the Muslims were treated as second grade citizens. At the time of partition of India, Pakistan inherited only 34 Industrial units out of 921. This shows that when Pakistan was established, these areas were extremely backward economically and we had to work very hard to develop the country.



There is no Power on Earth that can undo Pakistan.

M A Jinnah

After a long struggle, under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam, the Muslims got a separate homeland - Pakistan on August 14, 1947. This day has, therefore, a historical importance, the day on which the downtrodden Muslims of the South Asia got a place, where they could live freely and mould their lives according to the principles of Quran and Sunnah. On this day Pakistan emerged not only as the biggest Muslim state of the Islamic world but also as a fifth largest country on the world map. If Pakistan had not been created, the Muslims in India would have remained there as a nameless nation or a religious minority. Pakistan is a great gift of Allah, which came into being on 27th Ramzan-al-Mubarak, Yaum-al-Juma, so that the Muslims should bow before Allah for this great favour of a sovereign state.

The Quaid, on the occasion of Independence Day, in his message to the nation said: "It is with the feelings of the greatest happiness and emotion that I send you my greetings. August 14 is the birthday of the independent and sovereign state of Pakistan. It marks the fulfillment of the destiny of the Muslim nation which made great sacrifices in the past few years to have its homeland." He added: "Today is Jumma-tul-wida, last Friday of the Holy month of Ramazan, a day of rejoicing for all of us wherever we may be in this vast Sub-continent and for the matter of that throughout the world. Let the Muslim congregations in

the Muslims in prevailing conditions in India. He said: "To my mind the new constitution with its idea of a single Indian Federation is completely hopeless. A separate federation of Muslim provinces re-

formed on the lines I have suggested above, is the only course by which we can secure a peaceful India and save Muslims from the domination of non-Muslims. Why should not the Muslim of north-west India and Bengal be considered as a nation entitled to self-determination just as other nations in India and outside India are? Personally I think that the Muslims of north-west India and Bengal ought to ignore at present the Muslim minority provinces. This is the best course to adopt in the interests of both Muslim majority and minority provinces." Atlee the Prime Minister of Great Britain announced on February 20, 1947 that transfer of power to responsible Indians not later than June 1948 would take place. It was simultaneously announced that Wavell was being recalled and replaced by the Viscount

Mountbatten. Lord Mountbatten arrived on March 22, 1947 and he was warmly welcomed by Nehru. Lord Ismay had warned his government that this appointment was both a collusive act with Congress and insult to the Muslims. After the decision of the British Government, Mountbatten was trying to become the common Governor-General of India and Pakistan. He desired that after partition he should be the Governor-General of both of the new states.

In mid-May Nehru invited Lord Mountbatten to continue as Governor-General of the new India and he immediately accepted the offer. In a meeting with the Quaid on July 2, 1947 Lord Mountbatten put forward his proposal of a common Governor-General. However, Quaid-i-Azam did not agree with his proposal and informed Mountbatten that as all the Governors of the provinces after the establishment of Pakistan would still be British, as would be commanders of each of three armed services, the Governor-General must be a Pakistani to demonstrate that the country was really independent. Quaid-i-Azam also rejected his idea that Quaid-i-Azam should

want to weaken Pakistan. He, therefore, influenced Radcliff to award Muslim majority Tahsils of Pathan Kot and Gurdaspur to India to provide land route to her to send its army to Kashmir. One of the major problems, which the Government of Pakistan had to deal with, was that of finance. After partition the assets were to be distributed between the two countries as per agreed formula. But the Indian Government delayed the payment of Pakistan's share of assets with the intention to create as much disorder as possible and aggravate the economic crises in Pakistan. The finances of the country, however, were so carefully and efficiently managed by the Government of Pakistan under the leader.

being Acting Governor-General. Being aware of the partiality of Mountbatten in favour of the Indian National Congress and his leadership, the Quaid did not want to take any risk. There upon Mountbatten said: "Do you realise what this cost you?" Quaid-i-Azam replied, "I may cost several crores of rupees in the assets." Mountbatten replied, "It may well cost you the whole of your assets and the future of Pakistan." Due to the opposition of Atlee, the Prime Minister of UK, and Lord Mountbatten for the partition of India and the partiality to Congress leadership later, and threat to Mr Jinnah Pakistan was deprived of getting its due share and Kashmir's future was left unsettled so that Pakistan may not consolidate itself. While addressing the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, the Quaid had declared that the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan was the only 'solution' of the problem of India. Any idea of a United India could never have worked and in my judgment, it would have led us to terrific disaster."

The economic factor and the fear of Hindus domination also played a vital role in the struggle for separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

The Establishment of Pakistan brought the greatest responsibilities on the shoulders of Quaid-i-Azam, who was not only the first 'Governor-General of Pakistan but also at the same time the Father of Nation. Had to build the newly born State, starting from the scratch.' At the time of independence there

was no administrative machinery to assume the day-to-day official business. Actually Pakistan was born with a number of serious disadvantages. In 1947, it was not only, politically and administratively backward as compared to the rest of India but also economically the poorest part of the British India. Its economy was basically rural based.

The majority of its population lived in the countryside and three-fourth of its GNP was contributed by the agricultural sector. The new country did not have its own currency. Being basically agricultural, the areas that in 1947 were set apart to form the State of Pakistan did not possess the institutional infrastructure to support a modern economy. In view of these handicaps, it was not therefore surprising that few people regarded Pakistan as economically not viable. The Quaid-i-Azam rose as a great Muslim leader in India. He galvanised and united the scattered Indian Muslims on the basis of Muslim nationhood. He categorically announced that there were two nations in India, Muslims and Hindus. He gave Muslims a destination in the form of a separate Muslim State in the Lahore Resolution, adopted by Muslim League on March 23, 1940.

The Quaid worked for the development of the areas comprising of Pakistan. He pressurised the British Government to introduce reforms in these areas. On the other hand he made Muslim League active in every corner of India. Due to his efforts, Muslim League branch was established in Baluchistan in 1939 and people of that area not only became aware of Muslim League but also supported Pakistan demand. Similarly under his leadership, Muslim League had also won all the four

in British India. Thus Pakistan gained independence from the British rule on 14th August, 1947. Independence Day is a public holiday; therefore, the public is free to roam around and celebrate the day. They visit the national monuments and places of national significance recreational spots to mark the holiday. This is also the time to

meet friends and relatives and exchange gifts with each other to celebrate the day. Pakistan's Independence Day pays homage to the national heroes who devoted their lives for Pakistan's freedom movement.

They had made efforts to materialize the dream of an independent Muslim state. Moreover, events such as special theatre shows, national song competitions, concerts, and Independence Day pageants are held while radio and television stations broadcast national songs.

Talking to APP, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani said that independence movement was a long journey of struggle and sacrifices, adding that it was not easy even to imagine a free and sovereign Muslim state in the subcontinent under the British Raj.

She said, "Only those know the real worth of freedom who are aware of the conditions of people living in colonies and occupied territories as slaves and second class citizens." Each citizen is representing Pakistan in one way or the other, therefore, it is a must to bring a positive change at individual level, she added. Dean Faculty of So-

The nation will reaffirm its commitment on 76th Independence Day to fully realize the sublime goals, set out by its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah more than seven decades ago on Pakistan's historic emergence.

The founder had envisioned a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state, taking due care of masses, especially the poor, and where all citizens are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect.

Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, under its leaders' philosophy of an independent state for Muslims, commonly known as a two-nation theory.

Muslims in the subcontinent were facing untold misery and disgrace at the hands of British rulers and their Hindu partners, coupled with growing so-

Independence Day:

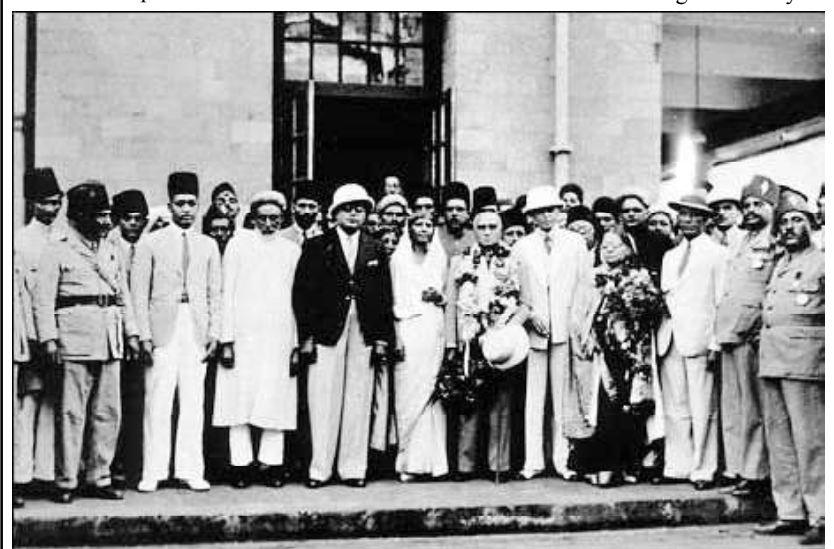
A day to commemorate matchless sacrifices of freedom fighters

By Taj Nabi Khan

Every year, Independence Day of Pakistan is celebrated across the country and around the globe by Pakistani diasporas and in Pakistani missions abroad with patriotic zeal and zest to commemorate the matchless sacrifices of freedom fighters whose consistent efforts have placed Paki-

in British India. Thus Pakistan gained independence from the British rule on 14th August, 1947. Independence Day is a public holiday; therefore, the public is free to roam around and celebrate the day. They visit the national monuments and places of national significance recreational spots to mark the holiday. This is also the time to

cial Sciences, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Dr Shahid Siddiqui while talking to APP said, "14th August is celebrated as Independence Day to remember the achievement and sacrifices of the heroes of Pakistan freedom movement but at the same time we should not forget our responsibilities to sustain it at high esteem among the comity of



stan on map of the world on 14th August 1947.

The day is not only an occasion to promote patriotism and national unity. But it is also the time to create awareness among the new generations about the sacrifices of the heroes of Pakistan Movement who rendered their lives for creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

During the partition, more than 14 million people had crossed borders between Pakistan and India while each one of them had an untold story of his own. Therefore, on this day, homage is paid to all those people who had lost their lives during the migration and riots in 1947 as well as the political figures, freedom fighters, poets and artists. There was a growing demand for an independent Muslim state in the subcontinent. Consequently, the All India Muslim League was founded on December 30, 1906 while Allama Muhammad Iqbal presented the idea of a separate Muslim state consisted of geographically Muslim majority areas in the subcontinent in 1930. Afterwards, in 1940, the Pakistan Resolution was passed in Lahore demanding greater Muslim autonomy

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Pakistan moves towards achieving goals of its creation

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Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, under its leaders' philosophy of an independent state for Muslims, commonly known as a two-nation theory.

Muslims in the subcontinent were facing untold misery and disgrace at the hands of British rulers and their Hindu partners, coupled with growing so-

cial and economic disparity between the two nations. They were also victims of poverty and economic depravity.

Over the years, the two-nation theory has proven correct because all minorities living in India are still leading miserable life by all means under the dominance of extremist Hindus. "Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs and literary traditions. They neither intermarry, nor eat together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions," the Quaid said in his presidential address to All-India Muslim League's Lahore session on March 22, 1940.

On August 11, 1947, Father of the Nation in his presidential address to the Constituent Assembly of

Pakistan said: "If we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor."

On another occasion during his 'broadcast talk' to the people of Australia on February 19, 1948, he said: "We follow the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). We are members of the brotherhood of Islam in which all are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect.

Consequently, we have a special and very deep sense of unity."

The incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has striven to move forward on the right path, with top leadership pledging to fulfill the task of revamping and reshaping.



Envoys of Vietnam, Maldives, Ireland present credentials to President

ISLAMABAD (APP): The envoys of Vietnam, Maldives and Ireland presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credential ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday.

The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Vietnam, Pham Anh Tuan, High Commissioner-designate of Maldives, Uz Mohamed Thoha, and Ambassador-designate of Ireland, Ms Mary O'Neil, who also held separate meetings with the President.

Welcoming the envoys, the president felicitated them on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial co-

operation with Pakistan. The president said that Pakistan wanted to further solidify trade, economic and investment relations with friendly countries in all areas of mutual interest. He remarked that Pakistan was focused on boosting bilateral trade volume with all friendly countries. He stated that Pakistan offered great investment opportunities in diverse fields and businesses should invest in agriculture, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, information technology, mining, and green technologies sectors.

Earlier, the envoys were presented guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: The envoys of Vietnam, Maldives, and Ireland presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Visa fee for 126 countries waived under new visa policy: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attallah Tarar on Tuesday announced launch of a new visa policy under which visa fee for the nationals of 126 countries would be waived to boost tourism and attract foreign investment in the country. Addressing a news conference, the minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would launch the new visa policy tonight which would allow 126 countries' residents to visit Pakistan in hassle-free manner. The new visa policy which is aimed at simplifying the visa process would come into effect tonight, he added.

The minister said the residents of gulf countries would get visa on arrival, while pilgrims would also be facilitated in this regard to boost the religious tourism in the country.

The beauty and infrastructural development of Pakistan stunned the foreign tourists who left the country with sweet memories, he said, urging them to visit Pakistan which has been opened its doors to the world including travelers, businessmen and investors.

According to him, the nationals of these countries would get their visas within 10 minutes after filling an online form which had only 30 questions. The visa would be valid for 3 months and could be renewed in no time, he added.

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He said Gilgit Baltistan received massive inflow of foreign tourists that even surpassed the number of domestic visitors every year.

PML-N MPs delegation calls on Ishaq Dar

QUETTA (APP): The delegation of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s parliamentarians led by Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandukhail met with Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Governor House Quetta here Tuesday. Speaker National Assembly (NA) Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, overall situation of the country, ongoing development projects and ensuring good governance were discussed. In the meeting, it was agreed to make the relations between the federation and the provinces more stable and pleasant with the aim to develop the country.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over high level meeting regarding law and order situation

Shahid Rind congratulates nation on I-Day

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Government Spokesman Shahid Rind on Tuesday congratulated the whole nation on the occasion of Independence Day. Talking to APP, he said that the Balochistan Government would celebrate the Independence Day with enthusiasm saying that the celebrations started from August 01 and the grand finale would be held in Quetta.

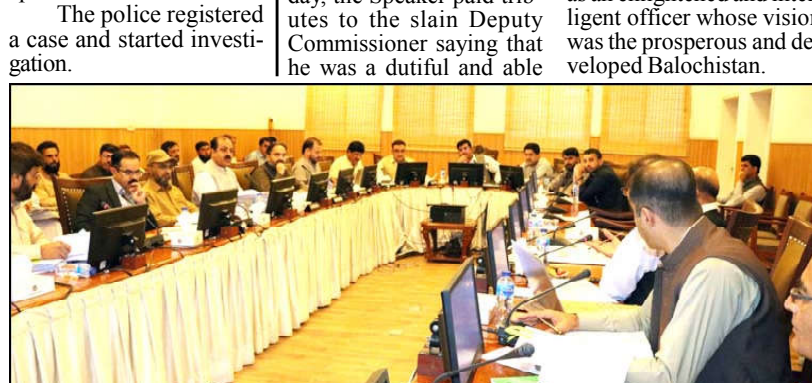
He said that Governor Sheikh Jaffar Mandukhail, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bagti, provincial ministers and other political personalities would participate in the program on Independence Day.

Three persons killed in road mishap

LORALAI (APP): Three persons have been killed when a truck ramed into a motorcycle.

On Dara road near Almadina hotel, a truck hit a motorcycle due to over-speeding, resultantly three riders including Asad Khan, Kaleemullah and Haji Faiz Muhammad died on the spot.

The police registered a case and started investigation.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tarceen presiding over a meeting regarding audit paras of Agriculture Department and Cooperatives

President Zardari stresses unity, stability on 78th Independence Day, urges investment in youth, women

PM vows for an inclusive, prosperous Pakistan; says economic policies yielding positive results

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, felicitated the nation on the 78th Independence Day, emphasized unity, integrity, and economic stability, urged following Quaid-e-Azam's teachings, called for investment in youth and women, and reaffirmed support for Kashmiris and Palestinians.

In his message on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan, being observed on 14th August 2024, the president said that the creation of Pakistan through peaceful and democratic means was a unique chapter in history, with homage paid to the leaders, workers of the Pakistan movement, and fore-



ISLAMABAD: Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf chairing command and staff conference of Pakistan Navy.

Interior Minister calls on British Counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi called on British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper during his visit to the United Kingdom. The Minister congratulated Yvette Cooper on assuming the office of British Home Secretary and expressed good wishes for her. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, including legal assistance in criminal cases, effective border management, and measures to curb illegal immigration were discussed. The training of Pakistani police officers in the UK was also discussed.

The Minister welcomed the British cooperation in this regard and expressed his pleasure.



PN Command & Staff Conference reviews regional maritime situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Command and Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded here on Tuesday at Naval Headquarters chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf that reviewed maritime situation in North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden and deliberated on measures for safety and security of national sea trade passing through the region.

During the conference, matters related to geo strategic milieu, national security, operational preparedness, training and welfare of troops were reviewed. Comprehensive briefing on important on-going and future developmental projects of Pakistan Navy was also given to Chief of the Naval Staff, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Naval Chief expressed confidence over combat readiness and significant contribution of the Navy in maritime domain. Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on strengthening maritime security and maintaining combat readiness so as to effectively respond to any aggression against Pakistan.

He urged on acquisition of niche and novel capabilities while exploiting indigenous sources in order to cope with modern day challenges in maritime domain.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandukhail being briefed by Member NHA West Zone Balochistan Bisharat Hussain regarding NHA

IHC summons secretaries interior, defense in missing persons' case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday summoned secretaries of interior and defense, IGP ICT and DG FIA in person on non-compliance of orders to recover two missing brothers.

The court also summoned Attorney General Pakistan (AGP) for assistance in the same case on August 15.

The bench asked the respondents to clarify that why a contempt of court proceeding shouldn't be initiated against them for non-compliance of orders.



LONDON: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi shaking hands with British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in London.

Governor directs NHA to timely complete works on Balochistan highways

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhail on Tuesday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to focus on developing its national highways and ensure its timely completion with standard.

He said that completion of works on highways would not only boost our economy but also improve the lives of our citizens.

He expressed these views while giving a briefing to National Highway Authority West Zone Member Bisharat Hussain at Governor House Quetta.

Governor Balochistan said that national highways have a key role in the construction and development of the country and provinces.

He said that in the context of Balochistan, Karachi to Chaman N25 and Quetta to Zhob N50 highways should be given more priority as they were important national highways connecting Balochistan



QUETTA: An illuminated view of Metropolitan corporation building decoration with national flag color lights in connection 77th Independence Day celebration.

Ahsan vows to revive dev. trajectory, include Pak in top-10 economies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday renewed his commitment to place the country on a national growth trajectory and include it among the world's top ten economies.

"We will once again turn the wheel of the economy and give the youth a Pakistan that will be among the top ten economies of the world by 2047," he said, promising a future where the country's youth would inherit a thriving and prosperous state.

The minister expressed this resolve while addressing the Istehkam-e-Pakistan seminar organized by the Islamic International University Islamabad (IIUI) in connection with the 78th Independence Day.

Crackdown against fake cold drinks with forged labels of famous brands in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: In a major crackdown, the Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) seized huge consignment of the fake cold drinks having forged labels of different famous brands from a godwin in the outskirts of Quetta on Tuesday.

The spokesman of BFA informed that the raid was conducted at a godwin cum distribution unit located in Akhtarabad area of Quetta on a secret information.

During the raid, around 10,000 liters of fake cold drinks were recovered and seized.