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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XX No. 40, Safar 09, 1446 AH Thursday August 15, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

Deputy Premier hoists national flag at BA We have to make Pakistan economic power after becoming atomic power, announces Ishaq Dar

Deputy Prime Minister emphasizes we have to take Pakistan at place which was dreamed by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Deputy Prime Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar has reiterated the federal government's resolve to make Pakistan economic power after becoming

written in our destiny. It is desire of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to improve economy Federal Minister for Comand GDP of the country. merce and Trade, Jam

Minister extended greetings of the Independence Day to the people of Balochistan on his as well as behalf of the President and Prime Minister. The flag hoisting cer-

emony was attended by the Speaker National As-sembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister atomic power.

"We have to achieve what Allah Almighty has block and the state of t Ahmed Bugti, Speaker Provincial Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai



Pakistan would have to emerge shining star in fu- ministers, members of proture and we would see Pakistan becoming developed and including in G20", stated the Deputy Prime Minister while addressing the flag hoisting ceremony at the Provincial Assembly's law on

The Deputy Prime of the world in 2017.

Kamal Khan, provincial vincial assembly, high civil and military officials, dig nitaries belonging to dif-ferent shade of life and

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister said that Pakistan had

Flag hoisting ceremonies held at Armed Forces HQs

CJCSC, services chiefs felicitate nation on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Services Chiefs extended heartfelt felicitations to the nation on the Independence Day of Pakistan, a momentous occasion that commemorates the realization of a longcherished dream of a separate homeland for Muslims.

On this auspicious day, the Armed Forces of Pakistan paid tribute to the visionary founding fathers and valiant veterans, who rendered supreme sacrifices in their unwavering pursuit of freedom and self-deter-

mination. Their unrelenting spirit and sacrifices continue to inspire generations, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Wednesday. "The Armed Forces reaf-

firm their unwavering commitment to defending Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and values, upholding the trust reposed in them by the nation. As we celebrate this Independence Day, we reiterate our resolv to preserve our hard-won freedom with honor, dignit and an unshakeable commit mentto our cherished ideals Long live Pakistan!, the ISPR said.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Naseemur Rehman Mulakhail leading a rally on eve of 77th Independence Day

Grand flag hoisting ceremony at BA lawn attended by Deputy PM, Speaker NA, other dignitaries

Independent Report QUETTA: The grand flag hoisting ceremony was held at the lush green lawn of Balochistan Assembly here on Wednesday morning.

The Deputy Prime Muhammad Ishaq Dar hoisted the national flag along with the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Ret) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and other dignitaries.

Also present at the ceremony were the provincial ministers, members of provincial assembly as well as the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of FC, Inspector General of Police, senior civil and military officers, dignitaries from different walks of life,

besides others. The students of different educational institutions also participated in the ceremony. They also presented national songs.

the ceremony marking celebrations of Independence

Special arrangements including security were made to ensure no untoward incident is occurred on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the flag hoisting ceremony was also held in the premises of Balochistan High Court where the Chief Justice. Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar hoisted the national flag. The ceremony was attended by the judges of higher and subordinate courts besides the senior lawyers, office bearers of different bar associations

and their children. Similarly, flag hoisting ceremony was also held at the Quaid-e-Azam residency, Ziarat. The Commandant of FC, Loralai Scouts, Brigadier Razzaq Ahmed and Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Liaquat Ali Kakai hoisted the national flag.

The similar flag hoisting ceremonies were also held in different other cit-The siren was rung at ies of the province.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoists the national flag at the Pakistan Monument on the 78th Independence Day.

Local Government system to be strengthened:

New divisions and districts should be established on administrative grounds, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti announces to set up 50-bedded hospital in Pishin; forms committee for review of matters about forming Pishin as separate division; announces grant of Rs. 100 million for Pishin Local Council

Independent Report OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that new divisions and districts should be formed on administrative basis as the districts can't be formed on

linguistic basis. He said that Pakistan is our first identity and we must be proud of it. He said that local government system would be strengthened further. He said that the grant of local councils has been made double in the budget.

He announced to form a committee for taking review of the matter about formation of Pishin as separate division. The commit-

tee would review the related matters in this regard. The Chief Minister was addressing a ceremony held to mark the Independence Day at Rest House,

Pishin on Wednesday.

The Provincial Ministers, members of provincial assembly and other dignitaries were present at the occasion. The Chief Minister announced to start certain new projects for development of Pishin. He mentioned that Pishin is the district the elders of which always supported Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He also said that the elders of Pishin have proved

their loyalty with Pakistan. He said that education and health are priorities of the provincial government. He said that the school or college teacher who is drawing salary from the government can't sit at home without teaching children.

He on the occasion announced to upgrade one middle school of Pishin as High one. Moreover, he announced to set up 50-bedded hospital in Pishin besides announcing Rescue 1122 service for the highway in district. He also announced to consider demand about setting up of sub-campus of Balochistan University in Pishin. Besides, he announced grant of Rs. 100 million for the Pishin local council.



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating Quetta Solid West Management project. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Speaker Balochistan Assembly Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Provincial Ministers and high officials are also present

Balochistan govt accepts land gifted by CJP, his brother

QUETTA (Online) Balochistan government as accepted the land gifted by the Chief Justice of Paistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and his brother Qazi

According to sources environmental centre for public welfare will be built on the gifted land wherein several activities for students and tourists will be carried out.

Exhibition hall, tourist centre and seminar hall will also be set up in environmental centre.

The gifted 31680 square feet land lies adjacent to the Quaid-i-Azam's Residency at Ziarat.

A letter signed by CJP Isa along with his brother Qazi Azmat Isa, dated August 2, 2024, informed the chief secretary Balochistan that their ancestral land, which lies adjacent to the Quaid-i-Azam's Residency at Zia¬rat, has been donated for the benefit of the people to use as an environmental centre and licensed to the government of Balochistan ree of cost.

Khan and IGP are also present

Private company to collect around 1600 tons waste daily:

Quetta solid waste management project made functional in short span of three months

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta solid waste management project was made functional here on

Wednesday. The Deputy Prime Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti formally inaugurated the project, which is being considered as first of its kind in the history of

Also present on the occasion were Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and other high

While speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister congratulated the Commissioner and his team for formulation of the solid waste management project and its implementation in short span of time. He also appreciated the

spirit and commitment of the Commissioner in this regard. He said that the attention is being paid towards provision of basic facilities

in order to lessen their hard-He said that we are determined to improve service

delivery through good gov-

The Deputy Prime Minister on the occasion expressed pleasure over launch of the modern solid waste management in Quetta and said that the provincial government is playing active role to resolve public issues under the leadership of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Earlier, the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat briefed about the solid waste management project launched in Quetta by the Metropolitan Corporation in collaboration with a private company. He mentioned that it is

first project of its kind in the country under which the Metropolitan Corporation would work together with the private company for cleaning the city through multidimensional steps

QUETTA: A delegation of Parliamentarians of PML(N) Balochistan led by Governor Sheikh Jaffar

Khan Mandokhail meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. Speaker National Assembly Sardar

Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir

Will share good news on electricity bill reduction with nation soon: PM Urges nation to support govt in making

Pakistan stable, prosperous

ISLAMABAD (APP): skilled-based education, and paid homage to the Prime Minister and do not indulge your- immense sacrifices of fore-Muhammad Shehbaz self in the negative agenda fathers and countless un-Sharif on Wednesday, of the enemy who is out sung heroes of the Pakicongratulating the nation on the 78th Pakistan Inon the 78th Pakistan Independence Day, urged the people especially the your capabilities in antistate activities," he asked the youth while addressyouth to support the government in its efforts to make the country, prosperous, stable and peace- tions.

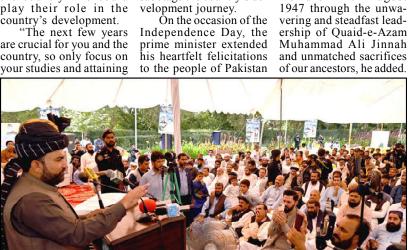
He said the youth were the bright future of the country who could play their role in the country's development. "The next few years

dependence day celebra-Unfortunately, he said the enemy was now using digital terrorism tools to sabotage the country's development journey.

Independence Day, the are crucial for you and the country, so only focus on

stan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, ing a ceremony held here where they could live acin connection with the incording to their beliefs and values. As envisioned by Allama Muhammad Iqbaĺ, Pakistan emerged as an independent and sovereign

state on the map of the world on 14th August On the occasion of the



PISHIN: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a ceremony held in connection with Independence Day

Adiala Jail deputy superintendent arrested for

facilitating Imran RAWALPINDI (INP): Adiala Jail deputy superintendent Muhammad Akram was taken into custody for allegedly facilitating Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran

Khan in the prison. The security agen cies detained Adiala Jail deputy superintendent Muhammad Akram on the charges of misusing his powers.

Akram is accused of facilitating PTI founder Imran Khan and allegedly acting as a messenger for him. The security agencies informed the Inspector General of Prisons about the situation, and he had already been removed from his posi-

The agencies are investigating the deputy superintendent Muĥammad Akram, and departmental action will be taken following the

Ceremony to mark Pakistan's 78th **Independence Day** at Quaid-residency

ZIARAT (APP): A cer emony to mark the Pakistan's 78th Independence Day was held on Wednesday at Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah Residency Ziarat. Deputy Commissioner

Ziarat Liagat Ali Kakar and

Brigadier Loralai Scouts

Abdul Razaq hoisted the national flag.
Civil and military officers, local notables and a large number of area people were also

present. The smartly turned out contingent of police presented a salute of honour to the national

Green courts' campaign gets underway:

CJ BHC vows to form such a society where every person gets basic rights

Mr Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan announces to introduce Green Courts, all judges to plant one sapling each

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has we have to make pledge on the Independence Day to form such a society where every individual gets one's basic rights.

He stressed that every person and institution make endeavour to form such a country where there every one gets rights as per the constitution and law, where life of all citizens is protected and where there is no concept of illegal detention and every one has the op-

portunity of fair trial.

These views were expressed by the Chief Justice High Court while addressing the flag hoisting ceremony on Independence Day at the High court building premises on Wednes-

The judges of High court and subordinate courts, office bearers of the bar associations and senior lawyers, their children were present. The Chief Justice on the occasion extended heartfelt greetings of the 77th Independence Day to the whole nation, all honourable judges and judicial staff.



QUETTA: Inspector General Frontier Corps, Inspector General of Police Balochistan and Provincial Ministers attending Independence Day Ceremony

President confers national awards on 104 Pakistanis, foreigners on I. Day

Nishan-e-Pakistan to be posthumously awarded to former PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for his public services

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday announced the conferment of Pakistan's national awards on 104 Pakistanis and foreigners, in recognition of their services, excellence and sacrifices in their respective fields.

The awards were announced on Pakistan's 78th Independence Day which will be presented to the awardees at an investiture ceremony on March 23,

The president conferred the awards to individuals in the fields including science and engineering, education, medicine, arts, litera-

ISLAMABAD (APP): ture, sports, social ser-President Asif Ali Zardari vices and philanthropy, entrepreneurs, taxpayers and exporters, public service, gallantry, and services to Pakistan.

The president conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan award on the former president and prime minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed in recognition of his public ser-

He announced Hilal-i-Imtiaz award for Olymnian Arshad Nadeem, who recently bagged a gold medal in Paris Olympics and Sitara-i-Imtiaz for mountaineer Murad Sadpara in the sports cat-

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Rebuilding a dream

Independence Day celebrations today for millions of this country's citizens will be tempered by the harsh realities of life in modern Pakistan, foremost of which are economic stagnation, political polarisation and resurgent militancy and extremism.

Though we have lurched from crisis to crisis ever since independence, in the current circumstances a pall of gloom hangs over the nation, with many — particularly the young — losing hope of living a dignified life in their home-

The ruling elite has done little of substance to dispel the clouds of doom; in fact, they are the key reason why nearly 240m people today see no light at the end of the tunnel. While we are told that the economy is on the mend, a large swathe of the population is struggling with high prices, and many are being pushed into poverty or basic subsistence.

On the political front, there seems to be no desire by any of the major players to achieve a grand concord for the sake of the nation. Extremist forces are also casting their dark shadow across this land, and threatening to devour the nation Jinnah built.

The reason we are in dire straits is that over the decades, we have been constantly moving further and further away from the vision of the founding fathers, particularly Quaid-i-Azam. If Providence were to allow him to witness the Pakistan of today, would the great man recognise the nation he struggled for? It is highly doubtful. The Quaid left a blueprint for how the state should be run, and most successive rulers have done all in their power to ensure none of his directives were implemented. For example, he had spoken about democracy, constitutionalism, protecting minorities, eliminating corruption, etc. In each of these areas we have done the exact opposite. In his 1943 Eid message, he said that "grave political issues cannot be settled by the cult of the knife or by gangsterism. ... Nor can political views be altered by the threats of violence". These prescient words sum up our cur-

rent predicament. Political forces are showing incredible rigidity, while the powers that be refuse to stay within the confines of their constitutional role. Respect for the vote has been trampled underfoot, while those who peacefully protest for their rights are dubbed as 'terrorists' and 'troublemakers'. The only path to redemption lies in upholding the constitutional framework, and respecting the popular will. Jinnah was crystal clear about this, and it rings true now as it did then. 'True' independence

 and not in the sense of a political slogan – can only be achieved when Pakistan's children are assured of a better tomorrow, and the people of this country are freed from a stifling existence, and can achieve their full potential.

Pakistan at 77

Samuel Rizk

I joined UNDP Pakistan one year ago, and celebrating Aug 14 was one dex (measuring health, education and income), of my first activities. Dressed in green and white with flags all colleagues around, chanted Zindabad", a message I heard all around the country as I made my way from Karachi and Lahore, to Quetta and Peshawar, to upper Chitral, Hunza and Gilgit. From glaciers to shorelines, and everything inbetween, Pakistan is a proud nation, blessed with its beautiful geography, but mostly with its

Pakistan at 77 is also complicated. Still recovering from Covid 19 and a devastating 2022 flood, it is critically vulnerable to climate change, has survived a macroeconomic cliff-hanger in 2023 that is slowly showing signs of abatement, and is facing debt and security challenges that leave people and authorities alike on edge. Lingering in the background are persistent reform questions which, if resolved, will fix the fundamental governance architecture that steadies the country on an inclusive, sustainable devel-

opment path. Data reveals this complicated storyline away from seeing a with more nuance. With six years remaining to realise the Sustainable mestic investment and Development Goals, and \$53 billion required to do so, alarm bells are ringing with 40 per cent poverty, gaping gender disparities, with Pakistan efit, but as future busiprojected to achieve only 35 out of 169 development targets. Pakistan at 77 is a young country, literally and metaphorically, with 60pc of a rapidly growing population under the age of 30, but with nearly 22 million children out of school and a mere 46pc literacy rate among women and

Pakistan has fallen from medium to low human development in the 2024 UNDP Human Develop-"Pakistan ment Report, with Af-

ghanistan being the only

other South Asian nation

in this category.

stan is greater than the sum of its statistics, a country with substantial ambition and potential, appearing dormant at times, and masking underlying factors of resilience and connectivity. Among many critical development priorities, three areas stand out as

particularly promising:

The first centres

around people. Investing in Pakistan's human capital is an investment in its present and future. At the dawn of the republic, Pakistan's founding father, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, stated: "...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". Pakistan's GDP could gain \$251bn by 2025 if women are as equally connected to the economy as men. And, youth bulge as a security or poverty risk, doproductivity can be turbocharged with youth entrepreneurs at the centre, skilled not only for their individual benness leaders. Connecting formal, technical and vocational training to future-ready jobs guarantees a significant return on investment, especially when anticipating a more digitised future of work in Pakistan and glo-

The second area must be readying Paki- prosperous. -- Courstan for an economy that tesy Dawn

After decades in is as sustainable as it is upward trajectory in the resilient in the face of in-Human Development In- evitable storms. While dex (measuring health, Pakistan's climate adaptation is no longer a choice, identifying more ambitious mitigation targets is a global obligation that Pakistan must undertake. With 40m living without electricity, a just, equitable transition to a green(er) economy Admittedly, Paki- powered by cleaner, less carbon-dependant energy is possible in a country endo-wed with abundant natural resources, and a vibrant priv-ate sector committ--ed to renewable, in--novative solu-

> The third area foresees Pakistan's voice in a global context, where multilateralism and interdependence have given to gridlock, polarisation, protectionism, and uncertainty concerns tabled for the United Nations Summit for the Future in Septem-

Prosperity for Pakistan will be strengthened by a country fully present and active on the global scene, committed to fundamental human rights and broad civic engagement, aligned with climate targets, fortified by strong trade measures that start at home and resonate beyond borders. With critical socioeconomic and institutional reforms already underway, staying the course will project Pakistan as an attractive regional and global connectivity hub. Pakistan at 77 is a complex development mosaic that I've come to learn and appreciate deeply over the past year. We will accompany our national partners and the broader development community along this journey, determined to leave no one behind, resolved to see a Pakistan that is as equitable and inclusive as it is peaceful and

Beyond the javelin

Mahir Ali

A singular athletic triumph in Paris triggered spontaneous jubilation in the run-up to Independence Day in a nation that might otherwise have wondered what was worth celebrating 77 years after its birth.

Success, as they say, has many fathers, and Arshad Nadeem's remarkable individual achievement predictably spurred a flurry of efforts to scrape off a bit of glitter from Pakistan's first Olympic gold medal in 40 years — and to shower him with the kind of institutional support that was largely absent during his

tention had shifted to another first: an ISPR press release stated that retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed was in military custody. He faces a court martial on charges that cover both his tenure as spy chief and its aftermath as well as activities that followed his early retirement in November 2022.

No ISI chief has previously faced this kind of comeuppance, and beyond the terse ISPR acknowledgement that something unprecedented is going down, it's unclear what the future might hold in terms of accountability for the 'guardians'. But what exactly is being guarded beyond a thoroughly hollowed-out polity and an economy that periodically prays to the IMF for deliverance?

The proceedings against Hameed are ostensibly based on the Top City raid in 2017 and its allegedly corrupt consequences. Borderline criminal conduct by housing societies has been the norm for decades, and their relations with provincial and national symptoms Pakistan's lifelong malaise.

Much of the com- forts led by the amaz-

carceration has, however, noted his far wider political role before, during and after Imran Khan's minister. Of course, previous spy chiefs — beginning with Hamid Gul

have also been complicit in advancing Imran Khan's political career. And, before him, that of Nawaz Sharif which the PML-N would naturally be reluctant to acknowledge.

Pakistan Times wondered whether the Muslim League, after a resounding electoral defeat restricts their activity to a continuous search for new pastures". Four years later, it felt obliged to call out political players "cursed with unlimited greed and gifted with limited ability'

to both the political and military spheres. Military rule, directly or by default, has been the disastrous norm for too long. The way out towards a debe determined more than first national elections that split the nation folthwart such an outcome after it was too late.

Perhaps the biggest tragedy in recent decades considerable comfort from has been the determinafollies that blighted the and India's Neeraj past. The state's ridicu-Baloch Committee's planned protest in Gwadar is a case in point. The role of Baloch women in protests against the enforced disappearances of their husbands, brothers and power brokers are among sons is a tremendous achievement, but it's far from clear whether the ef-

mentary following his in- ingly effective Dr Mahrang Baloch will bear fruit. Who can seriously question the logic of Balochistan's abundant incumbency as prime natural resources primarily benefiting the province's population? It might take a revolution, though, for that scenario

There was a student-worker revolt in 1968-69, that rat-tled the established order. But the events that followed effecti-vely put democ-On the seventh an- racy on the back-burner, niversary of indepen- and it has never comdence 70 years ago, The pletely recovered. The present scenario suggests that it never will unless the depressing status quo is superseded by lonely journey to the top.

By Monday, though,
the focus of national atthe focus of national a but by rights-based movements, which are, unfortunately, anathema to the powers that be. These are the kind of movements that the established order cannot countenance, precisely That description because they militate pretty much still applies against its repetitive absurdities.

The arguably justified targeting of an outof-control former spy chief might be welcome, but it offers no guaranmonstratively democratic tee that Faiz Hameed's dispensation remains to attitude will not resurface. Any rejoicing on this achalf a century after the count would surely be premature. The prospect of civilian supremacy relowing the massacre to mains a distant dream after all these years.

But while the future is unwritten, one can draw the attitudes of the mothtion to repeat the kind of ers of Arshad Nadeem Chopra, both of whom lous reaction to the claimed their offspring's friendly rival as an equally worthy son. Reports suggest the social media response was largely positive. That is something both Pakistan and India should be celebrating this week — but without losing sight of the various ailments that blight both nations in different ways. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Experts stress enhancing public finance for reducing malnutrition

workshop on Public Finance for Nutrition and Childhood Development conducted by scaling up nutrition (SUN), NGO. Secretariat, Planning

and Development WASH departments, as nutrition, along with partners - World Food UNICEF Pakistan on Programme (WFP), markers through technical Monday- Tuesday at Kashmir Institute of Management (KIM). The event was chaired by Secretary P&DD Mr. Amir Latif Senior Chief SUN Latif Pakistan, and Muhammad Latif Senior Chief SUN Label Base Sun Gillani, and notable joined as facilitators both

Kantt, Donor Coordinator PM Secretariat Asma Andarabi

livestock, fisheries, and research academia, civil society, and media.

attendees including DG in person and virtually, to

MUZAFFARABAD Health Dr. Farooq Ahmad the capacity-building (APP): A two-day Noor, Dean of Allied workshop and added capacity building Health Sciences Dr. Bashir valuable technical perspectives to the discussions. The main and objectives of the workshop representatives from the were to build capacity for health, education, women's tracking the allocations for development, agriculture, nutrition, and expenditure of public funds in presentations, group works, and discussions.

Participants were Latif ,Senior Chief, SUN Iqbal, Resource Person different aspects of focal Person, Mehreen from the SUN Unit KPK, nutrition and the roles of



divided into four groups, each presenting on various government departments.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displays fruits on his roadside setup to attract the customers at F-10 area.

Quaid's principles can develop Pak speedily

LAHORE (APP): SAARC the entire Muslim Ummah. Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Wednesday said that true implementation of the Quaid-i-Azam's principles of "Unity, Faith, and Discipline" in every sphere of life can serve as a powerful catalyst for driving Pakistan towards sustainable economic growth, development, and prosperity.

In a meeting with a of traders delegation led by Muslim Khan Buneri here, populace. A nation he added the best way to celebrate Independence Day is to practice the motto of the father of nation in their lives to lead

He said unity fosters social cohesion, reducing internal conflicts and strengthening collective efforts towards national goals. He said, 'When we are united, we can work together more effectively to address the country's challenges, whether they relate to poverty, education, or healthcare.

He said Faith, on the other hand, instills a sense purpose and determination among the grounded in faith is more resilient and optimistic. capable of overcoming obstacles with a strong belief in its future.

President of JazzCash, joins **Forbes Finance Council**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of JazzCash, Pakistan's largest fintech platform, Murtaza Ali, has been accepted into the Forbes Finance Council, the foremost community of financial services professionals worldwide.

Murtaza's selection to the Council comes as recognition of his outstanding performance in the fintech and telecommunications sectors said a news release. With over 25 years of

experience, Murtaza has consistently demonstrated his ability to drive business growth and innovation. His leadership at

JazzCash, a joint venture between Jazz and Mobilink Microfinance Bank and part of the VEON Group, has been instrumental transforming the digital financial services

landscape in Pakistan.

As a Council
member, Murtaza will have access to exclusive opportunities designed enhance professional influence.



Engineers play crucial role in nation building: FEICSA

Federation of Engineering Institutions of Central and South Asia (FEICSA) Secretary General Engineer Sultan Mahmood said on Wednesday that architects and engineers play equally crucial roles in nationbuilding projects, driving

the progress and prosperity of a country.

Addressing the national flag hoisting ceremony here at Creative Group of companies headquarters, he said engineers on the other architectural designs.

(APP): hand, bring these gineering architectural visions to life. Their expertise in structural integrity, materials, and technology ensures that buildings and infrastructures are not only safe and efficient but also durable and costeffective. From constructing bridges, roads, and airports to developing energy systems transportation and networks, engineers are integral to the practical implementation

Cake designers make Pakistan's birthday sweeter with patriotic creations

ISLAMABAD (APP): As aired by a Private news today, the sweet aroma of patriotism wafts through the air where confectionery artists across the country were seen busy in crafting masterpieces with cake designs that reflect the nation's spirit, making the occasion even more unforgettable.

surge in demand for custom cakes. From Lahore to Karachi, and Islamabad to Peshawar cake shops are working overtime to meet my family gathering and the orders, said a report got a great deal", she added.

Pakistan marks its birthday channel. Cake cutting ceremonies have become an integral Independence Day celebrations, said Hassan, a event organizer. It is a way to show unity, solidarity and cakes are the perfect centerpiece, he

Cake shops across the country are witnessing a offering special discounts and packages for Independence Day, said a customer.

"I ordered a cake for

SNGPL disconnects 10 more connections

over violations

LODHRAN (APP): The Sui Northern Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force raided and disconnected 10 more connections. consumers metres were found seal tempered and further legal action recommended disconnecting connections.

Likewise, six more metres were disconnected due to suspicious tampering and were disconnected and recommend further legal action. While one consumer's meter was on billing and was installed on site.

SCCI celebrates I-Day PESHAWAR (APP):

Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Wednesday arranged a flag hoisting ceremony to mark Independence Day.

The event was by Leader Businessmen Forum, Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, President SCCI Fuad Ishaq, Senior Vice President SCCI and other office bearers.

On the occasion. glowing tributes were paid to forefathers for their struggle and sacrifices for a separate motherland.

WASA sings MoU of 10mln USD regarding mega projects of urban flooding

and Sanitation Agency (WASA) has signed MoU for record of discussion regarding mega projects of urban flooding worth of 10 million USD on Wednesday. A ceremony regarding

Record of Discussion for Disaster Prevention Project was held at Development and Public Health Engineering Secretariat in which Special Secretary Housing Punjab Tayyab Farid, Director General Multan Development Authority WASA Khalid Raza Khan,

Country Director of Korea

International Cooperation

for the project Deputy Director Planning & Development WASA Muhammad Nadeem were present. Muhammad Nadeem

said these funds would be provided in the form of grant-in-aid to WASA Multan by the participation of the Korea. Under the agreement

signed between WASA Multan and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), a master plan will be developed to prevent Multan city from (MDA) Rana Saleem urban flooding and Ahmed, Managing Director underground water tanks would be constructed to provide relief to low-lying areas of the city during monsoons



KARACHI: Vendors sells Pakistan's national flags at a roadside stall on the eve of the country's Independence Day, in the Provincial Capital.

Celebrating Unity and Patriotism: Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Pakistan Pvt. Limited Pak marks Independence Day

Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Pakistan Pvt. Limited, the 1320 MW Coal Fired Power were marked by heartfelt Plant (CFPP) in Sahiwal, became a vibrant stage through celebrating the Independence celebrations on Wednesday with a number of vibrant activities, showing a remarkable bond between Chinese and Pakistani staff.

The plant's annual observance of Pakistan's Independence Day was a profound testament to the camaraderie and unity pride, said a news release.

ISLAMABAD (APP): between its Chinese and Pakistani staff. This year's festivities

> ceremonies that showcased a remarkable bond between the two nations. The day began with a traditional flagraising ceremony, a moment of great significance for the Pakistani employees. As the Pakistani flag was hoisted against the backdrop of the power plant, the ceremony was conducted with great reverence and national

presented beautiful tunes.

The female students clad in

Sindhi, Balochi, Kalash,

Kashmiri, Punjabi, Cholistan

and other regional dresses

accorded a warm reception to the CM Punjab by

clapping. The excerpts from

the speech of Quaid-e-Azam

were also presented in the

ceremony. The differently-

abled children presented the

national anthem in

connection with the

Flag hoisting ceremony held at Governor House to celebrate I Day

PESHAWAR (APP): A were offered for the commitment to advancing ceremony was held at the Governor's House in Peshawar on Wednesday on the occasion of Independence Day.

The governor of Pakistan's Independence principles of unity, faith, and discipline are essential Faisal Karim Kundi, conducted the flag hoisting

The event saw the special participation of his gratitude. Consul Generals from the United States of America, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Provincial Assembly member Ahmad Karim Kundi, along with the staff of the Governor's House and other distinguished guests, also attended the

During the ceremony, the Consul Generals from the three countries joined Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and other attendees in chanting "Pakistan Zindabad" (Long live

Following the flag ancestors hoisting, special prayers

Chairperson of the Punjab

Authority (PWPA) Hina

Pervaiz Butt led a flag-

hoisting ceremony at her

office here on Wednesday,

followed by the planting of

attended by Director

General Safina Sadiq,

Deputy Director Aqsa

Rafiq, Rabia Usman, and

Pervaiz Butt extended

heartfelt congratulations to

the people of Pakistan on

the 77th Independence

Day. She emphasized that

the nation envisioned by

Quaid-e-Azam and Allama

Iqbal is rapidly progressing. The vision of

prosperity is at the heart

and

of the leadership of Pakistan

Pakistan Muslim League- Association.

In her address, Hina

other officials.

development

The event was

Protection

PWPA chairperson leads

flag hoisting ceremony

and prosperity.

Governor Karim Kundi extended his heartfelt congratulations to Jinnah the entire nation on

He paid tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, police, and Army nations Public School, expressing

Kundi emphasized the need for peace, prosperity, development province and called for collective efforts to honor the sacrifices that led to the country's independence.

In his message on Independence Day, Kundi Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the merged districts. He highlighted that

sustained struggle of our Kundi reaffirmed his

Nawaz, she said and added

that under the leadership of

CM Maryam Nawaz,

Punjab has entered a new

era of development. Within

just a few months, Maryam

Nawaz has accomplished

feats that no previous chief minister could achieve. The

leadership of Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz is

working to fulfill Quaid-e-

Azam's mission and bring

Allama Iqbal's dream to

Butt participated in an

celebration at the Liberty

Police Khidmat Markaz,

where she also performed

a flag-hoisting ceremony

and cut a cake in honor of

the occasion. The event

was graced by the presence

of CTO Lahore Ammara

Athar, Chairman of the All

Women's

Independence

Later, Hina Pervaiz

dignified flag hoisting country's development the country along the path of development in line with Faisal the principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

> He stressed that the for securing Pakistan's rightful place among the

> As a nation, Kundi pledged to fulfill the dreams of Pakistan's founder and work towards building a prosperous, peaceful, and stable Pakistan.

He underscored the significance of the green and white flag as a symbol of the country's identity and independence. Governor Faisal

congratulated the people of Karim Kundi also urged overcoming challenges and uniting as a nation to protect the country's the free nation is a result ideological geographical integrity, of the great sacrifices and vowing to make any necessary sacrifices for the homeland.

Ceremony held in PHC

to mark I-Day PESHAWAR (APP): An impressive ceremony was held on the premises of Peshawar Ĥigh Court (PHC) to celebrate

Independence Day.
Chief Justice
Peshawar High Court, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Judges, Advocate Deputy General, Attorney District and Session Judge Peshawar, Chairman Services Tribunal and members of bas associations attended the

ceremony. Chief Justice hoisted the flag while a smart contingent of police presented salute.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief Justice congratulated the nation on Independence Day and paid tribute to struggle of Muslim leaders to get a separate homeland.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Olympics Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem along with other officials cutting the cake of Independence Day at Governor House.

Minister Azma extends I-Day greetings, urges unity, vigilance among youth

AHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire Pakistani nation on the occasion of 77th Independence Day.

In her message, she emphasized that Pakistan stands as a testament to the sacrifices made by the nation's great leaders and ancestors, urging every citizen to cherish the freedom that was hard- our nation's youth.

won. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, she called upon parents to protect their children from discord and unrest, warning that elements within the country are attempting to foster division. "The youth must act as a strong, united front against these challenges," she remarked. "It is concerning that those whose own children are abroad are trying to instill a sense of subservience in

Senior minister launches monsoon plantation campaign on Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Independence Day. She country's Independence Day by inaugurating the monsoon plantation campaign titled "One Person, One Tree." The campaign, which emphasizes environmental stewardship, was launched with the planting of a local citrus sapling by the Senior Minister on Wednesday. During the ceremony, Marriyum Aurangzeb offered prayers for the nation's success and prosperity, urging citizens to

participate in the initiative by

Senior Minister Marriyum highlighted that over 3 Aurangzeb marked the million trees are being planted across Punjab as part of the campaign.
The Senior Minister

also introduced a unique plantation experiment involving the use of seed balls, emphasizing that tree plantation is not only a virtuous act but also a national necessity. Secretary

Environmental Protection Raja Jahangir, DG Wildlife Mudassir Riaz Malik, DG PHA Tahir Wattoo, and other dignitaries were planting saplings to celebrate present at the event.

KPT Chairman marks Independence Day with flag hoisting ceremony

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Port Trust (KPT) commemorated the Independence Day, with a ceremony filled with national spirit at the KPT Head Office on Wednesday.

Chairman Syedain Raza Zaidi, led the event as the chief guest, accompanied by all General Managers and Heads of Departments, said a news release.

The celebrations began with the sounding of sirens for two minutes, followed by the hoisting of the national flag by Chairman Zaidi He also reviewed a guard of honor presented by the Port Security Force.

In his address Chairman Zaidi high lighted the significance of independence and paid tribute to the selfless contributions and sacrifices of the nation's forefathers in the creation of Pakistan. He honored those who have made the ultimate sacri fice to secure and preserve the country's independence.

Following the flaghoisting ceremony, Chairman Zaidi visited the Quaid-e-Azam Mausoleum to offer prayers and pay homage to the

CM Punjab attends flag hoisting ceremony on 77th Independence Day

AHORE (APP): Punjab Mosque and the school bands Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif hoisted the national flag at the Alamgiri Gate of Lahore Fort on the occasion of Independence Day.

National anthem was presented on the occasion. The Chief Minister participated in a special ceremony being held at the Hazuri Bagh.
The CM paid a visit to the Mazar-e-Iqbal, laid a

floral wreath and offered

Fateha at the Mazar-e-Iqbal. She prayed for the integrity, progress, prosperity and stability of the country and paid homage to the Poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal in glowing words. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif was presented a salute by the smartly turned out contingent of scouts standing on the stairs of Badshahi

Independence Day.
The CM left her seat and sat among the differentlyabled children and appreciated their presenting the national anthem. Ambassadors from various countries and prominent personalities from different walks of life participated in the Independence Day ceremony being held at Hazuri Bagh.



LAHORE: Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif arriving for offering Fataha on the grave of Poet of Nation Dr. Allama Mohammad Igbal at Mazare-Iqbal during Independence Day celebrations, in the Provincial Capital.

SAFWCO Group celebrates 78th Independence Day of Pakistan

Taliban celebrate 3 years

since Afghanistan takeover

SAFWCO Group here on Wednesday organized a function on the occasion of 78th Independence Day of Pakistan at which was attended by key employees of Sindh Agriculture and Forestry

HYDERABAD (APP): SAFCO Microfinance Company.

Speaking at the event, founder of SAFWCO Suleman G. Abro said that 65 percent SAFWCO Head Office, of Pakistan's population consists of youth, which was a great fortune for the country, however Workers Coordinating these youth could fulfill Organization our expectations if they (SAFWCO), SAFCO were equipped with mod-Support Foundation and ern technology.

International News

Ukraine is advancing deeper into Russia, **Zelenskiy says**

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine said on Wednesday its forces had advanced further into Russia's Kursk region in the biggest foreign incursion into Russia since World War Two, posing a dilemma for President Vladimir Putin according to US President Joe Biden.

Thousands of Ukrainian troops rammed through the Russian border in the early hours of August 6 into Russia's western Kursk region in what Putin called a major provocation aimed at gaining a stronger hand in possible future ceasefire talks.

Ukraine has carved out a slice of the Russian border region of Kursk and though Putin said the Russian army would push out the Ukrainian troops, more than a week of intense battles have so far failed to

Volodymyr Zelenskiy said

Monitoring Desk

LIMA: Venezuelan opposi-

tion leader Maria Corina

Machado said on Tuesday

that President Nicolas

Maduro had "entrenched

himself' with the nation's

top military leaders in order

to stay in power after last

month's disputed election.

The electoral authority, the

CNE, which the opposition

says is loyal to Maduro,

declared that he had won

reelection in the July 28 vote,

while the opposition argues

it was won by its candidate,

leased a detailed vote count

and its website has been

down since the early hours

of July 29. The opposition

has posted its ballot count

online, which shows

Gonzalez receiving double

the number of votes as

Maduro

The CNE has not re-

Edmundo Gonzalez.

ing to gain ground in the Kursk region and that they had taken another one to two kilometres on Wednes-

"We continue to adregion," Zelenskiy wrote in a statement on Telegram, from one to two kilometres in various areas since the start of the day. prisoners of war in the same period."

Russia's defence ministry said 117 Ukrainian drones had been shot down within its territory overnight, mostly in the Kursk, Voronezh, Belgorod and Nizhny Novgorod regions. It said missiles had also been downed, and showed Sukhoi Su-34 bombers striking Ukrainian positions in the Kursk region.

Later, the ministry said Russian forces had re-Ukrainian President dymyr Zelenskiy said attacks inside the Kursk

Venezuela's Machado

says Maduro relying on

military to stay in power

Russkoye Porechnoye 18km from the border, and pro-Russian war bloggers said the front has been stabilised.

The Ukrainian drone vance further in the Kursk attack included strikes on four Russian military airfields in an attempt to undermine Russia's ability to attack Ukraine with gliding bombs, a Ukrainian secu-And more than 100 Russian rity source told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Russia's National Guard said it was beefing up security at the Kursk nuclear power plant, located just 35km from the

fighting.
The Ukrainian assault into Russian territory has dramatically changed the narrative around the twoand-a-half-year-old war. Russia had been advancing in eastern Ukraine since the failure of Kyiv's 2023 counteroffensive to make any major gains against Russian

Mexico to send US diplomatic note over donations to Mexican civil groups **Monitoring Desk**

Maduro. Machado, speaking at a virtual press conference MEXICO CITY: Mexican with media from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru on Tues-President Andres Manuel day, called on Venezuelans at Lopez Obrador told a mornhome and abroad to protest ing press conference on on Saturday to force Maduro Wednesday that he would to "respect" the election resend a diplomatic note to the sult. "What Maduro has cho-United States over what he sen to do is entrench himself called interference regarding with the top military com-US donations to opposition mand, that's all he has left, civil organizations. The Machado said. Venezuela's president cited US funding military has long supported for Mexicanos Contra la Maduro, in power since Corrupcion y la Impunidad, 2013, and there have been an anti-graft NGO which has no public signs since the investigated possible corrupelection that leaders of the tion in his administration as armed forces are breaking well as that of his predecesfrom the government. sors. "We have dealt with it Machado is under criminal here several times, it has been investigation for allegedly made public but now we are inciting police and military going to handle it in the apto civil disobedience after propriate way through the letter I am going to send she published a letter calling for them to abandon President Biden," Lopez

Obrador said



Israel-Hamas conflict, in Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Biden says Gaza ceasefire could stop Iran attacking Israel

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: US President Joe Biden said Tuesday that a ceasefire deal in Gaza could deter Iran from attacking Israel in retaliation for the killing of a Hamas leader that sent regional tensions soaring. His remarks came after Iran rejected Western calls to "stand down" its threat of reprisals. The Islamic republic

and its allies have blamed Israel for Ismail Haniyeh's killing on July 31 during a visit to Tehran for the swearing-in of Iranian Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented. Iran has vowed to avenge the death, which came hours after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a secommander of Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon. Asked if a truce between Israel and Hamas could stave off an Iranian assault, Biden said: "That's my expectation".

He told reporters in New Orleans that while negotiations were "getting hard" he was "not giving up". Westdiplomats have scrambled to prevent a major conflagration in the Middle East, where tensions were already high due to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Unpopular Japan PM Kishida to step down

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on Wednesday he will step aside next month, ending a three-year term plagued by low popularity ratings and a spluttering economy.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has governed almost uninterrupted for decades, is due to hold a leadership contest next month, with the winner to become prime minister. Kishida said on to step aside," he said.

Wednesday he will not seek re-election as party chief.

"In this (party) presidential election, it is necessary to show the people that the LDP is changing and the party is a new LDP," Kishida told reporters in

"For this, transparent and open elections and free and vigorous debate are important. The most obvious first step to show that the LDP will change is for me

US soldier pleads guilty to selling defence information to China

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A US Army intelligence analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday to providing sensitive defence information to China, including documents about US weapons systems and military tac-

tics and strategy.
Sergeant Korbein
Schultz, who held a topsecret security clearance, was arrested in March at Fort Campbell, a military base on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Trudeau urges **Canadians to** leave Lebanon, citing 'real' risk of escalation

Monitoring Desk OTTAWA: There is a real risk of escalation in the conflict between Israel and Iranbacked Hezbollah, and Canadians should leave Lebanon while possible because Ottawa may not be able to evacuate everyone if the situation worsens, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday. "We see that the risk of escalation is real, the challenges in the region are significant," Trudeau told reporters in Ontario.

with military show **Monitoring Desk** There were also US-KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban rulers celebrated three years in power on Wednesday with a military parade paying homage to

their homemade bombs used in war, fighter aircraft, and goose-stepping security forces. The Taliban's armed forces towed Soviet-era tanks and artillery pieces through the former US air base in Bagram, where Chinese and Iranian diplomats were among hundreds who gathered for the parade and speeches. The former Bagram base once served as the linchpin for US-led operations against the Taliban for two decades.

A swarm of motorbikes strapped with yellow jerry cans, often used to carry homemade bombs during the fight against international forces, also rumbled past as- apartheid".

made armoured personnel carriers, the black-andwhite flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan the Taliban government's formal name for the country — fluttering above them. Helicopters and fighter aircraft flew over the base, where Taliban fighters were once imprisoned about 40 kilometres north of Kabul. Taliban forces seized the capital on August 15. 2021, after the US-backed government collapsed and its leaders fled into exile. The anniversary is marked a day earlier on the Afghan calendar. Their government remains unrecognised by any other state, with restrictions on women, who bear the brunt of policies the United Nations has called "gender

Hamas to stay out of Gaza truce talks, Iran considers Israel attack

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: The Palestinian

Islamist group Hamas said on Wednesday it would not take part in a new round of Gaza ceasefire talks slated for Thursday in Qatar, dimming hopes for a negotiated truce that Iranian sources say could hold back an Iranian attack on Israel.

The US has said it expects indirect talks to go ahead as planned in Qatar's capital Doha on Thursday, and that a ceasefire agreement was still possible. However Axios reported that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has postponed a trip to the Middle East that had been expected to begin on Tues-

Three senior Iranian officials have said that only a ceasefire deal in Gaza would hold Iran back from direct retaliation against Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on its soil last month. The Israeli government said it would send a

delegation to Thursdav's talks, but Hamas, the Pales tinian militant group that controls Gaza, requested a workable plan to implement a proposal it has already accepted rather than more talks 'Hamas is committed

to the proposal presented to it on July 2, which is based on the U.N. Security Council resolution and the Biden speech and the movement is prepared to immediately begin discussion over a mechanism to implement it." Senior Hamas of ficial Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters. "Going to new negotiation allows the occupation to impose new conditions and employ the maze of negotiation to conduct more massacres," he added. There has been no let-up in fighting in Gaza, where residents of the southern city of Khan Younis said Israeli forces blew up homes in the east and intensified tank shelling on eastern areas of the city centre.

Darinaugurates NADRA's new registration centers in Balochisan

QUETTA (APP): Deputy institutions to fully coop-Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday inaugurated 21 new NADRA registration centers and six new mobile registration vehicles in Balochistan during a ceremony held at CM Secretariat here. National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries, assembly members, NADRA officials, were also present.

Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar expressed satisfaction with the provision of new NADRA registration centers and MRVs in the prov-

He instructed federal

Minister erate with the provincial government in providing services to the remote areas of Balochistan.

Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, on the occasion hoped that the establishment of new registration centers in 21 tehsils of Balochistan's remote areas would facilitate the public in obtaining registration and identity cards.

The Chief Minister added that the people in remote areas had faced difficulties in registration and obtaining identity cards.

The new registration centers and mobile vehicles would particularly benefit the elderly and women, allowing them to register and obtain identity cards at their



BEIJING: A dignified investiture ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Khalil Hashmi, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred the prestigious "Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam" award, upon Ambassador Nong Rong, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and former Ambassador of China to Pakistan.

Bilawal reaffirms PPP's commitment to democracy, unity on Independence Day

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in his message on the occasion of Independence Day, has reaffirmed his party's dedication to upholding the core principles of democracy, constitutionalism, and equality on which Pakistan

He emphasized that the 1973 Constitution embodies the spirit of the Freedom Movement and provides a unified vision for the nation's future.

Chairman Bilawal 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.

Chairman PPP stated, "As we celebrate Independence Day, we honor the sacrifices made by our forefathers who fought for our

freedom and sovereignty 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." Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized that the PPP remains committed to the principles and vision of the founding fa-Shutto Zardari reiterated thers. He remarked, "The ideology of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar 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 navi-

gate our challenges.



PISHIN: Parliamentary Secretary Asfandyar Kakar and MPAs Asghar Tareen and Syed Zafar Ali Agha wearing traditional turban to Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani on eve of a ceremony held in connection with Independence Day

Deputy PM, Speaker NA return to Islamabad after two-day visit to Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Minister, Prime Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq returned back to Islamabad after winding up two-day visit to Quetta on Wednes-

The Governor, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial ministers, members of national and provincial assemblies saw them off ing

at the Quetta airport. The Deputy Prime Minister and Speaker National Assembly thanked the Chief Minister and expressed best wishes for

here that Ishaq Dar and Speaker National Assembly participated in the Independence day celebrations in Quetta.

The Deputy Prime Minister also presided over the meeting about law and order and development projects.

He also participated as chief guest at the main ceremony of flag hoisting at the provincial assembly's law on Wednesday morn-

In addition to this, Ishaq Dar also inaugurated the Quetta solid waste management project along with the Chief Minister and Speaker National Assem-



QUETTA: Balochistan Youth ittehad hold rally to mark independence day.



Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating new Registration Centers of NADRA. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Provincial Ministers and high officials are also present

USAID provides health care equipments to flood-affected districts of Sindh, Balochistan

livered during the handover

reflect the needs of these

communities and align with

USAID Mission Director

Kate Somvongsiri empha-

sized the long-term impact

ceremony,

national priorities.

of this assistance.

handover

The United States Government, through USAID, has handed over 5,000 lady health worker kits, 90 maternal, neonatal, and child health packages, and 120 birthing stations to improve health services in eleven flood-affected districts of Sindh and Balochistan.

These supplies, part of USAID's \$27.8 million investment in the health sector's flood response, will enable lady health workers and health facilities to provide better health services to more than 80,000 children and 100,000 married women of reproductive age. said a press release.

devastating floods in June 2022 severely disrupted health services in Sindh and

Pak embassy in Beijing celebrates 77th I-Day

BEIJING (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing on Wednesday marked the 77th Independence Day anniversary with a flag hoisting ceremony.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Ouran, followed by the rais ing of the national flag by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi. who was accompanied by embassy officials and a large gathering of the Pakistani community in Beijing.

During the ceremony, messages of felicitation from the president, prime minister, and deputy prime minister/ foreign minister of Pakistan were read aloud These messages paid glowing tribute to the nation's struggle for independence under the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, which ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Internet woes, WhatsApp outage disrupt lives, business in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is grappling with ongoing issues related to internet connectivity, with users reporting consistently slow speeds and frequent disruptions, particularly in mobile data ser-

The situation has been exacerbated by a wideoutage spread WhatsApp, a crucial communication tool for both citizens and businesses. This disruption is not only impeding daily communication but is also causing significant financial losses, according to affected individuals and entrepreneurs.

There is no vision of rulers except of distributing laptop: Hafiz

LAHORE (Online): J Amir Hafiz Naeem has said that unfortunately no vision of the rulers except distributing laptop comes to fore.

they are distributing lap tops since the last ten years, he said this while addressing flag hoisting ceremony here in Mansoora Wednesday on the occasion of independence day.

We can hardly export IT worth three billion dollars. If we focus on IT and capture 3 or 4 percent of market, it stands at 40 billion dollars, he held.

It is food security is sue. Agriculture is ruined. Over two and half crores children are out of schools. University education is in miserable plight. No attention is being paid to environment. If there is no vision of government then how will we move ahead, he questioned.

Balochistan, affecting over strengthening the health re-silience of flood-affected 13 million people and exposing them to waterborne and vector-borne diseases. communities in Sindh and Balochistan This crisis worsened

"By enhancing health service delivery and ensurissues in routine immunization, maternal health, and ing the availability of essenchild malnutrition. In response, USAID tial commodities, we can and its partners assessed save lives and build resilhealth commodity needs in ience against future crises, remarked Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, the hardest-hit districts and identified critical shortages. Coordinator to Prime Minister, MoNHSRC. The commodities de-

Speaking on the occasion Minister for Health and Population Sindh Dr. Azra Speaking at the Fazal Pechuho said that this assistance has been pivotal in improving Pakistan's health system's capacity to respond to public health emergencies and ensure continuity of essential



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan, Abdul Rehman Jay. Al-Mutiari with Federal Minister for Privatization. Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Independence Day function.

Independence Day PM expresses gratitude to **UAE** counterpart for extending greetings

Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday thanked his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his warm greetings on Pakistan's Independence

"I thank Your Highness and the entire leadership of UAE for always standing with Pakistan in our journey towards

ISLAMABAD (APP): peace, progress and prosperity. I am confident that by working together, we can build a bright future for our peoples.

Long live Pakistan-UAE brotherhood," the prime minister wrote on his official X account in response to the felicitation message by Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

GoB to bear passport expenses for Lagharis

Independent Report

Balochistan government has announced that it will bear all expenses for the issuance of passports for Lagharis living in the Pak-Afghan border areas of Chaman. This move aims to facilitate local trade and travel while ensuring com-

ments. According to a spokesperson for the Balochistan government, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed the provincial government to cover the costs of passport issuance for the local population, particularly the underprivileged, to ease their business and family



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran enquiring about health of script writer Information Saadat Yar Bareech who got injured in Tuesday night bomb blast

NAB organizes **I-Day celebration**

Independent Report

Balochistan celebrated Independence Day with zest and enthusiasm on 14th August 2024 to pay homage for the independence. The ceremony was held at the premises of NAB (Balochistan) and NAB officers, officials, and their children actively participated. The children of NAB employees were dressed in bright ceremonial clothing. DG

(Balochistan) Mr. Izhar Ahmed Awan unfurled the flag in front of the enthusiastic participants. A ceremonial salute was presented by the police personal mark the occasion

honoring the nations sovereignty and independence. The Director General interacted with the officers, staff, and children in the ceremony. The Director General NAB emphasized the importance of self-accountability and encouraged employees to play a proactive role in contributing to the betterment of our beloved country, by highlighting the significance of personal responsibility and collective effort in fostering positive change within the organization and society at large. Furthermore, DG NAB asked the NAB officers and officials to actively participate in celebrations of Independence Day.

Assures to issue directives for timely release of funds for projects: We are serious in bringing Balochistan in mainstream development at par of other provinces, says Deputy PM

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti tells Ishaq Dar timely completion of federal development projects conditional with timely release of funds

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy

Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar has categorically stated that we are serious for bringing Balochistan in mainstream development at par of other

The Deputy Prime Minister assured to issue directives to the concerned authorities for timely release of the funds for federal development projects in the province. He expressed satisfac-

tion over the measures of provincial government for

restoration of law and order in the province and assured complete cooperation by the federal government.

The Deputy Prime Minister was in meeting with the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti before leaving for Islamabad on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and other senior high ups were also present

There was discussion on the measures about on-

projects, law and order and social development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that we are making provincial development programme compatible with the public needs.

He said that we are determined to improve service delivery system and establishment of the good governance.

However, the timely completion of the federal development projects is conditional with timely release of the funds.



QUETTA: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being signed between Government of Balochistan and Akhuwat Foundation. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti is also present

Massive Independence Day rally held at Pak-Afghan **Border**

QUETTA (INP): The 78th Independence Day of Pakistan was marked by a vibrant and patriotic rally at the Pak-Afghan border in

Organized under the direction of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) central leader Mir Ijaz Sanjrani the rally took place in the Barbachah area. The event saw thousands of participants raising slogans of "Pakistan Army" and "Pakistan Zindabad," with the atmosphere filled with enthusiasm as national songs echoed through the crowd

Sheikh claims facing death threats amid rising political

tensions RAWALPINDI (INP) Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has revealed that he is facing death threats but remains resolute in his stance, asserting his right to

stand by his beliefs. In a video statement, the former interior minister declared that government's time has come to an end, urging them to "pack up and leave." He criticized the current administration, stating that it has become a symbol of hatred, making it unsafe to travel anywhere in the country without security. Rasheed claimed that the public has grown to detest the rulers.

Tarar grieved over demise of senior journalist Akhlaq Bajwa

I S L A M A B A D (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of senior journalist Akhlaq Ahmed Bajwa. The minister ex-

pressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the deceased. "Late Akhlaq Ahmad

Bajwa rendered valuable services in the field of journalism," he said adding the vacuum created in journalism due to his death cannot

MoU signed between GoB & **Akhuwat Foundation to** provide interest free loans to unemployed graduates

Independent Report dum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of Balochistan and Akhuwat Foundation here at the Chief Minister's secretariat

on Wednesday. Under the MoU, the unemployed graduates of the province would be offered interest-free and soft-

The Principal Secre-Imran Zarkoon signed the cial government while head of the Akhuwat Foundation, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib signed the MoU on behalf of his organization.

The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Senator Sardar Umar Gorgej, Parliamentary Sec-

retary, Asfandyar Kakar, Member National Assembly, Ahmed Shah Gorgej, Agha Shahzaib Durrani Chief Secretayr, Shakeel Qadir Khan, spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind witnessed the signing ceremony

According to the MoU, the Government of Balochistan and Akhuwat Foundation would provide interest-free soft term loans to the unemployed gradutary to Chief Minister, ates with mutual coopera-

These loans would be provided as per the viable business plan, mentioned in the official hand out issued here adding that these loans would be returned in easy instalments. Besides, the graduate women and minorities would also benefit from the loan scheme, it was further mentioned.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza Shafqat along with others hoisting National Flag during Flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence

Day of Pakistan, at Metropolitan Office in Quetta. Martyr DC Panjgur laid to rest In Turbat with official honour

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy

Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch, martyred in attack in Mastung, was laid to rest in the local graveyard of native area, Turbat on Wednesday.

A large number of people including the Commissioner Makran Division, Dawood Khilji, Deputy Commissioner Kech, Ibrahim Ismail, other officers besides relatives of the martyr Deputy Commissioner participated in his burial and funeral.

Earlier, his funeral prayer was offered in

It may be mentioned here Zakir Baloch was killed by unknown armed men while he was on his way to Quetta from Panjgur a couple of days back.

His funeral prayer was also offered in Central Police Office Quetta. The Governor Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Corps Commander Quetta, Lt. General Rahat Nasim and others participated in the funeral prayer of DC

The smartly turned out contingent of police presented salute to his cof-

Bazai vows to remember sacrifices rendered for creating Pakistan

Deputy Attorney General, Bazai, said on Wednesday that the joy we received on 14 August is something we and our future generations must remember for a life-

While addressing a ceremony held in Kuchlak on the occasion of the 78th

"We must remember how Muhammad Ali Jinnah and many people were sepasenior lawyer Ameenuddin rated, martyred, and sacrificed in the struggle to achieve this great nation. Today, we must try. pay tribute to all their sacrifices"

Paying homage to the founder of Pakistan, he said, "today is a day to re-Independence Day, he said owe to Quaid-e-Azam

is through their efforts that we are breathing in the free air of an independent coun-

Ameenuddin Bazai expressed gratitude to all those who made, protected, and contributed to the construction and member the greatest debt we development of this coun-