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Will share good news on electricity bill reduction with nation soon: PM

Urges nation to support govt in making Pakistan stable, prosperous

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, congratulating the nation on the 78th Pakistan Independence Day, urged the people especially the youth to support the government in its efforts to make the country, prosperous, stable and peaceful.

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 are crucial for you and the country, so only focus on your studies and attaining skilled-based education,

and do not indulge yourself in the negative agenda of the enemy who is out to target you and utilize your capabilities in anti-state activities," he asked the youth while addressing a ceremony held here in connection with the independence day celebrations.

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

On the occasion of the Independence Day, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan and paid homage to the immense sacrifices of fore-

fathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values. As envisioned by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan emerged as an independent and sovereign state on the map of the world on 14th August 1947 through the unwavering and steadfast leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and unmatched sacrifices of our ancestors, he added.

The prime minister highlighted that although during the past 77 years, the

country's journey had not been exemplary but it was also the fact that it managed to survive due to the resilience, its people had shown through natural disasters and economic and social challenges.

"We should learn from our past and move forward with the renewed pledge and resolve to take the country on the path of prosperity and development," he added.

He said although, today, the people were much worried about inflation, electricity bills, unemployment and other issues, but he was very concerned about providing maximum relief to the people.



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



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar cuts cake during the flag hoisting ceremony at the lawn of Balochistan Assembly to mark the Independence Day, CM Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and federal commerce minister Jam Kamal are also present.

Local Government system to be strengthened: New divisions and districts should be established on administrative grounds, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfaraz 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

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz 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.

Flag hoisting ceremonies held at Armed Forces HQs

CJCS, 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 long-cherished 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-determination. Their unrelenting spirit and sacrifices continue to inspire generations, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Wednesday.

"The Armed Forces reaffirm 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 resolve to preserve our hard-won freedom with honor, dignity and an unshakable commitment to our cherished ideals. Long live Pakistan!", the ISPR said.

Online adds: The 78th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated with great national zeal and enthusiasm across the country Wednesday.

Impressive flag hoisting ceremonies were held at the Joint Services Headquarters, General Headquarters and all headquarters of the Armed Forces.

Senior officers of the Armed Forces participated in the flag hoisting ceremonies and presented salute to the Pakistani flag.

The countrywide flag hoisting ceremonies are the message that this flag is a symbol of our pride and our identity and the passion of nation is a manifestation of the fact that Pakistanis are a lively nation.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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, 2025.

The president conferred the awards to individuals in the fields including science and engineering, education, medicine, arts, literature, sports, social services 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 services.

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

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Deputy Premier hoists national flag at BA

We have to make Pakistan economic power after becoming atomic power, announces 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

Wednesday.

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

"We have to achieve what Allah Almighty has written in our destiny. It is desire of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to improve economy and GDP of the country. Pakistan would have to emerge shining star in future 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

speaking on the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister said that Pakistan had become 24th best economy of the world in 2017.

The stock exchange of the country had emerged as the number one stock exchange of the South Asia, he recalled. He said that in his political career of 31 years, he had seen that some hidden forces became active when Pakistan progressed.

He said that Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with numerous minerals and natural resources.

He said that he wants to tell the whole world that Pakistan has minerals of billions and trillions of rupees. He said that there's no room of violence in the country. He said that the theory of angry people has no meaning.



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

Balochistan govt accepts land gifted by CJP, his brother

QUETTA (Online): Balochistan government has accepted the land gifted by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and his brother Qazi Azmat.

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 of Balochistan that their ancestral land, which lies adjacent to the Quaid-i-Azam's Residency at Ziarat, has been donated for the benefit of the people to use as an environmental centre and licensed to the government of Balochistan free of cost.

The letter also enclosed relevant documents, which set out the terms of licence.

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 vowed 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 opportunity 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 Wednesday.

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.

He said that the country came into being after immense sacrifices and this is because of these sacrifices that we are taking breathe in the free environment.

He said that every individual celebrates according to one's own style, some people celebrates the day as the day of accountability while some people celebrate it for achieving their targets by setting them.

He said that our resolve is high, and no one can imagine the achievements that we made in different sectors.

He said that we are included in the atomic powers of the world despite limited resources.



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating Quetta Solid Waste 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

Daily Voice of Masses 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 homeland.

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 current 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 of my first activities. Dressed in green and white with flags all around, colleagues chanted "Pakistan 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 in-between, Pakistan is a proud nation, blessed with its beautiful geography, but mostly with its people.

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. Lingered in the background are persistent reform questions which, if resolved, will fix the fundamental governance architecture that steadies the country on an inclusive, sustainable development path.

Data reveals this complicated storyline with more nuance. With six years remaining to realise the Sustainable Development Goals, and \$53 billion required to do so, alarm bells are ringing with 40 per cent poverty, gaping gender disparities, with Pakistan projected 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 girls.

After decades in upward trajectory in the Human Development Index (measuring health, education and income), Pakistan has fallen from medium to low human development in the 2024 UNDP Human Development Report, with Afghanistan being the only other South Asian nation in this category.

Admittedly, Pakistan 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, Mohammed 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, away from seeing a youth bulge as a security or poverty risk, domestic investment and productivity can be turbocharged with youth entrepreneurs at the centre, skilled not only for their individual benefit, but as future business 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 globally.

The second area must be readying Pakistan for an economy that

is as sustainable as it is resilient in the face of inevitable storms. While 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 powered by cleaner, less carbon-dependant energy is possible in a country endowed with abundant natural resources, and a vibrant private sector committed to renewable, innovative solutions.

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

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 prosperous. -- Courtesy Dawn

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 lonely journey to the top.

By Monday, though, the focus of national attention 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 power brokers are among the symptoms of Pakistan's lifelong malaise.

Much of the com-

mentary following his incarceration has, however, noted his far wider political role before, during and after Imran Khan's incumbency as prime 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.

On the seventh anniversary of independence 70 years ago, The Pakistan Times wondered whether the Muslim League, after a resounding electoral defeat in East Bengal, could be purged of "elements whose bovine stupidity 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".

That description pretty much still applies 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 demonstratively democratic dispensation remains to be determined more than half a century after the first national elections that split the nation following the massacre to thwart such an outcome after it was too late.

Perhaps the biggest tragedy in recent decades has been the determination to repeat the kind of follies that blighted the past. The state's ridiculous reaction to the Baloch Yakjehti 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 sons is a tremendous achievement, but it's far from clear whether the efforts led by the amaz-

ingly effective Dr Mahrang Baloch will bear fruit. Who can seriously question the logic of Balochistan's abundant natural resources primarily benefiting the province's population? It might take a revolution, though, for that scenario to transpire.

There was a student-worker revolt in 1968-69, that rattled the established order. But the events that followed effectively put democracy on the back-burner, and it has never completely recovered. The present scenario suggests that it never will unless the depressing status quo is superseded by Bangladesh-style resistance — spearheaded not by the clueless PTI, 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 because they militate against its repetitive absurdities.

The arguably justified targeting of an out-of-control former spy chief might be welcome, but it offers no guarantee that Faiz Hameed's attitude will not resurface. Any rejoicing on this account would surely be premature. The prospect of civilian supremacy remains a distant dream after all these years.

But while the future is unwritten, one can draw considerable comfort from the attitudes of the mothers of Arshad Nadeem and India's Neeraj Chopra, both of whom 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

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): A two-day capacity building workshop on Public Finance for Nutrition and Early Childhood Development was conducted by scaling up nutrition (SUN), NGO.

Secretariat, Planning and Development Department (P&DD) in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan on Monday-Tuesday at Kashmir Institute of Management (KIM). The event was chaired by Secretary P&DD Mr. Amir Latif, Senior Chief, SUN focal Person, Mehreen Gillani, and notable attendees including DG

Health Dr. Farooq Ahmad Noor, Dean of Allied Health Sciences Dr. Bashir Kant, Donor Coordinator PM Secretariat Asma Andarabi, and representatives from the health, education, women's development, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and WASH departments, as well as the other UN partners - World Food Programme (WFP), research academia, civil society, and media.

Dr. Saba Shuja, ECD Manager at UNICEF Pakistan, and Muhammad Iqbal, Resource Person from the SUN Unit KPK, joined as facilitators both in person and virtually, to

the capacity-building workshop and added valuable technical perspectives to the discussions. The main objectives of the workshop were to build capacity for tracking the allocations for nutrition, and expenditure of public funds in nutrition, along with sensitization on the optimized nutrition markers through technical presentations, group works, and discussions.

Participants were divided into four groups, each presenting on different aspects of nutrition and the roles of 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 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 traders delegation led by Muslim Khan Buner here, he added the best way to celebrate Independence Day is to practice the motto of the father of nation in their lives to lead

the entire Muslim Ummah. 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 of purpose and determination among the populace. A nation 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 in transforming the digital financial services landscape in Pakistan.

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



CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh distributing the free coupon of 5 Liter Petrol to Ten Thousand bikers.

Engineers play crucial role in nation building: FEICSA

LAHORE (APP): 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 nation-building 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

hand, bring these 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 cost-effective.

From constructing bridges, roads, and airports to developing energy systems and transportation networks, engineers are integral to the practical implementation of architectural designs.

Cake designers make Pakistan's birthday sweeter with patriotic creations

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan marks its birthday 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.

Cake shops across the country are witnessing a surge in demand for custom cakes. From Lahore to Karachi, and Islamabad to Peshawar cake shops are working overtime to meet the orders, said a report

aired by a Private news channel. Cake cutting ceremonies have become an integral part of Independence Day celebrations, said Hassan, an event organizer. It is a way to show unity, solidarity and cakes are the perfect centerpiece, he added.

Cake shops are also offering special discounts and packages for Independence Day, said a customer.

"I ordered a cake for my family gathering and got a great deal", she added.

SNGPL disconnects 10 more connections over violations

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

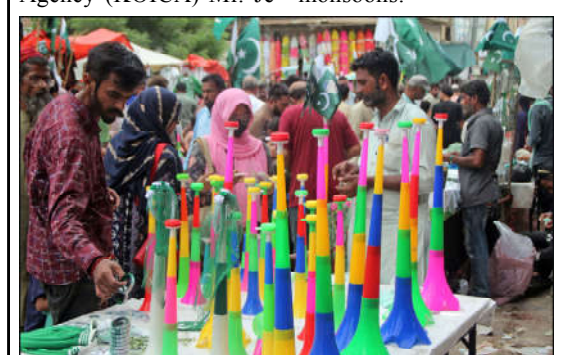
MULTAN (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) has signed MoU for record of discussion regarding mega projects of urban flooding worth of 10 million USD on Wednesday.

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 (MDA) Rana Saleem Ahmed, Managing Director WASA Khalid Raza Khan, Country Director of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Mr. Je

Ho Yeon and Focal Person 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 urban flooding and underground water tanks would be constructed to provide relief to low-lying areas of the city during monsoons.



KARACHI: Vendors sell 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Pakistan Pvt. Limited, the 1320 MW Coal Fired Power Plant (CFPP) in Sahiwal, became a vibrant stage through celebrating the Independence Day 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

between its Chinese and Pakistani staff.

This year's festivities were marked by heartfelt ceremonies that showcased a remarkable bond between the two nations. The day began with a traditional flag-raising 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 pride, said a news release.

Flag hoisting ceremony held at Governor House to celebrate I Day

PESHAWAR (APP): A dignified flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Governor's House in Peshawar on Wednesday on the occasion of Independence Day.

The governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, conducted the flag hoisting ceremony.

The event saw the special participation of 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 ceremony.

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

Following the flag hoisting, special prayers

were offered for the country's development and prosperity.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire nation on Pakistan's Independence Day.

He paid tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, police, and Army Public School, expressing his gratitude.

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

In his message on Independence Day, Governor Kundi congratulated the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the merged districts.

He highlighted that the free nation is a result of the great sacrifices and sustained struggle of our ancestors.

Kundi reaffirmed his

commitment to advancing the country along the path of development in line with the principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He stressed that the principles of unity, faith, and discipline are essential for securing Pakistan's rightful place among the nations.

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 Karim Kundi also urged overcoming challenges and uniting as a nation to protect the country's ideological and geographical integrity, vowing to make any necessary sacrifices for the 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

LAHORE (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-

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 our nation's youth."

Senior minister launches monsoon plantation campaign on Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Senior Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb marked the 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, Mariyum Aurangzeb offered prayers for the nation's success and prosperity, urging citizens to participate in the initiative by planting saplings to celebrate

Independence Day. She highlighted that over 3 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 of Environmental Protection Raja Jahangir, DG Wildlife Mudassar Riaz Malik, DG PHA Tahir Wattoo, and other dignitaries were 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 KPT, 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 highlighted 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 sacrifice to secure and preserve the country's independence. Following the flag-hoisting ceremony, Chairman Zaidi visited the Quaid-e-Azam Mausoleum to offer prayers and pay homage to the Father of the Nation.

CM Punjab attends flag hoisting ceremony on 77th Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab 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 Fataha 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

Mosque and the school bands 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 Independence Day.

The CM left her seat and sat among the differently-abled 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 Fataha on the grave of Poet of Nation Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal at Mazar-e-Iqbal during Independence Day celebrations in the Provincial Capital.

SAFWCO Group celebrates 78th Independence Day of Pakistan

HYDERABAD (APP): SAFWCO Group here on Wednesday organized a function on the occasion of 78th Independence Day of Pakistan at SAFWCO Head Office, which was attended by key employees of Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO), SAFCO Support Foundation and

SAFCO Microfinance Company.

Speaking at the event, founder of SAFWCO Suleman G. Abro said that 65 percent of Pakistan's population consists of youth, which was a great fortune for the country, however these youth could fulfill our expectations if they were equipped with modern technology.

PWPA chairperson leads flag hoisting ceremony

LAHORE (APP): Chairperson of the Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Hina Pervaiz Butt led a flag-hoisting ceremony at her office here on Wednesday, followed by the planting of a tree.

The event was attended by Director General Safina Sadiq, Deputy Director Aqsa Rafiq, Rabia Usman, and other officials.

In her address, Hina 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 development and prosperity is at the heart of the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-

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 life.

Later, Hina Pervaiz Butt participated in an Independence Day 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 Pakistan Women's Association.

Ceremony held in PHC to mark I-Day

PESHAWAR (APP): An impressive ceremony was held on the premises of Peshawar High Court (PHC) to celebrate Independence Day.

Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Judges, Advocate General, Deputy Attorney General, 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.

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.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said

Kyiv's forces were continuing to gain ground in the Kursk region and that they had taken another one to two kilometres on Wednesday.

"We continue to advance further in the Kursk region," Zelenskiy wrote in a statement on Telegram, "from one to two kilometres in various areas since the start of the day. And more than 100 Russian 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 repelled a series of Ukrainian attacks inside the Kursk

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

The Ukrainian drone attack included strikes on four Russian military airfields in an attempt to undermine Russia's ability to attack Ukraine with gliding bombs, a Ukrainian security 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 two-and-a-half-year-old war. Russia had been advancing in eastern Ukraine since the failure of Kyiv's 2023 counter-offensive to make any major gains against Russian forces.



Palestinian children stand at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the 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 in the swearing-in of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented. Iran has vowed

to avenge the death, which came hours after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a senior commander 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". Western diplomats 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 term, 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

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 Tokyo.

"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 to step aside," he said.

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 tactics and strategy.

Sergeant Korbein Schultz, who held a top-secret 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 Iran-backed 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.

Taliban celebrate 3 years since Afghanistan takeover with military show

Monitoring Desk
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 assembled officials.

There were also US-made armoured personnel carriers, the black-and-white 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 apartheid".

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 Israeli 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 Tuesday.

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 Thursday's talks, but Hamas, the Palestinian 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 official 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.



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Balochistan 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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.

The devastating floods in June 2022 severely disrupted health services in Sindh and Balochistan, affecting over 13 million people and exposing them to waterborne and vector-borne diseases. This crisis worsened issues in routine immunization, maternal health, and child malnutrition.

In response, USAID and its partners assessed health commodity needs in the hardest-hit districts and identified critical shortages. The commodities delivered during the handover reflect the needs of these communities and align with national priorities.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri emphasized the long-term impact of this assistance. "The donation of \$2.3 million in equipment marks



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday thanked his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his warm greetings on Pakistan's Independence Day.

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

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 Maktoum.

GoB to bear passport expenses for Lagharis

Independent Report QUETTA: The 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 compliance with legal require-

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 ties across the border.



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

NAB organizes I-Day celebration

Independent Report QUETTA: NAB 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. The DG NAB (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 Prime Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar has categorically stated that we are serious in bringing Balochistan in mainstream development at par of other provinces.

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 satisfaction over the measures of provincial government for

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

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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Memorandum 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-term loans.

The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon signed the MoU on behalf of provincial government while head of the Akhuwat Foundation, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib signed the MoU on behalf of his organization.

The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Senator Sardar Umar Gorgeji, Parliamentary Secretary, Asfandyar Kakar, Member National Assembly, Ahmed Shah Gorgeji, Agha Shahzaib Durrani, Chief Secretary, 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 graduates with mutual cooperation.

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 Shafiq 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 Keoh, Ibrahim Ismail, other officers besides relatives of the martyr Deputy Commissioner participated in his burial and funeral.

Earlier, his funeral prayer was offered in Turbat.

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 Jaffer Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Corps Commander Quetta, Lt. General Rahat Nasim and others participated in the funeral prayer of DC Panjgur.

The smartly turned out contingent of police presented salute to his coffin.

Bazai vows to remember sacrifices rendered for creating Pakistan

QUETTA (APP): Former Deputy Attorney General, senior lawyer Ameenuddin Bazai, said on Wednesday that the joy we received on 14 August is something we and our future generations must remember for a lifetime.

While addressing a ceremony held in Kuchlak on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, he said

"We must remember how many people were separated, martyred, and sacrificed in the struggle to achieve this great nation. Today, we must pay tribute to all their sacrifices".

Paying homage to the founder of Pakistan, he said, "today is a day to remember the greatest debt we owe to Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions because it is through their efforts that we are breathing in the free air of an independent country.

Ameenuddin Bazai expressed gratitude to all those who made, protected, and contributed to the construction and development of this country.



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.

Dar inaugurates NADRA's new registration centers in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad 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 Muhammad Ishaq Dar expressed satisfaction with the provision of new NADRA registration centers and MRVs in the province.

He instructed federal

institutions to fully cooperate with the provincial government in providing services to the remote areas of Balochistan.

Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz 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 doorstep.



PISHIN: Parliamentary Secretary Asfandyar Kakar and MPs 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

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 was founded.

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 Bhutto Zardari 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.

Chairman PPP stated, "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." Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized that the PPP remains committed to the principles and vision of the founding fathers. He remarked, "The ideology of Quaid-e-Azam 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 navigate our challenges."

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

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

The Governor, Sheikh Jaffer Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial ministers, members of national and provincial assemblies saw them off at the Quetta airport.

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

It may be mentioned 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 morning.

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



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