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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): and do not indulge your- fathers and countless un- country's journey had not 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 peace-

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 and paid homage to the highlighted that although

the youth while addressin connection with the independence day celebra-

Unfortunately, he said dependent and sovereign the enemy was now using state on the map of the digital terrorism tools to sabotage the country's development journey.

his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan immense sacrifices of fore-

Minister self in the negative agenda sung heroes of the Pakibeen exemplary but it was Muhammad Shehbaz of the enemy who is out stan Movement, who also the fact that it managed Sharif on Wednesday, to target you and utilize fought tirelessly for an in- to survive due to the resilyour capabilities in anti- dependent country for state activities," he asked millions in South Asia, through natural disasters where they could live acing a ceremony held here cording to their beliefs and values. As envisioned by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, our past and move forward Pakistan emerged as an inwith the renewed pledge and resolve to take the

> vering and steadfast lead-On the occasion of the ership of Quaid-e-Azam Independence Day, the Muhammad Ali Jinnah prime minister extended and unmatched sacrifices of our ancestors, he added. The prime minister

> > during the past 77 years, the

The stock exchange of

as the number one stock ex-

some hidden forces became

mighty has blessed Paki-

stan with numerous min-

erals and natural resources.

to tell the whole world that

billions and trillions of ru-

pees. He said that there's

country. He said that the

theory of angry people has

no meaning.

He said that Allah Al-

He said that he wants

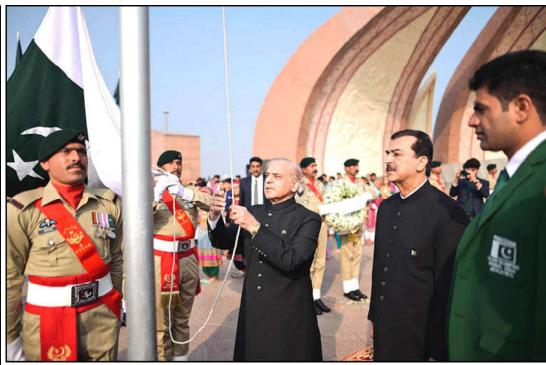
world on 14th August

1947 through the unwa-

ience, its people had shown and economic and social challenges. "We should learn from

country on the path of prosperity and development," 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



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoists the national flag at the Pakistan

Monument on the 78th Independence Day. Flag hoisting ceremonies held at Armed Forces HQs

CJCSC, services chiefs felicitate nation on Independence Day 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-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 na-

dependence Day, we reiterate our resolve to preserve our hard-won freedom with honor, dignity and an unshakeable commitment to our cherished ideals. Long live Pakistan!," the ISPR

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 Headquarter, General Headquarter and all headquarters of the Armed

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 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 enture sports social services and philanthropy, entrepreneurs, taxpayers and exporters, public service, gallantry, and ser-

vices to Pakistan. The president con-

ferred Nishan-i-Pakistan Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Dr 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 Olympian Arshad Nadeem, who recently bagged a gold medal in Paris Olympics and Sitara-i-Imtiaz for mountaineer Murad Sadpara in

the sports category.
President Zardari conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz posthumously on late Nasir Kazmi for services in the field of literature and Hilal-i-Pakistan on Saudi gineering, education, Prince Abdulaziz Bin medicine, arts, litera- Salman Al Saud for his serices to Pakistan.

In recognition of their excellence in the fields of science, the president conferred Hilal-i-imtiaz on Amir Hafeez Ibrahim,

Ghulam Muhammad Ali and Sardar Muhammad Aftab Ahmed Khan; and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz on Dr Sara Qureshi, Dr Rafiuddin and Professor Dr Usman

In the education field, Sadia Rasheed was bestowed Hilal-i-Imtiaz; Sitara-i-Imtiaz was announced for Dr Suleman Shahabuddin, and Syed Azhar Hussain Abidi, and Presidential Pride of Performance award for Barkat Shah, Abdul Rasheed Kakar and Aneeqa Bano.

The president announced Hilal-i-Imtiaz for Dr Shahryar and Dr Dr. Zaryab Setna, and Tamghai-Imtiaz for Dr Akifullah Khan, Dr Syed Abid Mehdi Kazmi and Ikramullah Khan for their contributions to the field

We have to make Pakistan economic power after becoming atomic power, announces Dar The Deputy Prime ister said that Pakistan had

QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad

Ishaq Dar addresses during ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence

Day of Pakistan, in Quetta on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. The nation cel-

ebrating 77th Independence Day with traditional national spirit and zeal to

acknowledge the happiness of independence the greatest blessing in this world.

Muhammad Ishaq Dar has Day to the people of 2017. reiterated the federal Balochistan on his as well government's resolve to as behalf of the President the country had emerged make Pakistan economic and Prime Minister. power after becoming

atomic power. what Allah Almighty has written in our destiny. It is desire of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to improve country. Pakistan would have to emerge shining star in future and we would see Pakistan becoming de-G20", stated the Deputy ceremony at the Provincial Assembly's law Wednesday.

QUETTA: The Deputy Minister extended greet- become 24th best Minister, ings of the Independence economy of the world in

The flag hoisting cer- change of the South Asia, emony was attended by he recalled. He said that in 'We have to achieve the Speaker National As- his political career of 31 sembly, Sardar Ayaz years, he had seen that Sadiq, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz active when Pakistan pro-Ahmed Bugti, Speaker gressed. Provincial Assembly, economy and GDP of the Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade, Jam Kamal Khan, provincial ministers, members of proveloped and including in vincial assembly, high civil Pakistan has minerals of and military officials, dig-Prime Minister while ad- nitaries belonging to difdressing the flag hoisting ferent shade of life and no room of violence in the

> Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Prime Min-



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presents a traditional turban to Olympics Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem during his visit to Governor House.

Nation celebrates 78th Independence Day with zeal,

fervour SLAMABAD (Online): The Nation celebrated 78th Independence Day Wednesday with a renewed pledge to work with spirit of Pakistan Movement to make country a true Islamic welfare state. The day dawned with thirty-one gun salute at the Federal Capital and twenty-one gun salute at provincial headquarters.

Special prayers were offered in mosques for peace, solidarity and prosperity of country

The national flag hosting ceremony of the day was held at Pakistan Monument in Islamabad. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoisted the national flag

Governor Kundi welcomes Olympic winner Arshad **Nadeem at Governor House**

Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem visited the Governor House Peshawar on Wednesday on the occasion of Independence Day.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, personally welcomed Arshad Nadeem at the main entrance of the Governor House and escorted him to his office in a traditional buggy.

During the welcome, a ceremonial police guard saluted Arshad Nadeem, and flower petals were showered along the route.

A traditional Khattak dance was also performed.

PESHAWAR (APP): Arshad Nadeem was accompanied by his coach, Salman Butt.

A dignified ceremony was held at the Governor House in Arshad Nadeem's honour. The event was attended by members of the parliament, Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, IG Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, business community representatives, athletes, students and individuals from various walks

The Governor presented Arshad Nadeem with a traditional turban and

of life.

We are if this country is: **Information Minister**

Information Minister Atta Ullah Tarar has said with every passing day it is becoming proved that two nation theory was correct.

'We are if this country is. No political party, political leader is above Pakistan, he said this while expressing his views with reference to Independence day in a ceremony held in a private TV station here Wednesday.

National integrity and survival are first, he added. What is within our means we will do for the national integrity and revival of national economy.

The political forces will have to think where the po-

litical interest ends, he held. PM hoists flag to mark **Independence**

Day ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday hoisted the national flag in a National Flag Hoisting Ceremony held at the Pakistan Monument in connection with 77th Pakistan Independence Day celebrations.

The ceremony was also attended by national Olympic hero Arshad Nadeem and Chairman Senate Yusuf Raza

ISLAMABAD (Online): They will have to think na- world in making charity, he tional interest starts from observed. where, he underlined.

> He stressed all will have to play their respective role to reach destination. Reforms process is un-

derway in state institutions, he remarked, He went on to say Prime Minister (PM) will announce comprehensive plan in his address to na-

tion. The plan includes privatization of some institutions, right and downsizing and other re-

ward enthusiastically in any calamity and problem, he

Pakistani nation is

Pakistanis come for-

side each other. He stated one man was imposed and he did what

guest in Islamabad.

with the country. This man annoyed friendly countries. National hero Arshid Nadim has returned to country, he said adding he was given status of state

When PTI founder fell

from crane then Nawaz

Sharif summoned party

meeting within 15 minutes,

he remarked. Nawaz Sharif

said to party leadership we

will not run election cam-

paign. He extended offer to

political rival to go along-

Arshid Nadim himself said he is PM planted plant,



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.

Adiala Jail deputy superintendent arrested for facilitating Imran

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

The security agencies 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 position.

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

ISLAMABAD: People having huge national flag marching on Islamabad Ex-

pressway to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan.

US vows to deepen partnership with Pakistan WASHINGTON (INP): US rule of law," he said and

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan,

Abdul Rehman Jay. Al-Mutiari with Federal Min-

ister for Privatization, Board of Investment and

Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Indepen-

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has extended felicitations to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of country's 78th Independence Day on Wednesday (today).

dence Day function.

In a statement, Secretary Blinken stated that for the past 77 years, the ties between the peoples of the two countries had served as the foundation of their bilateral relationship. 'In the year ahead, we will deepen the US-Paki-

stan partnership and ex-

pand our people-to-people

ties to build a more pros-

perous future for both our

nations," he added. "We look forward to continuing a partnership that makes both countries more secure, as we strengthen our shared commitment to democratic principles and respect for the ship.

added "I wish all those celebrating today – in Pakistan, the United States, and across the world – a joyous Independence Day.

US senator felicitates Pakistanis on 78th Independence Dav

In a video message US Senator Van Hollen said, "Hi, I'm Chris Van Hollen and I'm proud to represent the great state of Maryland in the United States Senate. And I'm very pleased to join all of you in celebrating Pakistan's Indepen-

dence Day.
"Over the past 77 years, the people of the United States and the people of Pakistan have built strong bonds of friendship. And I look forward to doing my part to continue to strengthen our relation-

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.

Ahsan urges unity, consistent policies continuity for Pak development on 78th I-Day

Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday called upon the nation to demonstrate greater unity and steadfastness to ensure sustained development through consistent policies.

'Let us pledge to advance Pakistan's development with a continuity of policies and commit to avoiding any compromise on it," he said in a message marking the 78th Indepen-

He stressed the need for rejecting extremism, policy inconsistency and peded national develop- tion and ample employment ment and prosperity. "Let opportunities. Pakistan grow," he urged. "We aim

The minister noted that achieving development goals would require peace, stability, uninterrupted policy continuity and ongoing reforms.

'We envision a Pakistan where education, development, and employment opportunities are accessible to all, without discrimination," he said.

He highlighted that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government was working to fosenvironment conducive to

"We aim for Pakistan to gain prominent recognition and a leading position in global competition through our quality, productivity and innovation," he elaborated

Ahsan Iqbal reiterated the PML-N government's commitment to elevating Pakistan's standing among the nations and aligning it with leading countries in the development race.

Reflecting on the past, he recalled that the founding fathers of Pakistan ester an investment-friendly tablished an Islamic state with principles of passion, any other factors that im- business growth, innova- determination, unity and

faith, making significant

The minister pointed out the persistent internal and global chalregional lenges. Among these, he identified stabilizing the economy and achieving development goals as the most pressing.

He lamented that political instability, inconsistent policies, disruptions in the democratic process, extremism and terrorism had hindered development progress in the past.

He noted that countries that gained independence after Pakistan have advanced significantly in development.



Imam Masjid Al-Nabawi completes 7-day goodwill visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imam Masjid Al-Nabawi, Dr Salah bin Mohammad Al-Budair on Wednesday concluded his seven-day goodwill visit to Pakistan and departed for Madina Munawwarah. Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Hafiz Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki bid farewell to the distinguished guest at Lahore airport. Imam Al-Budair expressed his gratitude for the profound love and reverence shown by the Pakistani people towards the Two

Holy Mosques during his stay in the country. He remarked that the respect and hospitality extended by the people and the government of Pakistan would always be remembered

During his visit, the revered Imam met with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman.

Federal Minister urges unity on Pakistan's 77th **Independence Day**

ISLAMABAD (APP): On Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh called for unity and collective effort to drive the nation's

During the 77th Independence Day celebrations, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh highlighted the importance of freedom and the sacrifices made by the country's founders in establishing the Islamic Re-

On the occasion, he emphasized the need for all citizens to put aside their differences and work together for the development, stability, and security of the

Sheikh reaffirmed his commitment to following the guiding principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, pledging to perform his duties with honesty and integrity for the betterment

Mohsin congratulates nation on Independence Day of those who were martyred

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has extended heartiest congratulations to the nation on the eve of Independence Day. He said,"we are grate-

ful to Allah Almighty that we are living in a free homeland. He said that we must learn the value of freedom from the enslaved nations.3 He emphasized that

we must appreciate the true value and dignity of our free homeland. He also highlighted that millions of Muslims sacrificed their blood to light the flames of

He paid rich tribute to the unparalleled sacrifices

Rana felicitates nation on I Day ISLAMABAD (APP) Minister for Industries

Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday urged for collective efforts towards achieving a prosperous, peaceful and united Paki-

Felicitating the nation on the country's Independence Day, he emphasized the crucial role of the youth in driving Pakistan's progress, urgvouth ing them to harness their potential and contribute to the country's growth through their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment.

we must set aside egos, difin the Pakistan Movement. ferences, and divisions for-He also honoured the great ever and contribute towards sacrifices of the martyrs making Pakistan a great who sacrificed their lives country. He said, "Indepenfor the peace of the homedence Day demands that land. Interior Minister we must learn from past mistakes and move towards stated that there is no country as beautiful and rea bright future. We must all source-rich as Pakistan in play our part in national the world, but unfortudevelopment by following nately, as a nation, we have the principles of faith, unity, and discipline.' wasted 77 years in mutual

dicords, parochial, linguis-He expressed confiand sectarian biases. dence that with the grace of He stressed that now Allah Almighty, the nation is the time for the entire will overcome every chalnation to unite and think lenge. He called for the reabout Pakistan collectively, solve to put aside personal because if Pakistan exists, interests and work together so do we all. for the progress and devel-



ISLAMABAD: Special Children enjoying Independence Day along with their teachers visiting Federal Capital on Sightseeing Twin Cities Double

Pakistan only country created in name of Islam: AJK PM

Anwar ul Haq praised Pakistan on the occasion of its disputed territory. 78th Independence Day on world which was founded on Islamic ideology.

Speaking at the Independence Day flag-hoisting ceremony, the AJK PM emphasized the unifying power of Islam, bringing together diverse nationalities under one banner.

sacrifices of Pakistan's founding fathers and those who continue to defend the Highlighting the deep

bond between Pakistan and Kashmir, the PM asserted, "We are Pakistanis and Pakistan is ours.' He recalled Pakistan's

role in sheltering Kashmiri refugees after the 1947 massacre in Jammu, offering them equal rights and opportunities.

Anwar ul Haq con-

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): demned India's occupation Azad Jammu and Kashmir of Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Chaudhry emphasizing Pakistan's unwavering support for the

He praised Pakistan's Wednesday, saying that it efforts to highlight the plight was the only country in the of Kashmiris and expose Indian atrocities in the re-

The PM also expressed gratitude for Pakistan's consistent support for the Kashmir cause including recent economic assistance to Azad Kashmir.

He commended the He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army's commitment to defending the country and eradicating terrorism, highlighting the stark contrast between Pakistani forces protecting Kashmiris and the Indian occupation forces known for their brutality. Anwar ul Haq condemned India's revocation of Article 35-A, which he said aimed to turn the Muslim majority in Kashmir into a minority. He also criticized the imprisonment of Kashmiri leaders and the

crackdown on dissent.



ISLAMABAD: A youngster is busy in dangerous and risky stunt at Islamabad Highway during Independence Day celebrations, in the Federal Capital.

NDMA warns **Depts concerned as** monsoon rains expected in KP from Aug 14-18

to take necessary precautions to mitigate the potential impacts of flood-ing and landslides as Nătional Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) of the NDMA anticipated further rains in various parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Waziristan areas, a news

streams and nullahs is also expected to increase," the NDMA said. The NDMA issued

instructions to all relevant departments to alert Emergency Response Teams and mobilized resources to ensure a swift response

to any arising situations. Tourists were advised to avoid traveling to these areas during the forecasted period, whereas the public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local

ISLAMABAD, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari and other cutting cake on occasion flag hoisting ceremony during 77th Independence Day celebration.

ISSI celebrates I Day with fervor under the theme "Mera Pakistan"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on marked Pakistan's Independence Day with a vibrant celebration under the theme "Mera

The event, held at the ISSI was a tribute to the rich diversity, cultural heritage, and indomitable spirit of the Pakistani people, a news release said

With the active participation of ISSI Interns, the festivities were imbued with youthful energy, creativity, and an unshakable belief in Pakistan's progress and prosperity. The Interns presented

a series of short videos, despeeches, and performed

kistan People's Party Sena-

tor Maula Bakhsh Chandio

Wednesday extended warm

greetings to the nation and

urged citizens to reflect on

the sacrifices, struggles, and

visionary leadership of its

founding fathers, including

Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and

news channel, Senator

Chandio reminded the na-

tion that the true essence

of independence lies in up-

holding the principles of

justice, equality, and pros-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Islamabad's F-9 Park be-

came the heart of Pakistan's

Independence Day celebra-

tions, where a historic

event brought together

families, renowned artists,

and the country's first-ever

drone show, created unfor-

gettable memories last

night. The Islamabad Capi-

tal Territory (ICT) admin-

istration organized an Inde-

pendence Festival at F-9

Park, marking a significant

celebration in the federal

capital. The event was high-

lighted by Pakistan's first-

ever drone show, a spectacle

that captivated the audience

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According

to the details, following the

special directives of the In-

spector General of Police

(IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali

Nasir Ali Rizvi, the DIG

as 500 drones lit up the night thing to enjoy.

perity towards a future citizen, he added.

historic celebrations

at F-9 Park

Talking to a private

Allama Iqbal.

The videos depicted the multifaceted identity of of unity and pride. Their Pakistan, highlighting the performances were met cultural richness of various regions across the country. The celebration also

highlighted the vital role of women in the nation's progress and paid homage to important personalities who have played a pivotal part in shaping Pakistan's It was also empha-

sized that the Independence Day. Day reminded us of the just struggle of the Kashmiri people and that Pakistan would remain in abiding solidarity with them until they realized their inalienable right to self-determina-

The singing of patrimilli naghmay (national otic songs by the young Pakistan movement.

separate homeland.

By honoring their

legacy, the nation can reig-

nite the spirit of patriotism.

unity, and progress that

sky, forming the Pakistani

flag and other mesmerizing

otic spirit, javelin thrower

Arshad Nadeem's recent

gold medal victory at the

Paris Olympics was also

celebrated, further boosting

national pride during the

free entry to citizens, allow-

ing families to participate

in the wide array of activi-

ties planned, especially for

children. Various food stalls

were set up, catering to the

tastes of food lovers, ensur-

ing that everyone had some-

Addressing public grievances top

priority; says DIG Islamabad

Islamabad Syed Ali Raza

said that the Islamabad Po-

lice is committed to resolve

tening to the complaints

and issues of the public as

He said this while lis-

well as police officials dur-

public issues on priority.

The festival offered

festivities.

Adding to the patri-

Chandio greets nation on

I-Day, urges reflection on

founding fathers' vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- that honors the legacy of

PAL marks special celebration

Interns filled the atmo-

sphere with a distinct sense

with deep appreciation, re-

flecting the collective na-

tional spirit that defined

Independence Day celebra-

ISSI, Ambassador Sohail

Mahmood, in his address,

extended heartfelt congratu-

lations on the occasion of

Pakistan's Independence

Interns for their creative

contributions and the mean-

ingful content they pro-

Mahmood also took the

opportunity to share a his-

rical perspective on the

He commended the

Ambassador Sohail

Director General of

tions in Pakistan.

on 78th I- Day ISLAMABAD (APP): In line with nationwide festivities, the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) organized a special celebration to commemorate the country's 78th Indepen-

dence Day. defined the country's early The event, marking years, he added. the grand commencement Senator Chandio's of the Academy's three-day message is a timely re-Youth Festival, was atminder to work together tended by hundreds of towards a brighter future, young students from across built on the principles of the country.

Dr. Najeeba Arif, justice, equality, and pros-

perity for all Pakistanis. Chairperson of PAL Attaining the true warmly welcomed the purpose of independence is young participants and the responsibility of every other literary figures from around the nation. ICT lights up I Day with

IRSA releases 386,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 386,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of

427,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1547.00 feet and was 149.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 280,700 cusecs and 251,700 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1210.90 feet, which was 162.90 feet higher than its dead level of

ing the Khuli Kachehri

held at his office. Se-

nior police officers

were also present on

During the Khuli Kachehri, he listened to

the complaints of the citi-

zens and marked their ap-

plications to the concerned

officers for timely action

on merit. He also directed

them to send reports to his

offices in the given time

strict action will be taken

against officials involved

in bribery or corruption

and a zero tolerance policy

will be adopted in this re-

He further said that

this occasion.

frame

tian Labor participated in 77 Independence Day celebration rally. **Senator Talal greets** nation, pays tribute to founders & martyrs

the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Senator Talal Chaudhry congratulated the nation and paid glowing tributes to the visionary founders of Pakistan and the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country's free-

Talking to a Private news channel he emphasized the need for collective efforts and a shared sense of purpose and reiterated his commitment to building a prosperous Pakistan, urging all citizens to work together towards a brighter all Pakistanis.

He called on the government, opposition, and citizens to put aside their differences and work together towards a common goal. He said that because of the untiring struggle and sacrifices of our forefathers, today we are breathing in a free country. He said the purpose of celebrating Independence Day was to reaffirm the commitment to the country's prosperity,

ISLAMABAD: World Minorities Alliance along with former Minister Chris-

development, and peace. Senator Talal vowed to work tirelessly towards creating a brighter future for

APHC leadership in jail extends warm wishes to Pakistan on I Day

on August 14.

mir Media Service, APHC Chairman Massrat Alam Butt, in a message sent from New Delhi's Tihar Jail and issued in Srinagar, extended his warmest wishes to the Pakistani

He expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its contermed the Kashmir dispute an unfinished agenda of the partition of the Indian subcontinent.

He emphasized that the dream of a vibrant, stable, and prosperous Pakistan would remain elusive unless Kashmir was freed from Indian rule and

Incarcerated APHC oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's (IIOJK) gratitude to Pakistan for its unwavering support to their just

years. Earlier the promotions were given on pick and Rivers Indus,

NA speaker

promotes 270

employees of

NA secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Speaker National Assem-

bly (NA) Ayyaz Sadiq has

promoted 270 employees

of NA Secretariat on the

occasion of independence

promoted include grade one

spokesperson the employ-

ees were not promoted on

the basis of merit and se-

niority since the last 8

to grade 20 employees.

Those who have been

According to NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Com-Low Flood at Warsak.

FFC report on Wednesday, all other major rivers of the Indus River System i.e. Rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej are discharging normal flows. The current Combined Live Storage of the country's reservoirs (Tarbela, Mangla & Chashma) stands at 10.573 MAF (79.17% of the total live storage ca-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shabbir Ahmad Shah, in a The jailed leadership of the message from Tihar Jail,

All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Wednesday felicitated the people and Government of Pakistan on the eve of their 77th Independence Day which is being observed (today)

According to Kash-

tinued political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmir cause. Senior APHC leader

made part of Pakistan.

leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan, in his message from Tihar Jail, expressed the struggle for self-determina-

Kabul still run in medium, low flood

mission (FFC) has said that presently, River Indus is experiencing Medium Flood in Guddu-Sukkur Reach whereas it is in Low Flood at Tarbela-Kalabagh-Chashma-Taunsa reaches while River Kabul is also running in According to daily

pacity of 13.354 MAF).

ISLAMABAD (APP): release said. The National Disaster "Rain 1 'Rain may cause Management Authority (NDMA) on Wednesday urged all relevant authorities and the public with the relational Disaster and India Cuttor (NDMA) on Wednesday ous cities and flash flooding in hilly areas, thorities and the public flow of water in the

from August 14-18. Moderate to heavy rains are expected in Hazara, Malakand Divi-sion, Peshawar, Bannu, DI Khan, Hangu, Haripur, Kohat, Kurram, Lucky Marwat, Mohmand, Orakzai and

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