

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 178 Safar 08, 1445 AH Wednesday August 14, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Army Chief General Asim is addressing Azadi Parade at PMA Kakul

Attempts to weaken army tantamount to undermine country, says COAS

Gen Asim Munir says armed forces will not let sacrifices of their martyrs to go in vain

Monitoring Desk

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Asim Munir has stated weakening the armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country, pledging that the military will not allow



low let its sacrifices to go in vain. He stated this while addressing the Azadi Parade at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul on the eve of Independence Day late Tuesday.

The parade was held at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul to mark the 78th Independence Day. "Pakistan came into being to stand out among the comity of nations. Pakistan is a fait accompli and it cannot be undone," the army chief stated.

Gen Munir said the country's people "are living as a free nation owing to the martyrs' sacrifices".

"We emerge as a strong nation after trial and tribulations. To weaken Pakistan's armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country itself." The army chief said armed forces will not let sacrifices of their martyrs to go waste. "Unfortunately the forces who have evil designs of extremism and extremism have surfaced in our country."

Gen Munir said that the base of our national consciousness is the ideology of Pakistan, which stands on the two-nation theory.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting to review the progress of development schemes in the Karachi city at CM House.

Governor Sindh reviews security arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting at the Governor House to review the security arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations.

The Commissioner Karachi, Additional Inspector General, DIGs and Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the officials briefed the Governor on the arrangements being made to ensure the security of the Independence Day events.

Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized the importance of foolproof security measures for the celebrations and directed that special arrangements be made for the Independence Day program at the Governor House.

He instructed that traffic management plans be put in place to ensure smooth operations during

the events.

Highlighting the importance of the occasion, the Governor Sindh announced that there would be a grand fireworks display at the Governor House at midnight on August 13, followed by the largest Independence Day celebration in the history of the Governor House on August 14.

He invited people from across the province to attend these events with their families.

The Governor Sindh further instructed the officials to ensure meticulous security arrangements for the historic celebration on August 14 and emphasized the need for effective traffic management to maintain unhindered flow.

He stressed that coordination and intelligence sharing among the authorities were crucial for ensuring foolproof arrangements.

Nation all set to celebrate 77th Independence Day with great zeal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will celebrate 77th Independence Day on August 14 (Wednesday) with traditional zeal and enthusiasm through a wide range of festivities to highlight the struggle of national heroes for acquiring a separate homeland.

The day will dawn with special prayers and a 31 gun salute in the federal capital and 21 gun salute at all provincial capitals. While special prayers will be offered in mosques at dawn for peace, solidarity and prosperity of the country.

The main feature of the celebrations will be a national flag hoisting ceremony in Islamabad. Similar flag hoisting ceremonies will also be held at provincial, divisional and district level throughout the country.

Sindh CM for gearing up development, cleanliness initiatives in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Tuesday, called on the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and the city's 25 towns to expedite development projects and maintain cleanliness throughout the metropolis.

The CM, while presiding over a meeting, emphasized the importance of leveraging elected local bodies for effective service delivery and stated that elected local bodies including union councils, towns, and the KMC were in place and it was their responsibility to work within their domains to benefit the people and the city.

The meeting, according to a statement issued here, was attended by Sindh Minister for Planning and Development Nasir Shah, Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani,



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the United States of America, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Bilawal reaffirms PPP dedication to uphold principles of democracy

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

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

Bilawal Bhutto reiterated the PPP's commitment to advancing the nation's progress and unity by strengthening democracy in line with the vision of Pakistan's founding fathers. "As we celebrate Independence Day, we honor the sacrifices made by our



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

CS vows to be in field for upcoming polio vaccination drive in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): As leading pediatricians urged parents to vaccinate their children during the upcoming polio vaccination drive in Karachi, Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah vowed on Tuesday to personally visit campaign areas to support and boost the morale of polio vaccinators working tirelessly to eradicate polio.

"We must demonstrate our true commitment to polio eradication, and I will personally be in the field to show my support for the polio teams, CS said while presiding a meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming polio eradication campaign in Karachi.

The chief secretary assured full support from the Sindh government for the polio eradication initiative and directed all relevant departments to play a pro-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting.

Sharjeel Inam Memon says Everyone must set aside their differences and unite for national development

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh's Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has stated that for national development, everyone must set aside their differences and unite. Independ-

ence Day is celebrated every year, but this time the nation is particularly excited about the occasion. The Sindh Government is celebrating the 77th Independence Day with great enthusiasm, in line with the directives of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Addressing a press conference at the Directorate of Electronic and Social Media, Sindh's Senior Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that unfortunately, the spread of drugs is increasing in our society. The federal government will support us in the fight against drug abuse. The Sindh government is increasing the number of re-



habilitation centers for drug addicts. Currently, we have the capacity to accommodate 400 people in these centers, while there are 7,000 pending applications from individuals seeking help to overcome their drug addiction. All institutions must play a role in drug prevention.

Flag hoisting ceremony to be held at KMC head office on Independence Day

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab will also hoist the national flag at the ceremony to be held at the KMC head office on Independence Day.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab, on behalf of the citizens of Karachi, will also lay a wreath and offer prayers at the Quaid-e-Azam's Mausoleum on August 14.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner S.M. Afzal Zaidi, and other

senior officials of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will accompany him.

On the directions of the Mayor Karachi, the KMC building has been illuminated and beautifully decorated with lights and national flags to celebrate Independence Day.

Later, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab will inaugurate a modern-style Funland at the Karachi Zoo and hoist the national flag at the zoo along with students from various schools.

President strongly condemns attack on Panjgur DC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on the Deputy Commissioner of Panjgur Zakir Baloch in the Mastung district of Balochistan.

The president expressed his deep grief over the martyrdom of the deputy commissioner in the attack.

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

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs8.47 per litre

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

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

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

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

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

Customs seizes smuggled Iranian diesel

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Customs seized a significant quantity of smuggled Iranian diesel during a raid on a petrol pump near the Northern Bypass area. According to the Customs spokesman, the operation, carried out by the Anti-smuggling Organization (ASO) of Pakistan Customs, resulted in the confiscation of 24,000 liters of diesel and a truck. The seized goods, valued at Rs. 14 million, have been taken into custody. A case has been registered, and further investigations are ongoing.



KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori chaired a high-level meeting at the Governor House to review the security arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations.

Syed Nasir Hussain says Will talk to Federal Govt's about dangling sword of additional taxes in electricity bills

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has decided to talk to the Federal Govt's about the dangling sword of additional taxes in electricity bills and it will be requested that electricity bills be exempted from all kinds of taxes and if these taxes are necessary, they should be adjusted in some other way.



He expressed these views today while presiding over a meeting at the Energy Department office. Secretary Energy Department Mosaad Ahmad Khan, CEO STDC Saleem Sheikh and Project Director SSEP Sindh Solar Energy Project Mahfooz Qazi were also present on this occasion.

Minister Nasir Shah in a telephonic talk with CO Electric Moonis Alvi said that no new tax of any kind should be imposed on electricity bills as people are already worried about expensive electricity and cannot afford any more new taxes. There is a need to eliminate all types of federal and provincial taxes in the electricity bills and only those bills should be billed to the people for which they have actually spent the units.



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

PN Command & Staff Conference reviews regional maritime situation

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

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

The Naval Chief expressed confidence over combat readiness and significant contribution of the Navy in maritime domain. Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on strengthening maritime security.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

School massacre in Gaza

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

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

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

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

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

Australia's recipe

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saving lives

Naseem Salahuddin

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

International News

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

Mediators have spent months trying to get the

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

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

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

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

May 26.

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

House explosion in Maryland kills 2 and damages nearby homes

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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



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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

Indonesian president holds first cabinet meeting in future capital

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

Muslim guard rescues girl from knife attacker in London

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

700 migrants reach Britain on 11 boats

Monitoring Desk

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

Putin tells Abbas of 'great pain' at Palestinian plight

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

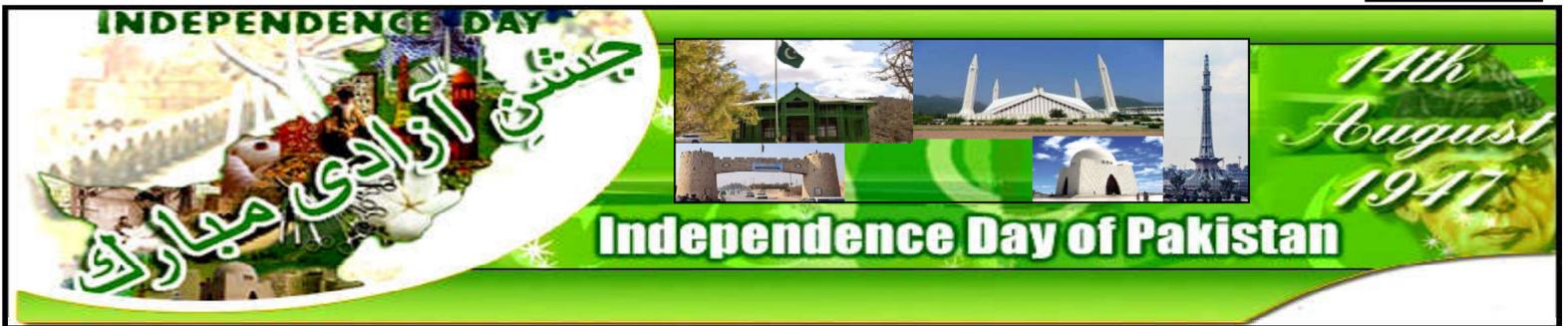
Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions on Saturday, while Belarus, a staunch ally of Moscow, sent more troops to its border with Ukraine, accusing Kyiv of violating its air space. In his nightly video

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

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

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

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

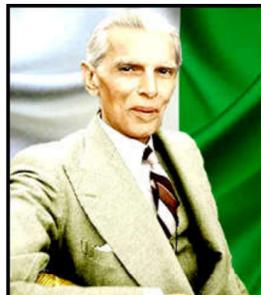


Pakistan was inevitable

By Prof Dr M Yakub Mughul

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

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



There is no Power on Earth that can undo Pakistan.

M A Jinnah

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

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

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

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

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

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

in British India. Thus Pakistan gained independence from the British rule on 14th August, 1947. Independence Day is a public holiday; therefore, the public is free to roam around and celebrate the day. They visit the national monuments and places of national significance recreational spots to mark the holiday. This is also the time to meet friends and relatives and exchange gifts with each other to celebrate the day. Pakistan's Independence Day pays homage to the national heroes who devoted their lives for Pakistan's freedom movement. They had made efforts to materialize the dream of an independent Muslim state. Moreover, events such as special theatre shows, national song competitions, concerts, and Independence Day pageants are held while radio and television stations broadcast national songs. Talking to APP, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani said that independence movement was a long journey of struggle and sacrifices, adding that it was not easy even to imagine a free and sovereign Muslim state in the subcontinent under the British Raj. She said, "Only those know the real worth of freedom who are aware of the conditions of people living in colonies and occupied territories as slaves and second class citizens." Each citizen is representing Pakistan in one way or the other, therefore, it is a must to bring a positive change at individual level, she added. Dean Faculty of So-

cial Sciences, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Dr Shahid Siddiqui while talking to APP said, "14th August is celebrated as Independence Day to remember the achievement and sacrifices of the heroes of Pakistan freedom movement but at the same time we should not forget our responsibilities to sustain it at high esteem among the comity of nations." The country is lucky to have a larger portion of youngsters — they need to concentrate on their education and equip themselves with innovative, creative and critical thinking to catch the pace of 21st century, he added. Dr Farruk Nadeem, Assistant Professor, Department of Languages and Literature, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIU) said, "There is a need to create understanding amongst the youngster about the true spirit of decolonization, freedom movement, and individual liberty in the democratic country." He said that people should celebrate the day with love and respect to the people who had given sacrifices for the country. Dr Shahid Hussain, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Allama Iqbal Open University while talking to the agency said that each and every citizen can make productive contributions to the wellbeing of the country. He urged the youth to plant at least one tree on the day to safeguard the future of the coming generation from environmental degradation. "Our forefathers have sacrificed their tomorrow for our today" on which the coming generations need to be educated, he added.

the nation will reaffirm its commitment on 76th Independence Day to fully realize the sublime goals, set out by its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah more than seven decades ago on Pakistan's historic emergence. The founder had envisioned a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state, taking due care of masses, especially the poor, and where all citizens are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect. Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, under its leaders' philosophy of an independent state for Muslims, commonly known as a two-nation theory. Muslims in the subcontinent were facing untold misery and disgrace at the hands of British rulers and their Hindu partners, coupled with growing so-

ciation and economic disparity between the two nations. They were also victims of poverty and economic depravity. Over the years, the two-nation theory has proven correct because all minorities living in India are still leading miserable life by all means under the dominance of extremist Hindus. "Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs and literary traditions. They neither intermarry, nor eat together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions," the Quaid said in his presidential address to All-India Muslim League's Lahore session on March 22, 1940. On August 11, 1947, Father of the Nation in his presidential address to the Constituent Assembly of

Pakistan moves towards achieving goals of its creation

the nation will reaffirm its commitment on 76th Independence Day to fully realize the sublime goals, set out by its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah more than seven decades ago on Pakistan's historic emergence. The founder had envisioned a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state, taking due care of masses, especially the poor, and where all citizens are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect. Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, under its leaders' philosophy of an independent state for Muslims, commonly known as a two-nation theory. Muslims in the subcontinent were facing untold misery and disgrace at the hands of British rulers and their Hindu partners, coupled with growing so-

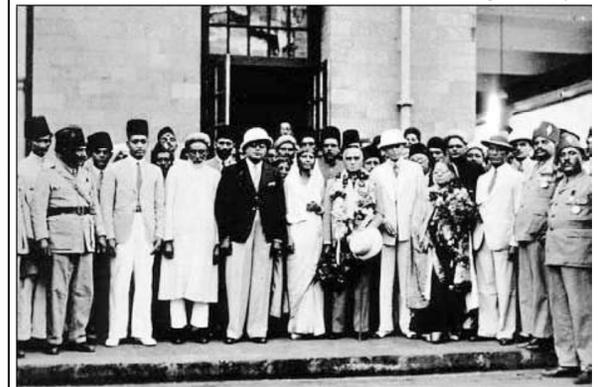
Independence Day: A day to commemorate matchless sacrifices of freedom fighters

By Taj Nabi Khan

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

in British India. Thus Pakistan gained independence from the British rule on 14th August, 1947. Independence Day is a public holiday; therefore, the public is free to roam around and celebrate the day. They visit the national monuments and places of national significance recreational spots to mark the holiday. This is also the time to meet friends and relatives and exchange gifts with each other to celebrate the day. Pakistan's Independence Day pays homage to the national heroes who devoted their lives for Pakistan's freedom movement. They had made efforts to materialize the dream of an independent Muslim state. Moreover, events such as special theatre shows, national song competitions, concerts, and Independence Day pageants are held while radio and television stations broadcast national songs. Talking to APP, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani said that independence movement was a long journey of struggle and sacrifices, adding that it was not easy even to imagine a free and sovereign Muslim state in the subcontinent under the British Raj. She said, "Only those know the real worth of freedom who are aware of the conditions of people living in colonies and occupied territories as slaves and second class citizens." Each citizen is representing Pakistan in one way or the other, therefore, it is a must to bring a positive change at individual level, she added. Dean Faculty of So-

ciation and economic disparity between the two nations. They were also victims of poverty and economic depravity. Over the years, the two-nation theory has proven correct because all minorities living in India are still leading miserable life by all means under the dominance of extremist Hindus. "Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs and literary traditions. They neither intermarry, nor eat together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions," the Quaid said in his presidential address to All-India Muslim League's Lahore session on March 22, 1940. On August 11, 1947, Father of the Nation in his presidential address to the Constituent Assembly of



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

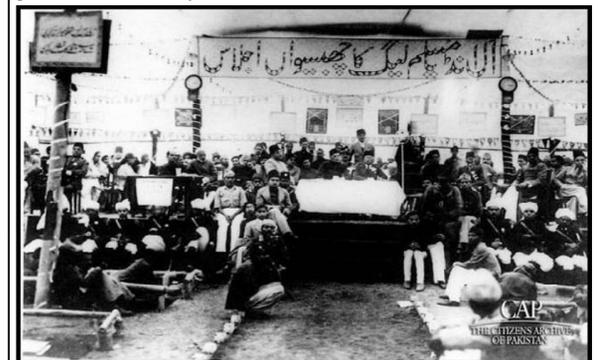
The day is not only an occasion to promote patriotism and national unity. But it is also the time to create awareness among the new generations about the sacrifices of the heroes of Pakistan Movement who rendered their lives for creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

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

and dedication for the cause. He was a great parliamentarian, his logic unassailable. He was unpurchasable and had always the courage to say what he considered was in the interest of the Muslims of the Sub-continent. The problem of refugees and their rehabilitation was the most crucial, one, which faced Pakistan at the time of its creation. Over one million Muslims were killed ruthlessly. Nearly over twelve million Muslims had been forcibly driven from Indian territories into Pakistan. Mass killing of Muslims and mass exodus was maliciously designed to cripple the newly established Muslim State of Pakistan. Quaid-i-Azam met this challenge with courage and determination. He moved his headquarter to Lahore to give his personal attention to the problems of refugees. Quaid-i-Azam Relief fund was created in which rich and wealthy citizens of Pakistan were asked to donate generously for the rehabilitation of the refugees.

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

the nation will reaffirm its commitment on 76th Independence Day to fully realize the sublime goals, set out by its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah more than seven decades ago on Pakistan's historic emergence. The founder had envisioned a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state, taking due care of masses, especially the poor, and where all citizens are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect. Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, under its leaders' philosophy of an independent state for Muslims, commonly known as a two-nation theory. Muslims in the subcontinent were facing untold misery and disgrace at the hands of British rulers and their Hindu partners, coupled with growing so-



Pakistan moves towards achieving goals of its creation

the nation will reaffirm its commitment on 76th Independence Day to fully realize the sublime goals, set out by its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah more than seven decades ago on Pakistan's historic emergence. The founder had envisioned a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state, taking due care of masses, especially the poor, and where all citizens are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect. Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, under its leaders' philosophy of an independent state for Muslims, commonly known as a two-nation theory. Muslims in the subcontinent were facing untold misery and disgrace at the hands of British rulers and their Hindu partners, coupled with growing so-

ciation and economic disparity between the two nations. They were also victims of poverty and economic depravity. Over the years, the two-nation theory has proven correct because all minorities living in India are still leading miserable life by all means under the dominance of extremist Hindus. "Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs and literary traditions. They neither intermarry, nor eat together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions," the Quaid said in his presidential address to All-India Muslim League's Lahore session on March 22, 1940. On August 11, 1947, Father of the Nation in his presidential address to the Constituent Assembly of

Pakistan said: "If we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor." On another occasion during his 'broadcast talk' to the people of Australia on February 19, 1948, he said: "We follow the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). We are members of the brotherhood of Islam in which all are equal in rights, dignity and self-respect. Consequently, we have a special and very deep sense of unity." The incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has striven to move forward on the right path, with top leadership pledging to fulfill the task of revamping and reshaping.



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

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

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

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

Zardari stressed the need to set aside differences and work with dedication for the unity, integrity, and economic stability of the country to cope with current challenges.

He noted that Pakistan was blessed with abundant human and natural resources, and it was the responsibility of all to utilize those for the welfare of the people. He also stressed the importance of upholding the rule of law, strengthening democratic institutions, and working in the public interest to meet the high expectations of the nation.

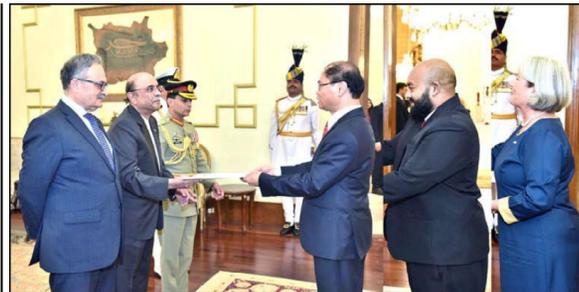
The president urged drawing inspiration from Quaid-e-Azam's leadership, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the well-being of the people, particularly the masses and the poor, to ensure Pakistan's prosperity. He highlighted the need to invest in youth and women, enhance service delivery, and foster a business-friendly environment to build a stronger nation.

"We need to draw inspiration from the words of our Quaid and if we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prospero-

perous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, especially of the masses and the poor. It is time to invest in our youth and women, improve service delivery, and create a business-friendly environment to make Pakistan a great nation," he added.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowing to work collectively for an inclusive and prosperous Pakistan, said that the government's efforts for economic growth and stability had started yielding positive results.

"In a short span, our efforts have started yielding positive results. The economy is on its path to stability. The high inflation of 38% has come down to 11.1% (July) and shall be brought down to single digit soon Inshallah," the prime minister said in his message to the nation on the 78th Independence Day being observed on Wednesday.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday announced launch of a new visa policy under which visa fee for the nationals of 126 countries would be waived to boost tourism and attract foreign investment in the country.

Addressing a news conference, the minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would launch the new visa policy tonight which would allow 126 countries' residents to visit Pakistan in hassle-free manner. The new visa policy which is aimed at simplifying the visa process would come into effect tonight, he added.

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

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

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

Interior Minister calls on British Counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi called on British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper during his visit to the United Kingdom. The Minister congratulated Yvette Cooper on assuming the office of British Home Secretary and expressed good wishes for her.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, including legal assistance in criminal cases, effective border management, and measures to curb illegal immigration were discussed. The training of Pakistani police officers in the UK was also discussed.

The Minister welcomed the British cooperation in this regard and expressed his pleasure that Pakistani police officers would receive regular training in the UK.

Envoys of Vietnam, Maldives & Ireland present credentials to President Zardari

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

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

Welcoming the envoys, the president felicitated them on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan.

He stated that Pakistan offered great investment opportunities in diverse fields and businesses should invest in agriculture, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, information technology, mining, and green technologies sectors.

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



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

UNICEF team discusses anti polio measures with Karachi Commissioner

KARACHI (APP): The representative of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan Abdullah A Fadil along with leader of the polio team Milessa Korkum called on Karachi Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi here at his office on Tuesday and discussed measures being taken by the government for eradication of the polio virus from the country.

Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi praised the role of UNICEF in the fight against polio virus and said the cooperation of International partners in the fight against deadly virus was commendable.

Syed Hassan Naqvi briefed the UNICEF representative about the efforts and priorities of the Sindh government for eradication of polio virus from the province including its mega city, Karachi. Naqvi said the arrangements for the anti-polio campaign starting from August 15, have already been completed and hoped that the campaign will be successful and the target of vaccination would be achieved.

He informed the delegation about measures taken to administer polio drops to children in high-risk areas through priority measures.



ISLAMABAD: Ameer JI Hafiz Naem ur Rehman addressing a Press Conference at Al-Flah Hall in the Federal Capital.

JI Ameer accuses PML-N, PPP of abusing power

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Hafiz Naem on Tuesday cautioned the government against reneging on promises made with the JI at the end of the sit-in, adding that his party had started a countdown.

The JI Ameer accused the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of abusing power. During a press conference at Karachi, JI Ameer said that the rulers were enjoying all the privileges while depriving the people of even the basic rights and bombarding them with endless taxes on everything.

Rehman blamed the federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for being unable to collect taxes instead criticised the board for increase in the corruption, adding that as much as Rs1299 billions were being embezzled by the FBR ever since it was given powers equivalent to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). He asked the government to tell the nation about the nitty-gritty of the Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline. The JI Ameer avoided any comment on recent arrest of Lieutenant General retired Faiz Hameed's arrest, citing it as army's internal matter.

DC announces to hold open court at taluka levels

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr M.B Raja Dharejo on Tuesday has announced the schedule of open katcheries (courts) at the taluka level to address public grievances.

According to the schedule DC Dharejo will hear citizens' issues on August 16 at 4 pm at Town Hall Kandhra, on 17th August at 9 am at Town Hall Saleh Pat and 4 pm at Town Hall Pano Akil.

He will hold open Katchery on August 18 at 9 am at Government Girls Primary School Bagriji in New Sukkur and 4 pm at Assistant Commissioner Rohri's office in Rohri.

District officers from police, health, education, public health, municipal services, revenue, SIDA, irrigation, SEPCO, oil companies, including provincial and federal government departments have been strictly instructed to ensure their presence in the open katcheries.

Chinese envoy felicitate Pakistani nation on 77th Independence Day

KARACHI (APP): The Acting Consul General of People's Republic of China Zhang Hao, extending felicitations to Pakistani nation on 77th Independence Day on Tuesday vowed to gear up efforts for strengthening the bonds of friendship and strategic partnership between both the nations. The Chinese envoy, in his message on the auspicious occasion of the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, conveyed on behalf of the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi, sincerest congratulations to the Pakistani people both at home and abroad.

"Throughout these 77 years, Pakistan has demonstrated unwavering determination and diligent efforts, achieving remarkable progress and milestones in its nation-building and development endeavors," he said and added, "Today, Pakistan stands as a pivotal force and a significant contributor to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the region and the global community."

He stated that China-Pakistan friendship has been forged through the test of time and remains steadfast. Following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful visit to China, both nations have reaffirmed their commitment to elevating the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to a higher standard of quality and to fostering a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in this new era, the CG observed.

Zahid Hussain Mughal appointed as Zonal Flood Emergency Officer

HYDERABAD (APP): Chief Engineer Sukkur Barrage Left Bank Region, Mansoor Ahmed Memon, stating that Executive Engineer Zahid Hussain Mughal has been appointed as the Zonal Flood Emergency Officer for the year 2024.

According to details, Abdul Samad Dehar, Assistant Executive Engineer, Regulation Sub-Division, Sukkur, has been nominated as Flood Liaison Officer, while Abdul Aziz Somroo, Incharge Control Room, Barrage Division, Sukkur, has been appointed as Assistant Flood Liaison Officer, said a notification on Tuesday.

In case of any emergency related to floods, they can be contacted on the following phone numbers: Flood Emergency Officer: Zahid Hussain Mughal, Executive Engineer, Barrage Division, Sukkur, Office Phone: 071-5612432, Mobile: 03317119898.

Persons with Disabilities Protection Authority visits NDF Rehabilitation Center

NAWABSHAH APP): Officials from the Sindh Persons with Disabilities Protection Authority (SPDPA) Department of Empowerment and Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) recently conducted a visit to the NDF Rehabilitation Center in Nawabshah an initiative of National Disability and Development Forum (NDF) under collaboration of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) Government of Sindh.

Program Manager Saira Director NDF briefed the DEPDP officials & were given a comprehensive tour of the center, where they had the opportunity to interact with staff members and the beneficiaries.

They observed firsthand the various programs and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life and promoting inclusion for children with disabilities.

Qamar Shahid Siddiqui, Director Provincial Advisory Council for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Sheeraz Ahmed Laghari Director Operations SPDPA, Ayesha Khan Director SPDPA, Dr. Ratna Dewan Deputy Director SPDPA & Ghulam Murtaza Channar Regional Director DEPDP and others expressed their appreciation for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by the team at NDF Nawabshah.

The purpose of the visit was physical verification for the Registration of NDF in Sindh Persons with Disabilities Protection Authority and assesses the facilities and services provided by the Center, which play a crucial role in the rehabilitation and empowerment of individuals with disabilities in the region.

During the visit, Abid Lashari President NDF, Tariq Hussain Channar,



LARKANA: Members of Muhafiz-e-Pakistan Organization are holding rally in connection of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, in Larkana.

Opposition evolves plan to give tough time to government

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

According to sources the opposition held a meeting here to review overall situation of the country.

The meeting was attended by Mehmood Khan Achakzai, chairman Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-Ayeen, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of JUI-F, Chairman PTI Gohar Ali Khan, Asad Qaisar, Umar Ayoub and others.

The sources said the recent decision of Supreme Court (SC) was discussed in details in the meeting and the decision was taken to give tough time to government.

Sources said PTI leaders heard complaints of Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

DC reviews performance of EPI, surveillance, LHV programme

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon presided over a meeting in Darbar Hall of the DC office to review the performance of the EPI, Surveillance and Lady Health Worker Program.

According to a hand-out issued by the district Information office, the DC directed the focal person of the immunization program that the ongoing immunization program in the district should be made more effective so that children could be protected from various diseases by timely vaccination. The established committees should be made active and the elected local representatives should also be included, he added.

He said that the polio vaccination campaign and the work of immunization should be further improved.

The DC while giving instructions to the Deputy Director Lady Health Workers Program said that the Sindh Lady Health Worker Program should be made more effective in the district while the Lady Health Workers should be included in the immunization program so that they can play a role in vaccinating mothers and children to protect them from deadly diseases. Giving instructions to the officer, he said that besides giving special attention to the monitoring of the polio vaccination campaign, the campaign to protect against other diseases besides immunization.



KARACHI: Members of Press Action Joint Committee hold a banner during protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.

Independence Day to be observed in Larkana with great zeal

LARKANA (APP): Official arrangements are being finalized in Larkana district to celebrate the 77th Independence Day on Wednesday.

Apart from official arrangements to celebrate the auspicious occasion, children, youth and old belonging to every walks of life buying commemorative material and are busy in decorating their houses, streets and organising special functions to celebrate the Independence Day.

Colorful bunting and national flags line private and public buildings, as well as the city shopping centres, commercial areas, bazaars, streets and roads. Fancy lighting is also being set up to illuminate the night sky to give a festive look.

The sale of National flags, multi-colored garlands, big portraits of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other national heroes is in full swing across Larkana city, towns and villages of the District. The people hoist flags on their cars, motorcycles, cycles and auto-rickshaws.

Commissioner orders to remove encroachments

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi on Tuesday visited Khairpur to review the implementation of public welfare initiatives. He inspected Mall Riad, Station Road and fruit and vegetables market and issued necessary instructions regarding the removal of encroachments and improving the traffic system. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Khairpur to permanently remove encroachments. He said that to resolve the problem of parking and encroachments in bazaars, the municipal corporation officials must be assigned permanent duties. He asked the deputy commissioner to remain in the field for two hours every day to improve the traffic system and remove encroachments. The commissioner also inspected Katchery Road where he was briefed by the chief officer Municipal Corporation about the sewage system, cleanliness and tree plantation drive.



LARKANA: Members of Larkana Union of Journalists are holding protest demonstration for demanding arrest killers of Brave Senior Journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar who was murdered in Sukkur, at Larkana press club.

PTV, PBC organize "Mushaira" to celebrate Independence Day

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation in collaboration with Pakistan Television Corporation organized a "Mushaira" on Monday night at PTV Karachi centre to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan.

A poetic event "Mushaira" themed "Kishwar-e-Hasseen Shaadbad" was graced by eminent poets and senior officers/official of PBC, PTVC, APPC and intellectuals belonging to different walks of life.

Eminent poet Prof Sahar Ansari presided over the poetic event while Director General Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Saeed Ahmed Shaikh was the chief guest.

Former Vice Chancellor Karachi University Peerzada Qasim Raza Siddiqui, Anwer Shaor, Tajdar e Adil, Manzoor Kamran, Hidayat Sahr, Abdul Rehman Momin, Yasmeen Yaaz, Khalid Moin, Salman Siddiqui, Nasira Zubairi, Wazahat Naseem and others presented their poetry depicting patriotism and love for the country and received great applause from the audiences.

Qamber police arrest 5 suspects

LARKANA (APP): On the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muhammad Kaleem Malik, Qamber Shahdadkot police claimed on Tuesday to have arrested 5 suspects wanted in cases of serious nature like theft and robbery and recovered a car.

In this regard, the Qamber city police have arrested four accused Abdul Sattar Mangi, Wahid Burrio, Riyaz Lohar and Abdul Jabbar Sangah.

The police arrested the accused Abdul Rauf Gopang wanted in the robbery case.

1988 Olympic Bronze Medalist still waiting for promised plot after 35 years

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan's former Olympian boxer, Hussain Shah, who secured a historic bronze medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, is still awaiting a plot promised to him by the government 35 years ago.

While talking to a local TV channel, Shah, the first Pakistani boxer to win an individual international medal, was promised a reward that has yet to materialize.