

# Independent

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## Will share good news on electricity bill reduction with nation soon: PM Shehbaz Sharif Urges nation to support govt in making Pakistan stable, prosperous

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

He said the youth were the bright future of the country who could play their role in the country's development.

"The next few years are crucial for you and the country, so only focus on your studies and attaining skill-based education, and do not indulge yourself in the negative agenda of the enemy who is out to target you and utilize your capabilities in anti-state activities," he asked the youth while addressing a ceremony held here in connection with the independence day celebrations. Unfortunately, he said the enemy was now using digital terrorism tools to sabotage the country's development journey.

On the occasion of the Independence Day, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan and paid homage to the immense sacrifices of forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values. As envisioned by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan emerged as an independent and sovereign state on the map of the world on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947 through the unwavering and steadfast leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and unmatched sacrifices of our ancestors, he added. The prime minister highlighted that although during the past 77 years, the country's journey had not been exemplary but it was also the fact that it managed to survive due to the resilience, its people had shown through natural disasters and economic and social challenges.



KARACHI: Governor of Sindh, Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister of Pakistan's Sindh province Syed Murad Ali Shah and others offer prayers at the mausoleum of founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during Independence Day celebrations, in the Provincial Capital.

## Sindh Assembly celebrates 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with flag hoisting, cake cutting, and plantation drive

KARACHI (APP): In a ceremonial event at the Sindh Assembly to mark the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan, Speaker Syed Owais Qadir Shah hoisted the national flag.

The occasion was highlighted by the cutting of a 78 pound cake, symbolizing the years of independence, with members of the assembly in attendance.

The Speaker also initiated a plantation campaign by planting saplings in the Assembly's lawn, underscoring the importance of environmental responsibility.

Speaking to the media, Syed Owais Qadir Shah extended Independence Day greetings to Pakistanis worldwide, expressing his hopes for the continued progress and prosperity of the country.

He reminded the gathering of the historical significance of the Sindh Assembly as the origin of the Pakistan Resolution and emphasized the need for unity and collective effort for the nation's betterment.



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

## Economic stability is key to national sovereignty: Governor SBP

KARACHI (APP): The Independence Day was celebrated at SBP with renewed fervor and enthusiasm. The formal proceedings began with the hoisting of the National Flag, as the Navy band played the National Anthem.

The colorful ceremony was attended by a large number of SBP employees along with their families. A small contingent of Inter Bank Security Officers performed a march-past, demonstrating discipline and cohesion, and presented the guard of honor. Additionally, a choir consisting of students from the Garage School, DHA CSS and Bahria School sang national songs.

Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad's message which was readout by Executive Director Muhammad Haroon Rasheed, praised the immense sacrifices made by the founding fathers in establishing a separate homeland for Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. His message focused on improvements in macro-economic indicators.

In his message, Governor Jameel Ahmad pointed out that inflation had significantly decreased to 11.1 percent in July this year, down from 28.3 percent in July 2023. He highlighted the country's previous struggles with macroeconomic indicators, noting that the current account deficit, which was USD 17.48 billion in FY 22, had been reduced to USD 3.2 billion in FY 23, and further to USD 0.68 billion in FY 24. Foreign remittances have now increased to USD 30.25 billion in FY 24 from USD 27.33 billion in FY 23.

The Governor also noted that the situation regarding foreign reserves has improved, with reserves rising to USD 9.3 billion despite ongoing debt repayments. Furthermore, there have been no import restrictions, and IT exports have risen significantly. These improvements, he emphasized, bode well for the country's economy.

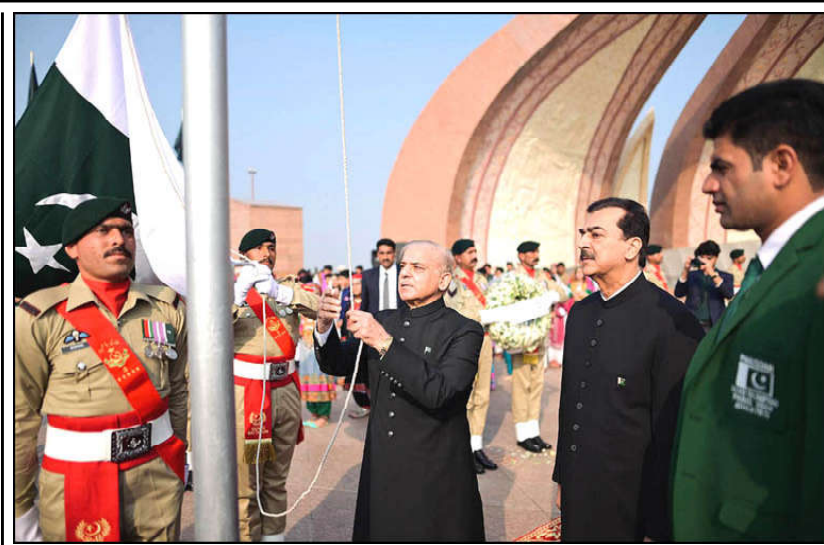
The Governor elaborated that the improvement in macroeconomic indicators is the result of measures taken by both the Government and the SBP, leading to a better economic outlook. Banks have developed their plans to issue more loans to the agriculture and SME sectors compared to last year, to harness the potential in these areas. He emphasized the SBP's efforts to ensure access to financial services for the general public, including initiatives such as the National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

## US vows to deepen partnership with Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has extended felicitations to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of country's 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on Wednesday (today). 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-Pakistan partnership and expand our people-to-people ties to build a more prosperous 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 rule of law," he said and 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 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day 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.



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

## Sindh CM calls for unity Governor hoists national flag at Mazar-e-Quaid

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori visited the mausoleum of the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on Wednesday morning and laid a wreath at the 'Mazar' and offered Fataha. Governor also recorded his comments in the guest book.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and senior members of the provincial cabinet were also present on the occasion. Speaking to the media at the shrine, Governor said "Today we pledge in front of Mazar-e-Quaid that we have to make more efforts to fulfill the purpose for which Pakistan was created. He said the spirit of the nation is still so high and today Olympian Arshad Nadeem will be with us at Governor House to celebrate Independence Day."

Governor Tessori said, "Celebrating independence day together is a sign that we are not individuals but a nation. Presenting solute to the armed forces and law enforcement personnels, Governor said that our soldiers and policemen were sacrificing their lives to safeguard frontiers of our homeland."

Kamran Tessori said, "Arshad Nadeem, our national hero and famous singer Atif Aslam will be with us today to celebrate Independence day here at Governor House where National Anthem will be jointly sung and Pakistan's flag will also be unfurled."

He said, "The people of Karachi are specially invited at Governor House to celebrate Independence day of Pakistan."

Meanwhile Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has urged the nation to remain united and resilient in the face of current challenges, emphasizing the need to counter divisive forces that are spreading hatred in society. Speaking at the Mazar-e-Quaid on Wednesday, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of following the principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to steer the country out of its crisis.

During the media briefing, Shah congratulated the nation on the upcoming Independence Day, acknowledging the resilience of Pakistan's youth and citizens.



KARACHI: Armed forces commanders are paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during Guard of Honor ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence Day Celebration, held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

## "Change of Guards" ceremony held at Mazar-e-Quaid on I Day

KARACHI (APP): An impressive Change of Guard ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the entire nation celebrated the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of Pakistan on Wednesday (August 14).

A smartly turned-out contingent of the cadets of the Pakistan Naval Academy and sailors clad in ceremonial dresses assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with enthusiasm, traditional spirit, and military customs. Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy graced the occasion as Chief Guest and reviewed the guard. The Chief Guest and cadets of the Pakistan Navy presented Qaumi Salam to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The ceremonial mounting of the guard was followed by the laying of a floral wreath at the Mazar-e-Quaid by the chief guest on behalf of the Chief of the Naval Staff, officers, and men of the Pakistan Navy.

Later on, the Chief Guest Commandant of Pakistan Naval Academy, Commodore Khalid, offered Fataha, recorded his remarks in the visitor book, and paid rich tribute to our beloved Quaid-e-Azam.

Earlier, the day dawned with 21 gun salutes, and special prayers were offered in all mosques for the solidarity and progress of the country. Pakistan Navy ships and establishments were illuminated in the Navy's traditional manner. Flag-hoisting ceremonies were held at designated units of the Pakistan Navy across the country and coastal areas.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab hoists national flag at Baldia Uzma in a ceremony to commemorate the Independence Day of Pakistan.

## PM hoists flag to mark 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

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

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

The prime minister laid a floral wreath at the Pakistan Monument to pay tribute to the country's founding fathers and national heroes.

## DG Rangers visits Quaid-e-Azam's mausoleum on Independence Day

KARACHI (APP): On the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh, Major General Azhar Waqas, paid his respects at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

According to news release on Wednesday, accompanied by other Rangers officers, Major General Waqas offered prayers for the country's development and prosperity.

Following the ceremony, the DG Rangers laid a wreath at the Mazar-e-Quaid and also recorded his impressions in the visitor's book.

## 70 persons injured in aerial firing in different areas of Karachi

KARACHI (Online): As many as 70 people have been injured in different areas of Karachi due to aerial firing. According to Rescue sources children and women are included in the injured in large number. The injured have been shifted to hospitals.

Rescue sources said injured have been brought from Mari Pur road, PIB Colony, Purana Golimar and Korangi. Firing incidents have taken place in the areas of Jamshed Quarters, Gulshan Iqbal, Liyari and Malir 15.

## President confers national awards on 104 Pakistanis and foreigners on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari announced the conferment of Pakistan's national awards to 104 Pakistanis and foreigners in recognition of their services, excellence, and sacrifices across various fields. The awards, announced on Pakistan's 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, will be presented at an investiture ceremony on March 23, 2025.

Among the distinguished awardees, former President and Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed will receive the Nishan-i-Pakistan for his public service. Olympian Arshad Nadeem, who secured a gold medal at the Paris Olympics, is set to be honored with the Hilal-i-Imtiaz, while mountaineer Murad Sadpara will receive the Sitara-i-Imtiaz in the sports category.

In the realm of literature, the late Nasir Kazmi will be posthumously awarded the Nishan-i-Imtiaz, and Saudi Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al Saud will be honored with the Hilal-i-Pakistan for his contributions to Pakistan.

In science, the Hilal-i-Imtiaz will be awarded to Amir Hafeez Ibrahim; Sitara-i-Imtiaz will go to Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and Sardar Muhammad Aftab Ahmed Khan; and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz will be presented to Dr. Sara Qureshi, Dr. Rafiuddin, and Professor Dr. Usman Qamar.

In education, Sadia Rasheed will receive the Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Dr. Suleman Shahabuddin and Syed Azhar Hussain Abidi will be awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, and Barkat Shah, Abdul Rasheed Kakar, and Aneeqa Bano will be honored with the Presidential Pride of Performance Award.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah are talking with media persons after paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of 77th Independence Day Celebration, held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized that the PPP remains committed to the principles and vision of the founding fathers. He remarked, "The ideology of Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto serve as guiding lights for us. Under President Asif Ali Zardari's vision of reconciliation and national unity, we find hope and strength to navigate our challenges."



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.

## Karachi Police Chief attends Independence Day firing competition at SSU Headquarters

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police Karachi, Javed Akhtar Odho, participated in a firing competition ceremony at the Special Security Unit (SSU) headquarters on Wednesday, marking the occasion of the country's Independence Day.

The event was attended by senior police officials, including the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Security and Emergency Services Division, as well as ambassadors from various countries, according to the Karachi Police spokesperson.

During the visit, the Karachi Police Chief reviewed the firing competitions and engaged in discussions with the ambassadors on matters of security.

The DIGP Security and Emergency Services Division briefed the attendees on SSU's professional training programs, which were praised by the contestants for their adherence to international standards.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Rebuilding a dream

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

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

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

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

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

Political forces are showing incredible rigidity, while the powers that be refuse to stay within the confines of their constitutional role. Respect for the vote has been trampled underfoot, while those who peacefully protest for their rights are dubbed as "terrorists" and "troublemakers". The only path to redemption lies in upholding the constitutional framework, and respecting the popular will. Jinnah was crystal clear about this, and it rings true now as it did then. "True" independence — and not in the sense of a political slogan — can only be achieved when Pakistan's children are assured of a better tomorrow, and the people of this country are freed from a stifling existence, and can achieve their full potential.

## Pakistan at 77

Samuel Rizk

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

Pakistan at 77 is also complicated. Still recovering from Covid 19 and a devastating 2022 flood, it is critically vulnerable to climate change, has survived a macroeconomic cliff-hanger in 2023 that is slowly showing signs of abatement, and is facing debt and security challenges that leave people and authorities alike on edge. 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 development path.

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

The second area must be readying Pakistan for an economy that

is as sustainable as it is resilient in the face of inevitable storms. While Pakistan's climate adaptation is no longer a choice, identifying more ambitious mitigation targets is a global obligation that Pakistan must undertake. With 40m living without electricity, a just, equitable transition to a green(er) economy powered by cleaner, less carbon-dependant energy is possible in a country endo-wed with abundant natural resources, and a vibrant private sector committed to renewable, innovative solutions.

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

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

## Beyond the javelin

Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

Much of the com-

mentary following his incarceration has, however, noted his far wider political role before, during and after Imran Khan's incumbency as prime minister. Of course, previous spy chiefs — beginning with Hamid Gul — have also been complicit in advancing Imran Khan's political career. And, before him, that of Nawaz Sharif — which the PML-N would naturally be reluctant to acknowledge.

On the seventh anniversary of independence 70 years ago, The Pakistan Times wondered whether the Muslim League, after a resounding electoral defeat in East Bengal, could be purged of "elements whose bovine stupidity restricts their activity to a continuous search for new pastures". Four years later, it felt obliged to call out political players "cursed with unlimited greed and gifted with limited ability".

That description pretty much still applies to both the political and military spheres. Military rule, directly or by default, has been the disastrous norm for too long. The way out towards a demonstratively democratic dispensation remains to be determined more than half a century after the first national elections that split the nation following the massacre to thwart such an outcome after it was too late.

Perhaps the biggest tragedy in recent decades has been the determination to repeat the kind of follies that blighted the past. The state's ridiculous reaction to the Baloch Yakjehti Committee's planned protest in Gwadar is a case in point. The role of Baloch women in protests against the enforced disappearances of their husbands, brothers and sons is a tremendous achievement, but it's far from clear whether the efforts led by the amaz-

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

There was a student-worker revolt in 1968-69, that rattled the established order. But the events that followed effectively put democracy on the back-burner, and it has never completely recovered. The present scenario suggests that it never will unless the depressing status quo is superseded by Bangladesh-style resistance — spearheaded not by the clueless PTI, but by rights-based movements, which are, unfortunately, anathema to the powers that be. These are the kind of movements that the established order cannot countenance, precisely because they militate against its repetitive absurdities.

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

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

## Commerce News

### Experts stress enhancing public finance for reducing malnutrition

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

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

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

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

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

Participants were divided into four groups, each presenting on different aspects of nutrition and the roles of various government departments.

### President of JazzCash, joins Forbes Finance Council

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

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

With over 25 years of experience, Murtaza has consistently demonstrated his ability to drive business growth and innovation.

His leadership at JazzCash, a joint venture between Jazz and Mobilink Microfinance Bank and part of the VEON Group, has been instrumental in transforming the digital financial services landscape in Pakistan.

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



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

### Engineers play crucial role in nation building: FEICSA

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Engineering Institutions of Central and South Asia (FEICSA) Secretary General Engineer Sultan Mahmood said on Wednesday that architects and engineers play equally crucial roles in nation-building projects, driving the progress and prosperity of a country.

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

hand, bring these architectural visions to life. Their expertise in structural integrity, materials, and technology ensures that buildings and infrastructures are not only safe and efficient but also durable and cost-effective.

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

### Cake designers make Pakistan's birthday sweeter with patriotic creations

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

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

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

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

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

### SNGPL disconnects 10 more connections over violations

LODHARAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force raided and disconnected 10 more connections.

Three consumers metres were found seal tampered and further legal action recommended by disconnecting connections.

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

### SCCI celebrates I-Day

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

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

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

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

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

A ceremony regarding Record of Discussion for Disaster Prevention Project was held at Development and Public Health Engineering Secretariat in which Special Secretary Housing Punjab Tayyab Farid, Director General Multan Development Authority (MDA) Rana Saleem Ahmed, Managing Director WASA Khalid Raza Khan, Country Director of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Mr. Je

Ho Yeon and Focal Person for the project Deputy Director Planning & Development WASA Muhammad Nadeem were present.

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

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



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

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

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

The plant's annual observance of Pakistan's Independence Day was a profound testament to the camaraderie and unity

between its Chinese and Pakistani staff.

This year's festivities were marked by heartfelt ceremonies that showcased a remarkable bond between the two nations. The day began with a traditional flag-raising ceremony, a moment of great significance for the Pakistani employees. As the Pakistani flag was hoisted against the backdrop of the power plant, the ceremony was conducted with great reverence and national pride, said a news release.



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

### Quaid's principles can develop Pak speedily

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

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

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

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

Flag hoisting ceremony held at Governor House to celebrate I Day

PESHAWAR (APP): A dignified flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Governor's House in Peshawar on Wednesday on the occasion of Independence Day. The governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, conducted the flag hoisting ceremony...

PWPA chairperson leads flag hoisting ceremony

LAHORE (APP): Chairperson of the Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Hina Pervaiz Butt led a flag-hoisting ceremony at her office here on Wednesday, followed by the planting of a tree. The event was attended by Director General Safina Sadiq, Deputy Director Aqsa Rafiq, Rabia Usman, and other officials.

Ceremony held in PHC to mark I-Day

PESHAWAR (APP): An impressive ceremony was held on the premises of Peshawar High Court (PHC) to celebrate Independence Day. Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Judges, Advocate General, Deputy Attorney General, District and Session Judge Peshawar, Chairman Services Tribunal and members of bas associations attended the ceremony.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire Pakistani nation on the occasion of 77th Independence Day. In her message, she emphasized that Pakistan stands as a testament to the sacrifices made by the nation's great leaders and ancestors, urging every citizen to cherish the freedom that was hard-

KPT Chairman marks Independence Day with flag hoisting ceremony

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Port Trust (KPT) commemorated the Independence Day, with a ceremony filled with national spirit at the KPT Head Office on Wednesday. Chairman KPT, Syedain Raza Zaidi, led the event as the chief guest, accompanied by all General Managers and Heads of Departments, said a news release.

Senior minister launches monsoon plantation campaign on Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Senior Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb marked the country's Independence Day by inaugurating the monsoon plantation campaign titled "One Person, One Tree." The campaign, which emphasizes environmental stewardship, was launched with the planting of a local citrus sapling by the Senior Minister on Wednesday.

CM Punjab attends flag hoisting ceremony on 77th Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif hoisted the national flag at the Alangiri 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 Mosque and the school bands presented beautiful tunes. The female students clad in Sindhi, Balochi, Kalash, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Cholistan and other regional dresses accorded a warm reception to the CM Punjab by clapping. The excerpts from the speech of Quaid-e-Azam were also presented in the ceremony. The differently-abled children presented the national anthem in connection with the Independence Day.



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

SAFWCO Group celebrates 78th Independence Day of Pakistan

HYDERABAD (APP): SAFWCO Group here on Wednesday organized a function on the occasion of 78th Independence Day of Pakistan at SAFWCO Head Office, which was attended by key employees of Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO), SAFCO Support Foundation and SAFCO Microfinance Company. Speaking at the event, founder of SAFWCO Suleman G. Abro said that 65 percent of Pakistan's population consists of youth, which was a great fortune for the country, however these youth could fulfill our expectations if they were equipped with modern technology.

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 oust them. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Kyiv's forces were continuing to gain ground in the Kursk region and that they had taken another one to two kilometres on Wednesday. "We continue to advance further in the Kursk region," Zelenskiy wrote in a statement on Telegram, "from one to two kilometres in various areas since the start of the day. And more than 100 Russian prisoners of war in the same period." Russia's defence ministry said 117 Ukrainian drones had been shot down within its territory overnight, mostly in the Kursk, Voronezh, Belgorod and Nizhny Novgorod regions. It said missiles had also been downed, and showed Sukhoi Su-34 bombers striking Ukrainian positions in the Kursk region. Later, the ministry said Russian forces had repelled a series of Ukrainian attacks inside the Kursk region, including at Russkoye Porechnoye 18km from the border, and pro-Russian war bloggers said the front has been stabilised. The Ukrainian drone attack included strikes on four Russian military airfields in an attempt to undermine Russia's ability to attack Ukraine with gliding bombs, a Ukrainian security source told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Russia's National Guard said it was beefing up security at the Kursk nuclear power plant, located just 35km from the fighting. The Ukrainian assault into Russian territory has dramatically changed the narrative around the two-and-a-half-year-old war, Russia had been advancing in eastern Ukraine since the failure of Kyiv's 2023 counter-offensive to make any major gains against Russian forces.

Venezuela's Machado says Maduro relying on military to stay in power

Monitoring Desk LIMA: Venezuelan opposition 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, Edmundo Gonzalez. The CNE has not released 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

Mexico to send US diplomatic note over donations to Mexican civil groups

Monitoring Desk MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told a morning press conference on Wednesday that he would send a diplomatic note to the United States over what he called interference regarding US donations to opposition civil organizations. The president cited US funding for Mexicanos Contra la Corrupcion y la Impunidad, an anti-graft NGO which has investigated possible corruption in his administration as well as that of his predecessors. "We have dealt with it here several times, it has been made public but now we are going to handle it in the appropriate way through the letter I am going to send President Biden," Lopez Obrador said.



Palestinian children stand at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Biden says Gaza ceasefire could stop Iran attacking Israel

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: US President Joe Biden said Tuesday that a ceasefire deal in Gaza could deter Iran from attacking Israel in retaliation for the killing of a Hamas leader that sent regional tensions soaring. His remarks came after Iran rejected Western calls to "stand down" its threat of reprisals. The Islamic republic and its allies have blamed Israel for Ismail Haniyeh's killing on July 31 during a visit to Tehran in the swearing-in of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented. Iran has vowed to avenge the death, which came hours after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a senior commander of Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon. Asked if a truce between Israel and Hamas could stave off an Iranian assault, Biden said: "That's my expectation." He told reporters in New Orleans that while negotiations were "getting hard" he was "not giving up". Western diplomats have scrambled to prevent a major conflagration in the Middle East, where tensions were already high due to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

US soldier pleads guilty to selling defence information to China

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A US Army intelligence analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday to providing sensitive defence information to China, including documents about US weapons systems and military tactics and strategy. Sergeant Korbein Schultz, who held a top-secret security clearance, was arrested in March at Fort Campbell, a military base on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Unpopular Japan PM Kishida to step down

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on Wednesday he will step aside next term, ending a three-year term plagued by low popularity ratings and a spluttering economy. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has governed almost uninterrupted for decades, is due to hold a leadership contest next month, with the winner to become prime minister. Kishida said on Wednesday he will not seek re-election as party chief. "In this (party) presidential election, it is necessary to show the people that the LDP is changing and the party is a new LDP," Kishida told reporters in Tokyo. "For this, transparent and open elections and free and vigorous debate are important. The most obvious first step to show that the LDP will change is for me to step aside," he said.

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

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

Taliban celebrate 3 years since Afghanistan takeover with military show

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban rulers celebrated three years in power on Wednesday with a military parade paying homage to their homemade bombs used in war, fighter aircraft, and goose-stepping security forces. The Taliban's armed forces towed Soviet-era tanks and artillery pieces through the former US air base in Bagram, where Chinese and Iranian diplomats were among hundreds who gathered for the parade and speeches. The former Bagram base once served as the linchpin for US-led operations against the Taliban for two decades. A swarm of motorbikes strapped with yellow jerry cans, often used to carry homemade bombs during the fight against international forces, also rumbled past assembled officials. There were also US-made armoured personnel carriers, the black-and-white flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan — the Taliban government's formal name for the country — fluttering above them. Helicopters and fighter aircraft flew over the base, where Taliban fighters were once imprisoned, about 40 kilometres north of Kabul. Taliban forces seized the capital on August 15, 2021, after the US-backed government collapsed and its leaders fled into exile. The anniversary is marked a day earlier on the Afghan calendar. Their government remains unrecognised by any other state, with restrictions on women, who bear the brunt of policies the United Nations has called "gender apartheid".

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

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas said on Wednesday it would not take part in a new round of Gaza ceasefire talks slated for Thursday in Qatar, dimming hopes for a negotiated truce that Iranian sources say could hold back an Israel attack on Israel. The US has said it expects indirect talks to go ahead as planned in Qatar's capital Doha on Thursday, and that a ceasefire agreement was still possible. However Axios reported that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has postponed a trip to the Middle East that had been expected to begin on Tuesday. Three senior Iranian officials have said that only a ceasefire deal in Gaza would hold Iran back from direct retaliation against Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on its soil last month. The Israeli government said it would send a delegation to Thursday's talks, but Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that controls Gaza, requested a workable plan to implement a proposal it has already accepted rather than more talks. "Hamas is committed to the proposal presented to it on July 2, which is based on the U.N. Security Council resolution and the Biden speech and the movement is prepared to immediately begin discussion over a mechanism to implement it," Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters. "Going to new negotiation allows the occupation to impose new conditions and employ the maze of negotiation to conduct more massacres," he added. There has been no let-up in fighting in Gaza, where residents of the southern city of Khan Younis said Israeli forces blew up homes in the east and intensified tank shelling on eastern areas of the city centre.

# CM Sindh launches 10-day long anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah launched a crucial 10-day polio eradication campaign aimed at immunising over 1.1 million children under five in 85 union councils of the city. He said 1,037,000 children, ages four months to five years, would receive fractional inactivated polio vaccine (f-IPV) injections. "In the campaign, we will use innovative, painless jet injectors to target high-risk areas in Karachi, where the polio virus still circulates. He was talking to the media, just after launching a 10-day vital anti-polio campaign, August 15-25, 2024, by administering polio drops to children at Khalid Jameel Dispensary, Garden East on Wednesday. Provincial Ministers Nasir Shah, Sharjeel Memon, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, and Zulfiqar Shah were also present on the occasion. Murad Ali Shah

said that the anti-polio campaign launched in 85 union councils of Karachi city targeted over 1.1 million children under five to receive oral polio vaccine drops. He added that 1,037,000 children (ages four months to five years) would receive fractional inactivated polio vaccine (f-IPV) injections. The Chief Minister stated that innovative and painless jet injector technology is being used to target high-risk areas in Karachi, where the polio virus is still circulating. He added that the mission aims to stop the spread of the virus in the city and prevent its transmission to other parts of the province. Talking about the current polio situation in Pakistan, Murad Ali Shah said that 14 new polio cases were reported in the country this year, including two in Sindh. "Each case represents a child affected by polio emphasize the life-



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah launches a 10-day polio eradication campaign by administering polio drops to children at Khalid Jameel Dispensary, Garden East.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday thanked his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his warm greetings on Pakistan's Independence Day. "I thank Your Highness and the entire leadership of UAE for always standing with Pakistan in our journey towards peace, progress and prosperity. I am confident that by working together, we can build a bright future for our peoples. Long live Pakistan-UAE brotherhood," the prime minister wrote on his official X account in response to the felicitation message by Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

## We are if this country is: Information minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): 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 political interest ends, he held. They will have to think national interest starts from where, he underlined. He stressed all will have to play their respective role to reach destination. Reforms process is underway in state institutions, he remarked. He went on to say Prime Minister (PM) will announce comprehensive plan in his address to nation. The plan includes privatization of some institutions, right and downsizing and other reforms. Pakistanis come forward enthusiastically in any calamity and problem, he added. Pakistani nation is ahead of all nations in the world in making charity, he observed. When PTI founder fell from crane then Nawaz Sharif summoned party meeting within 15 minutes, he remarked. Nawaz Sharif said to party leadership will not run election campaign. He extended offer to political rival to go alongside each other.

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## Besant Hall Cultural Center celebrates Independence Day

HYDERABAD (APP): Besant Hall in collaboration with the Sindh Indigenous and Traditional Crafts Company (SITCO) organized a colourful programme to mark 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon graced the ceremony as a special guest and hoisted the Pakistani flag to mark the inauguration of the ceremony. While addressing the ceremony, Bilal Ahmed Memon said that he felt positive vibes coming here and always learns something new in such program. During his visit to the children's library established at Basant Hall, he said that the library has been designed very well for learners. Appreciating the paintings and artwork of young people in the exhibition "Art of the Joke" held at Basant Hall, he said that the art exhibition has critically analyzed the positive aspects of society through art, which is a sign of the healthy minds of young people. He said that we all need to work together for the development of this country. While criticism is made about politics and administration in this country but it is also our collective responsibility to make this country better." He further said that this evolutionary process of freedom began into 1947 and there are lots of ups and downs during our 77 years history but with hard work and enthusiasm one day we will make this country prosperous in the world. The SWA displayed an art exhibition in the program and handicraft stalls were also set up by SITCO. The Commissioner visited the exhibition and stalls and lauded the art work. Meanwhile, Director Besant Hall Cultural Center Sobia Ali Shaikh along Director SITCO Shakil Abro talking to Media said that it was our collective endeavor to highlight potential of youth and provide a platform so that they could stable financially to lead a prosper life.



KARACHI: School students are holding National Independence Day, at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

## CJCS, services chiefs felicitate nation on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Services Chiefs extended heartfelt felicitations to the nation on the Independence Day of Pakistan, a momentous occasion that commemorates the realization of a long-cherished dream of a separate homeland for Muslims. On this auspicious day, the Armed Forces of Pakistan paid tribute to the visionary founding fathers and valiant veterans, who rendered supreme sacrifices in their unwavering pursuit of freedom and self-determination.

## Nation celebrates 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with zeal, fervour

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Nation celebrated 78<sup>th</sup> 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 hoisting ceremony of the day was held at Pakistan Monument in Islamabad. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoisted the national flag. Change of Guards ceremony was held at Mazar-e-Quaid this morning.

## Google changes its doodle on Independence Day of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Google has changed its doodle with reference Pakistan Independence day is celebrating the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan with a special doodle. The Doodle artwork features Mangoes, the national fruit of Pakistan. Google's message on Pakistan's Independence Day reads, "This Doodle celebrates Pakistan's Independence Day. On this day in 1947, the country gained its freedom and sovereignty after centuries of foreign rule." "Pakistan's national fruit is featured in today's artwork! Mangoes have been ingrained in the nation's culture since ancient times, and ones that grow in Pakistan are known for their amazing flavor and texture."

## Sindh University celebrate country's 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with national zeal, enthusiasm

HYDERABAD (APP): University of Sindh Jamsoro and its campuses celebrated Pakistan's 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with unwavering national spirit and enthusiasm. The main ceremony organized by the Bureau of STAGS took place at 9 a.m. at the Hyder Bakhsh Jatoi Pavilion on Allama I.I. Kazi campus, where the Vice-Chancellor Professor (Merititious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhor led the proceedings by hoisting the national flag, followed by the playing of the national anthem. Attendees stood in respect as the anthem resonated through the venue. The event commenced with a recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr. Nazir Hussain Chandio, followed by a Naat read by a female student. The ceremony featured a parade

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States Government, through USAID, has handed over 5,000 lady health worker kits, 90 maternal, neonatal, and child health packages, and 120 birthing stations to improve health services in eleven flood-affected districts of Sindh and Balochistan. These supplies, part of USAID's \$27.8 million investment in the health sector's flood response, will enable lady health workers and health facilities to provide better health services to more than 80,000 children and 100,000 married women of reproductive age, said a press release. The devastating floods in June 2022 severely disrupted health services in Sindh and Balochistan, affecting over 13 million people and exposing them to waterborne and vector-borne diseases. This crisis worsened issues in routine immunization, maternal health, and child malnutrition. In response, USAID and its partners assessed health commodity needs in the hardest-hit districts and identified critical shortages. The donation of \$2.3 million in equipment marks a significant investment in strengthening the health resilience of flood-affected communities in Sindh and Balochistan. "By enhancing health service delivery and ensuring the availability of essential commodities, we can save lives and build resilience against future crises," remarked Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to Prime Minister, MoNHSRC. Speaking on the occasion Minister for Health and Population Sindh Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho said that this assistance has been pivotal in improving Pakistan's health system's capacity to respond to public health emergencies and ensure continuity of essential health services.



HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Shoro along with others cutting cake during ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, in Hyderabad.

## NICVD celebrates I Day with enthusiasm

KARACHI (APP): The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) celebrated the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan with great fervor and patriotism. The Executive Director of NICVD Professor Tahir Saghir led the flag-hoisting ceremony at the NICVD premises, which was attended by the faculty, staff, and other distinguished officials. The event commenced with the recitation of the national anthem, followed by the hoisting of the national flag by Professor Tahir Saghir. The atmosphere was filled with pride and patriotism as everyone in attendance saluted the flag, symbolizing the unity and strength of the nation. Speaking at the occasion, Professor Tahir Saghir expressed his deep reverence for the sacrifices made by the forefathers of the nation and emphasized the role of NICVD in contributing to the health and well-being of the people of Pakistan. "The independence we enjoy today is a result of the relentless efforts of our ancestors. It is our duty to uphold their legacy by serving our nation with the utmost dedication. NICVD is committed to providing world-class cardiovascular care to the people of Pakistan, ensuring that every citizen has access to the best possible health services," he said. Administrative Executive at NICVD Dr. Tariq Ahmed Shaikh also addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of unity and collective effort in building a prosperous Pakistan. Syed Mustafa Hasan also spoke on the occasion. The ceremony concluded with a collective prayer for the prosperity and progress of Pakistan. The NICVD staff, including medical professionals and administrative personnel, participated in the event with great enthusiasm, reaffirming their commitment to the mission of NICVD and the nation.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani along with others are hoisting national flag during ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, in Hyderabad.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah are talking with media persons after paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of 77th Independence Day Celebration, held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

## German envoy pays tribute to Jinnah on Pakistan's Independence Day

KARACHI (INP): In a gesture of respect and solidarity, Dr Rudiger Lotz, the German consul general in Karachi, visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the occasion of Pakistan's 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. During his visit, Dr. Lotz paid tribute to the founding leader, acknowledging his visionary role in the creation of Pakistan. Standing before the mausoleum, he reflected on the significance of Quaid-e-Azam's vision, which laid the foundation for a nation committed to peace, prosperity, democracy, and human rights. He highlighted Jinnah's dream of a country that would safeguard the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their political affiliations, religion, beliefs, or regional identities. "Assalam Alaikum," Dr. Lotz began, addressing the people of Pakistan. "We are standing here, in front of the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam, the historical figure who laid the foundations of this country."

## Largest national flag hoisted in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): A national flag hoisting ceremony on Wednesday held here to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan. Spokesperson to Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur along with senior officers hoisted the largest national flag. A large number of the people from minorities also attended the flag hoisting ceremony. Arslan Shaikh while addressing the gathering emphasized the need for unity in these challenging times to propel the country forward. Arslan congratulated the participants on Independence Day and also paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan. The event was attended by Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi, DIGP Pir Muhammad Shah, Deputy Commissioner Dr MB Raja Dharejo, SSP Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh and other officials.



LARKANA: District Council Larkana, Chairman, Aijaz Ahmed Leghari along with Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, MPA, Jameel Ahmed Soomro hoisting the national flag of Pakistan and offered Prayers during National Independence celebrations ceremony on occasion of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, held at District Council Office in Larkana.

## "Azadi Walk", Flag hoisting organised at SMIU to celebrate Independence Day

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Madressatul Islam University, an Alma-e-Mater of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other leaders of the Pakistan Movement, celebrated the Independence Day of Pakistan on 14<sup>th</sup> August with the great enthusiasm, national spirit and patriotic zeal at the campus. Multiple activities held on the occasion to express love and reverence to the country and its people. Vice-Chancellor SMIU Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai performed flag hoisting and cake cutting ceremony. He also led "Azadi Walk" at the campus. Deans, chairperson of different academic departments, heads of different administrative departments, faculty, teachers of SMIU Model School, officers, other employees and students participated in the Azadi Walk, which culminated at the ground of the university. Directorate of Students Affairs and Counselling had organised the Independence Day Celebration at the open space of the Main Building of SMIU, where the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had received his early education. The Vice Chancellor in his address congratulated the entire nation of the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on behalf of the Alma-Mater of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In his speech the Vice Chancellor said it will be a great tribute to the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-

## Pakistan only country created in name of Islam: AJK PM

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq praised Pakistan on the occasion of its 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on Wednesday, saying that it was the only country in the 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. He paid tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan's founding fathers and those who continue to defend the nation.

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

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naeem has said that unfortunately no vision of the rulers except distributing laptop comes to fore. "They are distributing lap tops since the last ten years, he said this while addressing flag hoisting ceremony here in Mansoor Wednesday on the occasion of independence day. We can hardly export IT worth three billion dollars. If we focus on IT and capture 3 or 4 percent of market, it stands at 40 billion dollars, he held. It is food security issue. Agriculture is ruined. Over two and half crores children are out of schools. University education is in miserable plight.

## Unknown persons allegedly subject foreign lady to sexual violence

ISLAMABAD (Online): Some unknown accused are reported to have thrown a foreign lady with hands and feet strapped after five days of allegedly subjecting her to rape in Islamabad. The accused threw the foreign lady in the area of G-6 and fled the scene. According to police the lady is citizen of Belgium. A citizen made call to police on help line 15 after seeing the foreign lady lying with hands and feet tied. The police reached the scene and shifted the lady to Polyclinic hospital for medical check up.