

Independent

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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; Says Pakistan's future is bright and secure, our forces will continue to defend it with unwavering resolve

Monitoring Desk
RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Asim Munir has stated weakening the armed forces is tantamount to undermining the country, pledging that the military will not allow let its sacrifices to go in vain.

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.

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



RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Asim Munir addressing Azadi Parade at PMA Kakul

Grand Jashne Azadi ceremony at Bugti stadium: CM Bugti invites all angry people for negotiations

Says "come your state guarantees you the bright future, leave the weapons and come down from the mountains, the state would embrace you"; Vows to take revenge of every single drop of blood of martyr

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has extended offer of dialogue to the angry people on eve of Jashne Azadi.

He addressed to the otherwise angry people saying "come your state guarantees you the bright future, leave the weapons and come down from the mountains, the state would embrace you," the Chief Minister said while ad-

ressing the grand ceremony held marking the 77th Independence Day here at the Bugti stadium on Tuesday.

The prominent person-

All stakeholders to be taken on board for resolving issues of province: Balochistan close to heart of PM and federal govt, measures to be taken to address issues: Ishaq Dar

Chief Minister says strong relation of trust can be established between state & general public, reforms being brought for improving governance being top priority of provincial government

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has stated that Balochistan is close to the heart of Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and the federal government and as such steps would be taken to resolve the issues being faced by the province and its people.

He said that it is necessary that Balochistan gets its genuine rights. He said that economic situation of the country is surely hard but it is not dis-

appointing. He said that the future of Pakistan is bright and this country has come into being for ever.

The Deputy Prime Minister was presiding over the meeting about the law and order situation and development projects in Balochistan here at the Chief Minister secretariat on Tuesday.

Also present in the meeting were the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Muhammad Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz

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PM announces cash price of Rs150m for Arshad Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced a cash award of Rs150 million (15 crore) to Olympian and gold medal-

nounced establishment of Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund with Rs1 billion to support the players whereas a committee would be set up to give recommendations for the promotion



ist Arshad Nadeem besides, a number of other initiatives to recognize his historic feat in javelin throw competition of Paris Olympics 2024.

On the occasion, the prime minister also announced an award of Rs10 million (1 crore) for Salman Iqbal Butt, Arshad's coach.

Addressing a special ceremony held at the PM Office and televised on TV channels, the prime minister said that the road between F-9 and F-10 sectors of Islamabad would be re-named as 'Arshad Nadeem road', besides Arshad Nadeem High Performance Academy would be established at Jinnah Stadium to groom the young talent for the upcoming 2028 Olympics.

He said that he had also recommended conferment of Hilal-i-Imtiaz award upon Arshad Nadeem. The prime minister said that it was a moment of immense pride to host nation's hero Arshad Nadeem who had won the gold medal in Paris Olympics after a gap of 40 years, on the basis of his hard work.

The entire nation thanked him as his success

Continued on page 2

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).

Man dies, six injured in Quetta hand grenade blast

QUETTA (APP): A man died and six other sustained injuries in a hand grenade blast at the Liaquat Bazaar area of the provincial capital on Tuesday.

While talking to the media, MD Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran confirmed that six injured people in the Liaquat Bazaar bomb blast were brought to the trauma center after first aid in the accident department of Civil Hospital Quetta.

According to the police sources, unknown men hurled a hand grenade near China Chowk which went off.

Provincial Health Minister Balochistan Sardarzada Mir Faisal Khan Jamali and Health Secretary Saleh Muhammad Baloch directed to MD Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran and MS Civil Hospital Quetta Dr. Ishaq Panizi to provide best medical facilities to the injured.

As a result, a man namely Irfanullah died on the spot while Muhammad Zainullah, Amanullah, Habibur Rehman, Sagar Govind, Yousuf Masih and Shabir received injuries. The body and the injured were rushed to Quetta Civil Hospital's Trauma Center where the injured treat-



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

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 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.

BLF most wanted terrorist Shambin alias Shahak killed by his own colleague

QUETTA (Online): Most wanted terrorist of Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) Shambin alias Shahak has been killed by his own colleague.

According to security sources internal differences in the tanks of BLF have deepened. Its ring leader and most wanted terrorist Shambin alias Shahak has been killed by his own associate. He remained involved in high profile terrorist activities.

He was wanted by law enforcement agencies for attacking forces and killing his old comrades.

Funeral prayer of martyr Deputy Commissioner Panjgur offered

Independent Report
QUETTA: The funeral prayer of martyr Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch was offered at the Central Police Office on Tuesday morning.

The funeral prayer was attended by the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Corps Commander, Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of Police, Abdul

Khalique Sheikh, Deputy Inspector General of Police and other high ups.

After offering funeral prayer, the body of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur was sent to the native town, Turbat for burial.

Earlier, the Governor, Chief Minister and other high ups laid floral wreath at the coffin of martyr Deputy Commissioner.

It may be mentioned here that Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch was gunned down by unknown armed assailants while he was on his way to Quetta from Panjgur on Monday night.

The Chairman Municipal Committee Panjgur, Abdul Malik Baloch, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, was also injured in the firing incident.



Khalique Sheikh, Deputy Inspector General of Police and other high ups.

Two terrorists killed as search operation starts in Mastung

Independent Report
QUETTA: Two terrorists were killed during search operation started against the terrorists following terrorist attack at the vehicle of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur in Mastung area on Tuesday.

The sources of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) informed that the search operation was started against terrorists in Mastung.

The CTD, Police, Levies and Quick Response Force (QRF) are taking part in the search operation being carried out in Mastung after the incident of terrorism that claimed life of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur.

During the operation, two terrorists were reportedly killed. However, the search operation is still continued, the sources of CTD informed adding the more force has been called in this regard.

The CTD sources said that it would be ensured to eliminate terrorists and restore peace.



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar being briefed by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan regarding law and order situation and ongoing development projects in Balochistan

We have to realize new generation about great sacrifices of our elders for independence, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that there is a need to remind and realize the new generation that our elders had rendered great sacrifices for the independence of Pakistan.

In an official message issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said that we are celebrating 77th anniversary of Pakistan on this 14th August.

He said that we are actually remembering numerous sacrifices rendered for acquiring the freedom of Indo-Pak subcontinent, we are enjoying with.

The Governor said that

we pay tributes to the sacrifices, hardships and struggle of our forefathers while celebrating the Independence day with pride.

However, we need to realize the new generation about the sacrifices rendered by our elders in freedom of our country.

He mentioned that our forefathers have been in forefront in strengthening the All India Muslim League.

He said that freedom is a great blessing, and it is our responsibility to maintain it.

He stressed that let's unite for celebrating our freedom, unity and unwavering spirit of Pakistan.

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SS No. 03/13.08.2024



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

Pakistan expresses grave concern over recurrent theft of radioactive materials in India

ISLAMABAD (Online): In response to a question about Pakistan's reaction to the arrest of a gang in India with radioactive material, the Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mumtaz Zahra Baloch stated the following:

"Pakistan is gravely concerned at the reports of recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in India.

In the latest incident, a gang of individuals were found in illegal possession of a highly radioactive and toxic substance Cali-

formium, worth US\$ 100 million in quantity. Three incidents of theft of Californium were also reported in 2021.

Last month, five individuals with a radioactive device reportedly stolen from Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) were also found from Dehradun.

These recurring incidents call into question the measures taken by New Delhi for the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive material.

These incidents also suggest the existence of a

black market for sensitive, dual use materials inside India. The international community seeks an earnest disclosure from the Indian authorities as to how a sealed Radioactive Source (SRS) material, like Californium, was in the possession of the apprehended individuals.

It is dangerous for such sensitive material in India to be routinely found in the wrong hands. Pakistan reiterates its call for a thorough investigation of these incidents and for adequate measures to prevent their recurrence."



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information Ms. Ambreen Jan accompanied by the participants of the Painting Competition and Exhibition cutting cake to commemorate 78th Independence Day of Pakistan organized by Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications.

BTTN celebrates 78th Independence Day

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) marked the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with a message of hope, resilience and future potential.

An in-house seminar was held to commemorate the nation's journey and chart its future course. The event was attended by the Faculty of Research, exploring the multifaceted aspects of Pakistan's progress, challenges, and aspirations.

The program commenced with the national anthem of Pakistan, setting a reverent tone for the day's proceedings, which followed the recitation of the Holy Quran.

The event was concluded with the address by the head of BTTN Brig Agha Ahmad Gul @, who

offered valuable insights, particularly concerning the province of Balochistan.

Brig Gul explained that unlike many other natural countries in the world, Pakistan is a synthetic country and we must play our part in strengthening its foundations. He also stressed on the challenges faced by Balochistan at the time of independence.

He stated that Balochistan was formally given the status of a province 23 years after Pakistan's independence.

He highlighted the province's dire condition, characterized by limited access to education, inadequate healthcare facilities, lack of job opportunities, and the absence of electricity at the time of independence.

CM Bugti invites all angry...

Continued from page 1

alities present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Ishaq Dar, Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister, Jam Kamal, Governor sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Corps Commander Lt General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan, provincial ministers and other high ups.

A large number of people gathered at the spacious stadium to witness the ceremony. The Chief Minister said it is matter of great pleasure that we are celebrating our Jashne Azadi.

He said that we have to make pledge on this day that we would make the country stronger and stronger. The Chief Minister highlighted different initiatives taken by the government for uplift of different sectors and wellbeing of the people. He said that youth of the province are being kept away from the state under an organized conspiracy. He also said that attempts being made to weaken the province through negative propaganda on the social media.

Earlier the Chief Minister Sarfraz Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically asserted that the blood of martyrs would not go wasted and as such revenge of it's every drop would be taken.

He also asserted that terrorists would be taken to task and levies and police force would be strengthened further to combat terrorism.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a high level meeting on law and order situation in the province, here at CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Inspector General of Police, Director General Levies, and other concerned senior high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The Inspector General of Police, Director General Levies and high ups of Home department briefed the meeting about law and order situation.

The meeting was particularly briefed about the incident of firing took place in Khad Kocho area of Mastung on Monday night.

The Chief Minister directed to the Additional Chief Secretary Home to submit detailed report about the Mastung incident.

He also sought the report about implementation on the existing SOPs during movement of the officers.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that we would not take breathe without getting the terrorists till their logical end.

He said that the blood of martyrs would not go waste at all, and as such we would take revenge of every drop of their blood.

He said that the war

We do pledge to make efforts for progress of country on 77th independence day: Speaker

QUETTA (APP): Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retired) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai on Tuesday said that we do pledge during celebration of Independence Day that we would make every possible effort for the development of Pakistan.

Talking to APP regarding the 78th Independence Day, he said that the young generation should remember that if today we were breathing in a free country, it was because of those martyrs who sacrificed their yesterday for our today.

Freedom is a greater blessing than anything in the world, celebrating Independence Day is also mandatory for all of us, he said.

Speaker Balochistan Assembly said that the foundation of Pakistan included the blood of millions of martyrs, Muslims made countless sacrifices for an independent state.

He said that history is witnessed that even when the train from India reached Lahore full of dead bodies of Muslims, the Muslims here provided protection to the Hindus and people of other religions living in Pakistan.

He said that even today atrocities were being committed on Muslims in India, Occupied Kashmir was also one of the stories of atrocities in India.

Today, when we see Indian brutality in Occupied Kashmir, we realize that freedom is a blessing, he noted.

He said that we could never take away the freedom gift that our Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had given to us but we would satisfy the soul of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah by making Pakistan Jinnah's



QUETTA: Special Secretary S&GAD Habibur Rehman Kakar giving away shield to Deputy Secretary Ejaz Mehmod during a ceremony on his retirement

AJK PM greets Pakistani Nation on 77th Independence Day

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Tuesday extended warm felicitations to the Pakistani nation on the 77th founding anniversary of Pakistan.

In a statement, the AJK premier praised the wise and selfless leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who played a crucial role in the establishment of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

He termed the day as a historic milestone in the struggle for a separate homeland for Muslims in the subcontinent.

The AJK premier also lauded the indomitable role of Quaid-e-Azam in uniting Muslims under the banner of Muslim League which ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan despite fierce opposition.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support to Kashmiris in their struggle for self-determination and expressed hope that the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir would soon achieve their goal of freedom. The AJK PM also announced that Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC would celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day with joy and observe India's Independence Day as a black day.

He said that freedom was a great blessing and its protection was our collective and national responsibility, the value and cost of freedom should be asked from the Muslims of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine who were victims of oppression by India and Israel.

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai said that while celebrating the independence, we should pledge that we would never allow the integrity of the beloved country to be compromised and could stand side by side with the Pakistan Army, Police and law enforcement agencies when the time comes who were against terrorists, we pledged that we would not hesitate to make any sacrifice for our country.

Captain (ret) Abdul Khaliq said that the enthusiastic participation of the youth in the Independence Day programs was welcome.

He said that the young generation should remember that if we were breathing freedom today, this freedom included the blood of elders, freedom was a great blessing, the value of freedom was known to those who were living the life of slavery.

He said that if we see the oppression of Muslims in India, the atrocities of Israel in Palestine and the Indian occupation of Kashmir, we should thank God for breathing in free air.

The future of Pakistan is related to the youth and the youth must come forward with positive thinking to maintain the freedom of Pakistan because it will be the youth who will take charge of the future of Pakistan, he said.



Attempts to weaken army...

Continued from page 1

consciousness is the ideology of Pakistan, which stands on the two-nation theory.

"May the Almighty Allah grant us the courage and strength to defend the country and make it a successful and great example for future generations."

The army chief said that the two-nation theory provided an opportunity to the Muslims of the subcontinent to have separate identity, culture and civilization.

The army chief was the chief guest of the Azadi Parade ceremony.

The cadets of the Pakistan Military Academy presented a spectacular demonstration of their skills in the drill parade.

On this occasion, a special tribute was presented to the martyrs of the land.

The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a laser light show depicting Pakistan's struggle for independence and nation-building. The cadets performed a march-past, and a flag-hoisting ceremony was held at midnight, where the national anthem was sung.

The national flag was hoisted by the 12th Baloch Regiment at midnight, and attendees stood to sing the national anthem. The event was attended by cadets, their families, and other

President strongly condemns attack on Panjur DC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on the Deputy Commissioner of Panjur 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.

PM Shehbaz reaffirms commitment to building a strong, prosperous Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed his strong commitment to transform Pakistan into a prosperous and robust nation through the collective efforts of all segments of society, working together as a united team.

In his opening remarks at the federal cabinet meeting, he expressed his deep belief that teamwork is essential for achieving success.

He emphasized the importance of learning from past mistakes and moving forward with relentless day-and-night efforts to build the nation envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

This year on Independence Day, he said, the entire nation will reaffirm its

PM Shehbaz reaffirms commitment to building a strong, prosperous Pakistan

Commitment to work tirelessly for the country's progress.

Paying high tribute to Olympian javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, he said that Nadeem's hard work and dedication have added even more significance to the Independence Day celebrations. Despite numerous challenges, Arshad excelled through his unwavering effort. His success was also a testament to the support of his parents and coach, which helped him secure the gold medal.

He said Arshad has emerged as a symbol of unity and national pride and announced that he has recommended the nation's highest honors be awarded to Arshad Nadeem in recognition of his hard work and service to the country. He also mentioned that

he has invited Arshad and his family to the prime minister's residence in Islamabad for dinner today, as a gesture of appreciation from both the government and the entire nation.

He praised the power minister, his team, and other cabinet members for their efforts to make electricity more affordable. He emphasized that it was crucial to remember that industrial revival was impossible without reducing production costs, particularly electricity charges.

He discussed his goal of revitalizing the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) by cutting red tape, streamlining routine paperwork, and digitizing the entire process. He mentioned that consultants have already been appointed to help achieve this objective.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail receiving Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq upon arriving at Quetta Airport

Balochistan close to heart of PM and federal govt....

Continued from page 1

Ahmed Bugti, Federal Minister for Trade, Jam Kamal Khan, Member National Assembly, Mir Ejaz Jhokrani, provincial ministers and other senior high ups.

The Chief Minister shed light on the development projects and law and order situation in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that improvement in health and education is included in the top priority of the provincial government.

He said that reforms are being brought for improvement in governance in different sectors.

He said that we think that the strong relation of trust between the state and people can be established.

He mentioned that the scholarship programme has been started in 200 higher universities for the Ph.D science students.

Besides, the special Scholarship programme is being introduced for the underprivileged segments of the society including minorities and transgender.

The Chief Minister said that the issues of the province associated with the backwardness can be resolved through equal development.

He said that the release of funds happens to be

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, sincere 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.

very limited for the development funds approved from the federation.

If the proportion of funds remain same then completion of federal funded development projects would not be possible.

He insisted that the strong determination and practical steps of the federal government are unavoidable to bring the province at par of other provinces.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the country is facing economic hardships for time being, but we would put the country on path of sustainable development.

He also said that comprehensive roadmap is be-

ing prepared for the long term planning. He said that all the stakeholders would be taken on board for resolving the issues of Balochistan.

He assured every possible cooperation to resolve the issues of province besides it's development.

Addressing the meeting, the Speaker National Assembly said that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif would consult the stakeholders for resolution of the issues by paying detailed visit to the province soon.

He said that steps would be taken to develop the province and increase the standard of living of the people.

PM announces cash price of...

Continued from page 1

had doubled the celebrations of the Independence Day, he said, adding Arshad Nadeem, with his javelin throw, had also set a new Olympic record.

The prime minister opined that his achievement had set the morale of entire nation very high and gave a message that one should not be bogged down before problems and challenges but face them with courage and determination.

"The precedent you set in Paris is a beacon for us all. Your success came at a time when the preparations for the Independence Day are in full swing. Your precedent has given us courage. The Himalayan-like challenges will be surpassed and we will transform Pakistan into a great country," he added.

The prime minister said upon Arshad's historic success, the entire crowd in the stadium clapped for Pakistan, the national flag was raised and the national anthem was played for which he along with the entire nation, saluted Nadeem.

The prime minister also mentioned Arshad's mother for her prayers and said that it was not an ordinary matter.

He expressed the optimism that with Arshad Nadeem's success, more players would follow him in the winning streak and bring laurels to the country. All the leadership in the coalition government had congratulated Arshad.

The prime minister as-

ured that the federal government in collaboration with the provincial governments would promote sports and called upon sports federations to shun their differences and concentrate on sports to revive hockey, cricket, and squash.

He also asked the prominent players and former Olympians to give him their inputs to revive the past glory.

The prime minister said that the chief ministers of Sindh and Punjab had earlier announced awards for Arshad Nadeem which was a welcome gesture.

Under Nawaz Sharif's leadership, he had previously performed as chief minister of Punjab and promoted sports events, he added.

Earlier, the prime minister received Arshad Nadeem and his mother at the PM House.

Arshad Nadeem, in his remarks, thanked his parents, the nation and media for their prayers to break the Olympics record.

He also expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for his support, respect and welcome, adding the respect accorded to him always encouraged sportsmen.

Arshad narrated the incidents and his preparations in a run up to his final competition in javelin throw.

The winning of gold medal in the Paris Olympics perfectly coincided with the celebrations of country's independence day, he added.

CORRIGENDUM/EXTENSION

In connection of advertisement vide AB No.128/31-07-2024 and AB No. 129/31/07-2024 is uploaded in BPPRA Website under TSE242507511653 & TSE242507511673 published in daily newspapers. The tender date is hereby extended and the new tentative date of the tender opening is 20-08-2024 and some changes have been made in bidding documents.

The others terms and condition will remain same.

CHIEF ENGINEER QUETTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AB No.173/13-08-2024

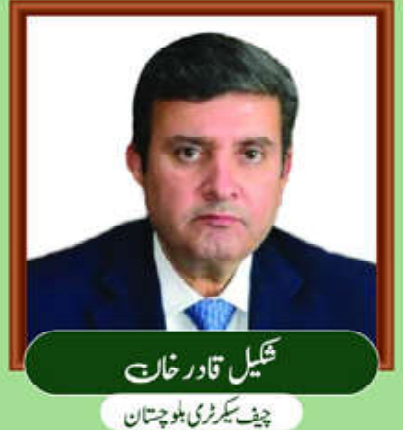
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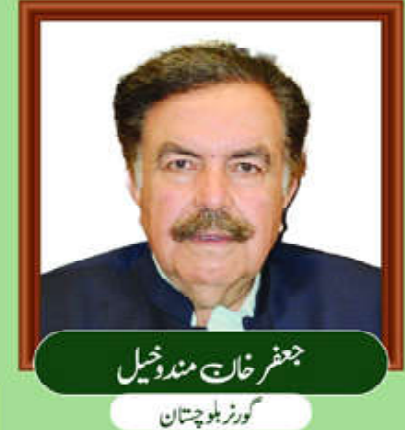
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وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان



گورنر بلوچستان

چیف سکریٹری بلوچستان کھیل قادر خان نے پاکستان کے 77 ویں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر قوم کو مبارکباد پیش کی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آزادی کا دن ہمارا دن ہے اور ہمارے حقوق کا دن ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آزادی کا دن ہمارا دن ہے اور ہمارے حقوق کا دن ہے۔

آج ہم اللہ تعالیٰ کے شکر گزار ہیں کہ اس نے ہمیں پاکستان کی صورت میں ایک آزاد اور خوشحال وطن عطا کیا۔ آج 77 ویں یوم آزادی ہے۔ ہمیں ہمارے اسلاف کی جدوجہد اور شہداء کی قربانیوں کا اعتراف کرنا چاہیے۔

گورنر بلوچستان جعفر خان مندوخیل نے کہا کہ آج 77 ویں یوم آزادی کا دن ہے۔ ہمیں ہمارے اسلاف کی جدوجہد اور شہداء کی قربانیوں کا اعتراف کرنا چاہیے۔

یوم آزادی کی مناسبتاً مختلف تنظیموں نے مختلف سرگرمیوں کا اہتمام کیا۔ ان میں سے کئی سرگرمیاں شہر قائد میں منعقد ہوئی ہیں۔ ان میں سے کئی سرگرمیاں شہر قائد میں منعقد ہوئی ہیں۔



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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.

Arifa Noor

Bangladesh next door is going through a period of instability in which street protests by students ended in a government being sent home after 15-odd years. The rapid political changes have led to a spate of discussions about possible parallels with Pakistan, spun in different ways to suit the various discussants' leanings and preferences.

Hence, for one side, the events in Bangladesh were about people's power and how it can bring authoritarian governments down, while for others it was about come-uppance for those who had once stood up against their compatriots in what was then West Pakistan. For still others, it was about democrats turning authoritarian.

But the spin aside, between the events in Sri Lanka two years ago (due to the economy) and then Bangladesh, where political inequality and political repression for over a decade had created a pressure cooker-like situation, there is no end to ques-

tions about how Pakistan may end up in similar circumstances. After all, the country is experiencing both a fragile economy and an unstable political environment.

However, there are differences, as well. For instance, the economic situation has deteriorated rapidly but not in the manner of Sri Lanka, where default led to massive shortages and a virtual breakdown. Similarly, there are few immediate parallels with Bangladesh where a single party had dominated the scene for nearly 15 years; in Pakistan, the anger of the people is dissipated every few years by the removal of most individuals — including prime ministers and others. The last time we saw protests was when Gen Pervez Musharraf's eight-year rule led to street agitations, which brought together society as well as political parties, with no elected individual completing five years in power.

Be that as it may, Bangladesh does offer some food for thought. While there is perhaps an

Broken politics

absence of strong student unions and organisations in Pakistan, it is not simply due to bans on them. The ethnic polarisation the country faces has spread to how students organise or are allowed to organise around ethnic cultural groups in many institutes.

However, this is not to say they are not politically mobilised. Their mobilisation has led to two of the largest, organic movements in modern Pakistan. Both the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) and the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) are youth-led. But it is Pakistan's misfortune that neither movement shows any interest in politics and parliamentary politics. Neither do they aim to influence politicians or push for their resignations. Their ire and focus is directed elsewhere.

So far, both movements claim to be averse to parliamentary politics. In Balochistan, the Baloch youth is attracted to neither mainstream political parties nor nationalist ones. Perhaps it would be inaccurate to

limit this to the youth; the large crowds which have welcomed or greeted BYC gatherings suggest that the indifference is growing and spreading.

This is mainly due to the manner in which elections have been conducted in the province and the results they have thrown up, which has led to a widespread perception that the legislature and governments do not exist to address the people's issues.

With the PTM, the approach is not much different; their mobilisation is also limited to street agitation. Part of the reason for their aversion to mainstream politics is the role of dominant political parties in legitimising military operations in the militancy-afflicted areas. It is noteworthy that Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar had to leave the PTM once they decided to contest the elections.

Part of this disaffection with politics can be linked to the post-2008 period, where mainstream parties were willing to accept power and governance in Punjab and Sindh while allowing the estab-

lishment to control Balochistan and parts of KP to tackle militancy. Over the years, this, in a way, dismantled politics in these areas, and the result has been movements that are people-focused but divorced from politics. But the fault is not of the parties alone; the establishment has also aggressively broken the link between the people and the parties by wresting control from the politicians.

Perhaps this point can be stretched further by pointing out that from 2022 to the summer of 2023, the PTI was able to win election after election, despite having resigned from the National Assembly and not having a clear strategy with regard to whether it was going to retain the seats it was contesting.

At the other end were the party/ parties which were not just in government but also sincere about staying in power, and yet the voters chose a party which had no interest in the then parliamentary system. It was perhaps not as apolitical a choice as that made by the

PTM and BYC, but it still revealed what the voters thought of parliament.

This attitude on the part of the party and its voters changed only after the May 9 crackdown, which made them realise their own limitations and inability to confront the might of the state. However, whether this 'faith' in the parliamentary system is long lasting or temporary remains to be seen.

This should lead to some soul-searching among those in powerful positions. If the youth, which is the present and future of the country, has no faith in the democratic forums of the country, they will only turn to agitation and eventually violence. Already, their disaffection is a major reason for the instability being witnessed in many parts of Pakistan. Only once this problem is understood and acknowledged, will we be able to move forward. To think that progress will take place in a vacuum where the people feel that their voice can only be heard through agitation and street protest will only lead to more instability. -- Courtesy Dawn

Is he Dhaka's Manmohan Singh?

Jawed Naqvi

We may find a useful clue on Aug 15 to the direction the turbulence-stricken Bangladesh is heading in. Aug 15 marks India's Independence Day, but it also became the day in 1975 when the founding father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was assassinated in a military coup. The Awami League government of Sheikh Hasina Wajed subsequently decreed it as the National Mourning Day of Bangladesh.

Now that she has been ousted from power and has taken refuge in India, it would be interesting to see if the usual black flag is hoisted and whether the national flag is kept at half-mast to remember the founder-president of Bangladesh, who was the deposed prime minister's father.

Mujib's family members present at home on the fateful morning were all killed, but Sheikh Hasina survived by not being in the country. Indira Gandhi gave her refuge and assigned her Bengali colleague, Pranab Mukherjee, to take care of

her. Her father's killing and her refuge in India were clearly an extension of the cat and mouse the contending superpowers played in third countries during the Cold War. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are good examples.

The visuals of assaults on Mujib's towering images in Dhaka during the mass protests brought memories of the pulling down of Saddam Hussein's statue in Iraq under the US army's watch. Which makes it tricky for the interim administration to tinker with the importance of the day the founder of the nation was murdered by antibodies among his own people.

Would it be easy to undermine Mujib's towering legacy for the make-shift government? The interim leader named by 'the students' and endorsed by the army is a general economist who won the Nobel Prize for setting up a village bank in 1976, a year following Mujib's murder. It is said to have helped millions of women, mostly, come out of poverty with the help of tiny, unsecured loans

base on Saint Martin's when they have no dearth of real estate in India as their observing post for China, and when the Indian navy could be co-opted to patrol the straits? Unless, of course, for obvious reasons, India is no longer deemed the trusted ally the US was looking for?

The flip side to the claim is, would a US base in the neighbourhood suit India, leave alone its close friends in Moscow? However, it was the foreign minister in the Vajpayee government who had reportedly clamoured for the US to use India as its base for the operations in Afghanistan. Pakistan won the trophy though.

On the one hand, it is not uncommon to see those that never had much to do with the creation of their nation, including those that were opposed to its creation, usurp power. The Jamaat-i-Islami in Pakistan, for example, opposed the creation of Pakistan and remained hostile towards its founding fathers. And yet it did not hesitate to grab power — in insidious and indirect ways —

base on Saint Martin's when they have no dearth of real estate in India as their observing post for China, and when the Indian navy could be co-opted to patrol the straits? Unless, of course, for obvious reasons, India is no longer deemed the trusted ally the US was looking for?

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in the country whose very being it had opposed.

Ditto with the JI of Bangladesh, an offshoot of the Pakistani parent. It fought hard against the independence of Bangladesh, but then sought a share in power by aligning with the Awami League before switching sides to the rival BNP of Khaleda Zia. And look who is ruling India? They are the ideologues of a worldview that was opposed to the national movement. And, like the RSS celebrated Gandhi's murder with sweets, according to Sardar Patel, the JI was thrilled with Mujib's death.

So, who are these students who are credited with bringing down Hasina's government? Do they have an ideology? It's difficult to think of students as being only committed to human rights. As Howard Zinn said astutely, it's a fallacy that one can remain neutral on a moving target. India's Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad is a student's front of the RSS, like the SFI is for India's largest communist party. They have been ri-

vals, mostly, but were strongly bonded in bringing down Indira Gandhi's rule in 1977. The RSS has been quietly courted by the US for being vocally anti-communist. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi have been beneficiaries of the affection.

Something flipped in 1991. The Cold War ended, and Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. Someone tapped Narasimha as prime minister. The obscure man was packing to leave politics and was not a member of any assembly or house of parliament. He tapped Manmohan Singh as finance minister, who, like the new Bangladesh leader Mohammed Yunus, was an economist.

The West has seldom courted an Indian finance minister as Manmohan Singh was lionised. When he became prime minister, Singh received George W. Bush, the man who was in bad odour everywhere, including his own country, telling him that Indians loved him. Yunus may be a variant of Manmohan Singh, but Bangladesh is not India.

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, fur-

ther 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 diseases, 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

CM chairs 13th cabinet meeting, approves Roshan Gharana Programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 13th meeting of the Provincial Cabinet to decide on important agenda items. The Cabinet approved Chief Minister Roshan Gharana Programme, under which solar home solution will be provided to protected consumers up to 100 units across Punjab. The CM said in next two months, a huge project is being launched to give relief to public in electricity bills. The Provincial Cabinet also approved model house of "Apni Chhat.....Apna Ghar" project, under which Rs 15 lakh will be given for building house on a plot of up to 5 marlas in urban and

10 marlas in rural areas. The CM directed the authorities concerned not to take monthly installments for at least first three months to facilitate borrowers under the scheme. The Cabinet was apprised that electric buses will run in Punjab after Speedo buses. It approved a project to run electric buses in Lahore, 27 buses will reach by December. A model of electric bus was also presented to the cabinet. The Cabinet gave approval to establish Punjab Grid Company for direct supply of electricity to industries. It also considered provision of affordable electricity to Industrial Park through direct transmission line

from Bhiki, Balloki and Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park. The Cabinet approved Amendment to Registration Act 1908 for Revenue Services to Overseas Pakistanis in 8 Countries. The CM said that land registration and important documents services will be provided to overseas Pakistanis in 8 countries. She added revenue services will be provided to residents of China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, UK, USA, Italy, Qatar, Bahrain and Spain. The Cabinet also gave approval to Punjab Government's Advertisement Policy, besides approving Feasibility Study of Tourist Glass Train from Rawalpindi to Murree.



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 Punjab felicitates nation on 77th Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has congratulated the nation on the 77th Independence Day and said that freedom is a great blessing of Allah Almighty. In a message on the eve of the Independence Day here on Tuesday, he said the country has been established by the immense sacrifices and struggle of our forefathers. "We should value this freedom. We should not forget our differences and think as one nation," he said. The Governor Punjab said, "We should renew the

pledge to follow the guiding principles and thoughts of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal and play a positive role in the development of the country. Pakistan is our identity and its survival is our survival." He also paid tributes to the jawans of Pak Army and security forces who sacrificed their precious lives for the security and peace of the country. He also prayed to the Almighty Allah to ease the difficulties of Kashmiri and Palestinian Muslims.



PESHAWAR: President of Young Doctors Association Dr Asfandiyar Khan addressing a press conference at PPC.

Qamar honey trap case: ATC orders completion of identification process of accused till 19th

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday ordered the completion of the identification process for two accused in the playwright Khalilur Rehman Qamar honey trap case by August 19. ATC Judge Irfan Haider conducted the proceedings, during which it was reported that the identification process for the main accused, Hassan Shah, and his accomplice, Rafique, could not be

completed in the judicial remand term. The court was requested to extend the judicial remand of the accused to complete the identification process. In response, the court extended the judicial remand of both accused for another week and ordered the process to be completed by August 19. The court further ordered the production of the accused upon the expiry of the remand term.

Commissioner reviews LWMC performance

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Divisional Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood, presiding over a meeting at his office on Tuesday, reviewed the performance of the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) regarding city cleanliness. During the meeting, LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din provided an update on the current cleaning operations and monitoring mechanisms. Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood stressed that maintaining cleanliness in the city is of utmost priority, with no room for compromise. He instructed that all waste collection

times should be clearly marked on the cleaning containers. This measure is expected to improve the efficiency of waste removal and establish a better cleaning system. The meeting was briefed that 110 identified construction debris piles are being completely cleared. Additionally, a plan is in place to clean 574 open plots across the city according to set timelines. The commissioner also instructed a cleaning schedule for 56 identified low-cleanliness areas surrounding the city. Highlighting the need for diligent administrative efforts.

PDWP approves two development schemes

LAHORE (APP): The 17th meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) F.Y 2024-25 was held under the Chairmanship of Chairman P&D Board Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan in which two development schemes of SHC&ME and Tourism sectors were approved with an estimated cost of Rs 2.001 billion.

The approved schemes include Revamping of old Blocks of Punjab Institute of Mental Health Lahore at the cost of Rs 2 billion and Feasibility Study for Establishment of Eco-Friendly Park and Identification of Paragliding Sites and Regulations for Private at the cost of Rs 1 million. Secretary P&D Board Dr Asif Tufail, Members P&D Board, Head of relevant departments and other senior representatives of the relevant provincial departments attended the meeting.

Partly cloudy, hot, humid weather observed in city

LAHORE (APP): Partly cloudy, hot and humid weather was observed in the city on Tuesday while the MET office predicted similar weather conditions for the next 24 hours.

The MET officials said monsoon currents from Arabian Sea were penetrating central/southern parts of the country and likely to enter upper parts from today evening/night.

They predicted that mainly hot and humid weather was expected in most parts of the country. However, rain-wind/thunderstorm was expected at isolated places in south Balochistan, upper Sindh, south/northeast Punjab, Kashmir, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



KARACHI: A plantation drive was held in Bahria Town Karachi (BTK), around 50,000 saplings were planted by students during the campaign.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a conference organized by the Muslim Institute at Governor House.

Governor KP stresses on youth to follow poetry of Khushal, Allama to combat social ills

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday stressed on the youth to follow the messages of national poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and famous Pashto poet Khushal Khan Khattak to combat societal ills and work towards improving the country.

Speaking at a conference on "Thoughts of Khushal Khan Khattak and Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and significance in contemporary era" held at the Governor House Peshawar to mark Independence Day, the Governor urged the young people to emulate the spirit of both poets to combat challenges and

work for best future. Organized by the Muslim Institute, the conference featured speeches by notable figures including Chairman of the Muslim Institute, Sahibzada Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ali, Senator Farhatullah Babar, Provincial Assembly Member Ahmed Karim Kundi, Director of Iqbal Academy Professor Dr. Abdul Rafiq Rafiqi, former Vice Chancellor of Islamia College Peshawar Professor Dr. Noshad, Vice Chancellor of Gandhara University Dr. Ijaz Khattak, Director General of the Urdu Promotion Institute Professor Dr. Saleem Mazhar, former Director of Pashto Academy Dr. Salma Shaheen, Chairman of

Pashto Academy Islamia College Peshawar Dr. Javed Iqbal and Director of the National Institute of Pakistan Dr. Muhammad Hanif Khalil. In his address, the Governor termed the conference as a commendable initiative and congratulated the Muslim Institute's administration. He noted the similarities between the thoughts of Khushal Khan Khattak and Dr. Allama Iqbal, highlighting their shared emphasis on self-reliance, hard work and integrity. He encouraged the pursuit of self-respect and independence as a pathway to overcoming challenges and achieving goals. Governor Kundi assured the attendees that the Governor House Peshawar would remain open.



LAHORE: Student create a vibrant national flag at Alhambra Arts Council's summer camp for Independence Day.

British HC delegation visits PDMA Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation of British High Commission, led by Clara Strandoj, head of Commonwealth Development, visited Provisional Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), here on Tuesday.

The delegation learned about the natural disaster management system of the Punjab government and visited the PDMA control room.

Director General Irfan Ali Kathia informed the delegation about the working of PDMA. The DG said that 24-hour communication with all districts is ensured in the provincial control room. The delegation appreciated the PDMA control room and emergency response system. Clara Strandoj said that the response time of

the PDMA helpline is commendable. The DG briefed the delegation about the flood simulation model. He said that PDMA is on alert to deal with all the challenges including flood, covid, dengue, drought, smog and heat wave. Advance warnings and alerts are issued to management about heat waves, rain, floods and other disasters. Prevention of smog and the problems faced by climate change are among the top priorities of the Punjab government, he added. Head of delegation Clara Strandoj said that PDMA's flood simulation model is impressive. Britain and Pakistan have a long-standing partnership in all walks of life. British High Commission will fully cooperate with PDMA to deal with natural calamities.

Minister extends I-Day greetings to nation

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora has extended his heartfelt congratulations to the nation on Independence Day. He remarked that with the arrival of August, the blood in every Pakistani's veins begins to flow with greater vigour because the love for the homeland is deeply ingrained in every fibre of our being. He emphasised that our ancestors had sacrificed their lives for the creation of Pakistan and it

is now our duty to contribute to the nation's progress and prosperity. The nation pays tribute and salutes the timeless sacrifices of the martyrs of the Pakistan movement, the minister said. He added that the achievement of a free homeland is the fulfillment of Quaid-e-Azam's relentless efforts and Allama Iqbal's vision. The message of Independence Day is to set aside mutual differences and move forward together as one, he added.

Governor Sindh reviews security arrangements for the I-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.

Independence Celebrations at Sindh Madressatul Islam

KARACHI (APP): Three days Independence Celebrations are being held in the Alma Mater of Quaid e Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Sindh Madressatul Islam since August 12.

The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai paid great tribute to the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and other leaders of the Independence Movement for their successful peaceful struggle for Pakistan.

Addressing at the second day of the 3-Day Independence Celebrations of Pakistan, organised by the Directorate of Students Affairs and Counselling of SMIU on Tuesday, Vice Chancellor congratulated

the entire nation on the 77th Independence Day and said young generation must be optimistic and value the freedom they are enjoying today. Dr. Sahrai further said, "We have to forget that what has happened in the past, now every individual of the country has to play his/her role to bring peace, harmony, prosperity and development in the country." He said before achieving independence on 14th August 1947, there were more critical and difficult conditions for Muslim leaders when they were struggling for Pakistan under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.



LAHORE: Chairman Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw and others joined hands to show solidarity and cut a cake at the Equality Day prayer ceremony in the provincial capital.

Sukkur gears up preparations for I-Day celebrations

SUKKUR (APP): The people of Sukkur and surrounding regions in northern Sindh are gearing up to celebrate the 78th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence Day with vibrant enthusiasm on Wednesday. The city of Sukkur is adorned with colorful banners showcasing various slogans and heartfelt wishes from Mayor Arslan Shaikh, reflecting the spirit of this significant occasion.

In a special celebratory move, the Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC), in collaboration with the district administration, has organized a fireworks display at the Walking Track Ground, promising to light up the night sky in celebration.

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 Milessia 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. In this campaign, every child will be vaccinated and support is being sought from the community and parents, he said. The special teams were formed for vaccination that will go door to door.

Affordable electricity, economic stability among govt key priorities: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government and all of its relevant departments were purely focused on providing low-cost electricity to domestic and other consumers besides bringing in reforms to achieve economic stability.

“Our sole focus is to reduce power prices to provide relief to domestic consumers, agriculture, industry, exports and business sectors. This is inevitable to steer the economy of prevailing issues.”

The competitiveness of exports is linked with the cheap electricity,” the prime minister said addressing the newly appointed chairmen and board members of the power distribution companies (DISCOS).

included the board members and chairmen of Lahore Electric Supply Company, Islamabad Electric Supply Company, Faisalabad Electric Supply Company, Multan Electric Power Company and Hazara Electric Supply Company.

Calling the low-cost electricity and efficient power transmission system the major factors for a stable economy, he said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) were focused on achieving the said targets.

He told the participants that the government would publicly recognise the DISCOS members and heads who would put in their maximum efforts to bring improvements, but those failing to do so would

neither be spared nor would remain part of the team.

The prime minister said through a lengthy process, the government had appointed highly competent and experienced people in DISCOS purely on merit by doing away with the political appointees.

He said the newly appointed chairmen and members had great challenges ahead which necessitated working hard day and night to purge the DISCOS of mismanagement and corruption.

He said the power theft had swelled to around annual Rs500 billion mainly due to connivance with the DISCOS staffers who were also the reason behind destroying the institutions.

“This is the greatest challenge for you.”



ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Chairmen and Members of the boards of Electricity distribution companies call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Shaza, Korean envoy discuss digitalization, IT Park project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Kawaka and Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan on Tuesday discussed matters of mutual interest, digitalization and Islamabad IT Park project.

During a meeting with the Ambassador, the minister said Pakistan greatly values its ties with Republic of Korea.

She said both Pakistan and Korea can benefit from each other's

experiences in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

She said on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, steps are being taken for digitalization in the country. Governance, economy and services are being digitized, she added.

Shaza Fatima also emphasised upon exchanging tech experts between the two countries and starting joint training program in the field of IT & Telecom.

The minister offered thanks to the government of Korea for cooperation in construction of IT Park in Islamabad. “Islamabad IT Park is very important project and government wants its completion as soon as possible”, she added.

The Ambassador said that Korea wanted to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

Secretary IT Aisha Humera Chaudhary was also present in the meeting.

FPCCI to facilitate trade & JVS between the two countries: Aman Paracha

Independent Report

KARACHI: Mr. Aman Paracha, Vice President FPCCI, has apprised that FPCCI has had fruitful discussions with H. E. Mr. Naeemu Ullah Khan, ambassador of Pakistan in Rwanda, vis-à-vis economic and commercial ties between Pakistan and Rwanda. We have assured him that FPCCI will facilitate, investment, joint ventures and chamber-to-chamber linkages between the two countries, he added.

Mr. Aman Paracha, Vice President FPCCI, highlighted that Pakistan imports \$600 million worth of tea every year; and, there is a lot of scope to explore diversified bulk suppliers to save big on foreign exchange. Pakistan is one of the top five tea-importing countries of the world, he added.

Mr. Paracha demanded that the currently being discussed

preferential trade agreement (PTA) should logically lead to free trade agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Rwanda as FTA will unleash the full potential of Rwanda's market for Pakistani exporters for textiles, leather, fruits & vegetables, rice, sports goods, surgical equipment and IT services.

H. E. Mr. Naeemu Ullah Khan, ambassador of Pakistan in Rwanda, briefed the house regarding untapped market of Rwanda for Pakistani business community; and, compared it to Singapore of Africa. Additionally, he suggested that President FPCCI may write a letter to the Plant & Protection Department of Rwanda to visit the country for the necessary approval and certification for the exporters of Rwanda; where their Pakistani counterparts can easily purchase tea in bulk on cheaper rates.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan, H.E. Henny Fokel de Vries called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Federal Capital.

BISP disbursements underway by JazzCash in collaboration with Mobilink Micro Bank

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant step towards social empowerment, the first tranche of disbursements for the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is underway by JazzCash in collaboration with Mobilink Microfinance Bank.

So far, over PKR 1 billion has been disbursed in campsites in Hyderabad, Matiari, and Rahim Yar Khan.

Under the partnership, JazzCash and Mobilink Microfinance Bank are utilizing their extensive network of agents to disburse funds to 1.3 million BISP-registered women beneficiaries across Pakistan, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

To ensure responsible and dignified disbursements, special

campes have been established at the disbursement centres to also raise financial literacy among women, ensuring they are well-informed and empowered to use the funds effectively.

In a message, Rubina Khalid, the Chairperson of BISP, emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in uplifting marginalized communities.

She highlighted the significant role that such collaborations play in ensuring that financial aid reaches those who need it the most.

Amir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz and Chairman of Mobilink Microfinance Bank, said, “We are proud to partner with BISP, the country's leading social protection program, in the vital mission of alleviating poverty. As Pakistan's largest fintech platform,



HYDERABAD: Farmer family busy in sowing rice crops in their field on outskirts area in the city.

Waheed urges unity and vigilance against threats to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of Central Traders Association Liaqat road and Inter City Hotels Association, on Tuesday said that Independence Day is a day to remember the sacrifices of those who sacrificed their lives and wealth for our freedom.

On the occasion of Independence Day, let us promise our motherland that we will do everything possible to strengthen and preserve our Islamic traditions, culture and our national values.

On stated here Sheikh Abdul Waheed, president of Central Anjumans Tajran Liaqat road and Inter-City Hotels Association

Rawalpindi, on the occasion of Independence Day, every member of the nation will have to take oath of allegiance for the completion of Pakistan.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that Pakistan has a unique position among Muslim countries, which is unique in terms of its geography and is also a nuclear power. He said no one has the courage to make any conspiracy against Pakistan successful, because Pakistan is the name of a free and strong state. Sheikh Abdul Waheed emphasized that no one possesses the courage to succeed in any conspiracy against Pakistan.

Govt taking measures to address economic challenges: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that government is taking all possible measures to address economic challenges.

We believe in performance and delivery to masses, he said while talking to a private news channel.

Increasing economic activity and job opportunities for unemployed youth are the priorities of the incumbent government, he added.

In reply to a question about role of Nawaz Sharif, he said that Pakistan Muslim League-N, is working under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif. He further stated that there is no need to focus on political activity at this moment.

SNGLP disconnects 15 more connections over violation

LODHHRAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGLP) UFG Control Task Force raided and disconnected fifteen more connections over violation.

The task force caught two consumers red-handed using residential meters illegally in a factory, which was causing revenue loss to the department. The two meters were disconnected.

Likewise, seven more meters were disconnected due to suspicious tampering. While one consumer's meter was found with a tampered seal and was also disconnected.

Additionally, five consumers had their meters installed far from the service, resulting in gas leakage losses to the department, leading to their disconnection as well.

Govt likely to assign Rs2.34 trillion for defense NY

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Finance has unveiled its Medium-Term Macroeconomic Framework, projecting a favourable economic outlook for the upcoming fiscal year, with expectations of increased economic growth and reduced inflation.

According to the Finance Ministry report, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is anticipated to reach 4.8% for the fiscal year 2025-26. In addition to this growth, inflation is expected to decline from the current 12% to 7.5% in the coming year.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is projected to see its tax revenue increase to Rs15,555 billion. Non-tax revenue collection is estimated to reach Rs3,851 billion.

Civil Aviation Authority divided into three new departments

KARACHI (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan has been reorganised into three distinct departments as part of a major restructuring effort.

According to the report, the regulatory functions will remain under the Civil Aviation Authority, while commercial airports have been separated into a new department, the Pakistan Airports Authority.

Additionally, a third department, the Board of Safety Investigation, has been established to investigate aircraft accidents. Employees from the CAA have been reassigned to these new departments based on their qualifications and experience.

PTCL Group to provide managed WAN, All-In-One desktop project for ZTBL sites

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), and the largest agriculture bank of Pakistan, Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) have signed an agreement for Managed WAN and All-In-One Desktop project for ZTBL sites nationwide.

Group Chief Financial Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Nadeem Khan, and President & CEO ZTBL, Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti signed the agreement at PTCL office in Islamabad, in the presence of senior officials from both organizations, said a news release issued on Tuesday.

Under this agreement, PTCL Group will provide a Managed WAN solution for 500+ ZTBL Nationwide sites along with All-In-One desktop computers.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Nadeem Khan, Group Chief Financial Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said “PTCL Group is proud to be a major proponent of technological enablement and transformation in Pakistan. Our connectivity and ICT services provide a great deal of ease, robust security and enablement to our individual as well as enterprise customers, like ZTBL, serving more than 7.20 million consumers in Pakistan.”

Gold rates increases Rs1,200 to Rs257,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold on Tuesday recorded an increase of Rs1,200 and was traded at Rs 257,700 in the local market. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs1,029 and sold at Rs220,936, whereas the price of 22 karat gold was registered at Rs202,525, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively. Prices of gold in the international market increased by \$19 to \$2,458 as compared to the previous day rates of \$2,439.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Republic of Korea Mr. Park Kijun called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Federal Capital.

First ever mangoes shipment from Multan reaches China

MULTAN (APP): The first shipment of mangoes from Multan to Kashgar via Silk Road has reached China achieving a milestone in 77 years history of the country.

A well-known Chinese fruit and vegetable import company, Dong Fong, in collaboration with Pakistan's renowned mango exporter, Lutfabad Mango Farm and Hot Water Facility, have dispatched the first container of mangoes from Pakistan to China which has now reached the Chinese market.

The credit for this export goes to the team at Lutfabad Mango Farm Multan, led by Major Tariq Khan.

On this occasion, Dong Fong Company Director Abdullah Koi,

PCCC VP for R&D funding, handsome returns to farmers to check cotton decline

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC), Vice President, Dr. Yusuf Zafar (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) expressed concerns on the cotton statistics for the ongoing season and suggested measures to bring the white gold production back on track.

In a statement issued here Tuesday, the distinguished scientist identified insufficient research funding, and artificial suppression of market prices as the primary causes of this decline, leading to substantial losses for farmers and a sharp reduction in cotton output.

Dr Yusuf Zafar emphasized that the monopolistic practices by middlemen should be checked. He warned that these issues must be addressed urgently so that farmers keep their faith in cotton as a profit generating crop and may not abandon it altogether.

To boost cotton production, Dr Yusuf Zafar recommended reducing production costs for farmers and making cotton cultivation more profitable compared to other competing crops. He also underscored the need for enforcement of support price mechanism for cotton farmers.



LAHORE: Shopkeepers displaying the different stuff related to Independence Day at Urdu Bazar as the nation starts preparations to celebrate Independence Day in befitting manners.

UAF inks MoU with Country Plus Food for research, tech transfer

FAISALABAD (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and Country Plus Food to collaborate in research, technology transfer, internship and other areas of mutual interest.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Country Plus Food Tahir Farooq signed the MoU while Dean Faculty of Food Sciences UAF Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt, Director External Linkages Dr Kashif Salemi, Dr. Kamran

Sharif and Country Plus Food GM Companies Dr. Aftab Ahmed, Chief of Account Zaib, Plant Manager Komal Rehman and others were also present on the occasion.

According to the agreement, both institutions will collaborate in new value added food products, outreach, research, internship and others fields. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said, “We plus food take steps to bring food products in line with international standards so that after fulfilling the domestic needs, we can also earn foreign exchange for the country.”



LAHORE: Managing Director Punjab Seed Corporation Shan-ul-Haq meeting with Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani.

OGRA launches “Plant for Pakistan” initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): In commemoration of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Tuesday launched the “Plant for Pakistan” initiative, reflecting the nation's commitment to combating the adverse impacts of climate change.

The eco-friendly drive was inaugurated by OGRA Chairman, Masroor Khan, who planted a tree alongside Members of the Authority and OGRA employees.

The initial phase saw the planting of over 200 trees on the green belt in front of the OGRA Headquarters in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

Chairman Masroor Khan commended the Capital Development Authority for its support during the drive. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding the environment, stating, “As we celebrate our Independence Day, let us pledge to serve our nation with dedication and to protect our environment from the dangers of climate change. Together, we can make a difference by planting as many trees as possible.”

Masroor Khan also called upon all OGRA licensees to actively participate in the “Plant for Pakistan” drive, reinforcing the organization's commitment to environmental sustainability.

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.



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' political leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

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.

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 airspace.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskiy said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskyi, 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 Syrskyi 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.

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."

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 and violence after student protests last month against quotas that reserved a high portion of government jobs for certain groups.

Wall Street holds relatively steady ahead of big tests coming later in the week

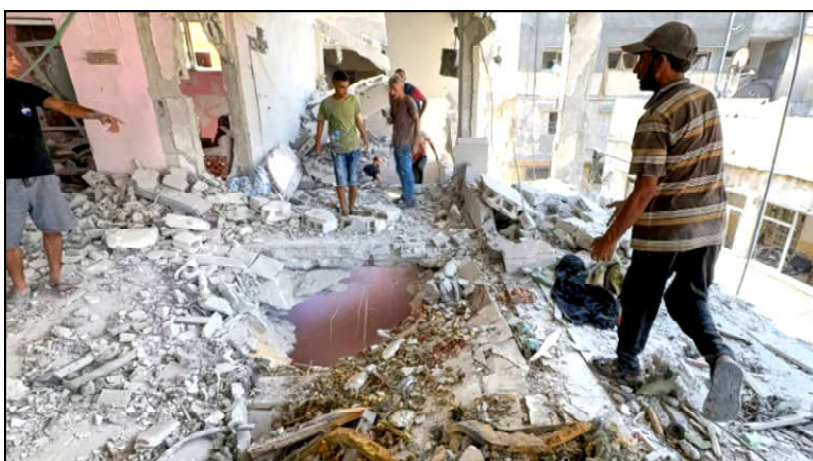
Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: U.S. stocks drifted through a quiet Monday to finish mixed, as markets around the world stabilized following a wild week of extreme swings.

This upcoming week will feature reports on inflation and how much U.S. shoppers are spending at retailers. The best-case scenario for Wall Street would be data showing a continued slowdown in inflation, combined with strengthening U.S. retail sales.

That would indicate the Federal Reserve is successfully walking the tightrope it's been attempting since it began hiking interest rates sharply in 2022: It wants the U.S. economy to slow by enough to snuff out high inflation, but not so much that it causes a recession. A string of worse-than-expected economic data recently has raised worries the Fed may be leaning too far to one side on the tightrope after keeping its main interest rate at a two-decade high. The lowlight came earlier this month when a report showed hiring by U.S. employers weakened by far more than expected.

For the inflation data, meanwhile, strategists at Bank of America led by Ohsung Kwon say a hotter-than-expected reading would be a bigger surprise for the market than a cooler-than-expected figure.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Gaza City.

Trump holds meandering live 'chat' with backer Musk, after delay

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump ran through his checklist of conspiracy theories Monday in a rambling conversation with his uber-wealthy supporter Elon Musk that was initially derailed by what the tech titan said was a technical glitch.

In a very one-sided conversation on X, Trump vented about a "zombie apocalypse" of immigration, repeatedly blasted President Joe Biden as "stupid", and mused about developing a new missile defense system based on the one that defends Israel.

The Republican standard-bearer also dismissed climate change, whose sea-level rises he said would simply create more real estate opportunities. "The

biggest threat is not global warming, where the ocean is going to rise one-eighth of an inch over the next 400 years," he told Musk.

"You'll have more ocean front property, right? The biggest threat is not that. The biggest threat is nuclear warming, because we have five countries now that have significant nuclear power, and we have to not allow anything to happen with stupid people like Biden." What was billed as a "no limits" conversation between the two started more than half an hour late, with many of those logging on unable to listen in live.

Musk, the world's richest man according to Forbes, claimed the platform formerly known as Twitter had experienced a cyber "attack."

Bangladesh court opens murder case against ex-premier Sheikh Hasina

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: A court in Bangladesh opened Tuesday a murder investigation into ousted ex-premier Sheikh Hasina and six top figures in her administration over the police killing of a man during civil unrest last month. Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter a week ago to neighbouring India as protesters flooded Dhaka in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted tenure. "A case has been filed against Sheikh Hasina and six more," said Mamun Mia, a lawyer who brought the case on behalf of a private citizen. He added that the Dhaka Metropolitan Court had ordered police to accept "the murder case against the accused persons".

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.

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 Independence 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.

According to Jokowi, the city is "being built with the concept of a forest city, a jungle city, a city full of green" in eastern Borneo island. But environmentalists have warned the rapid development of the new capital will hasten deforestation in one of the world's largest stretches of tropical rainforest.

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. Some 703 people arrived on Sunday on 11 boats, according to provisional interior ministry figures released on Monday.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo leads a cabinet meeting at Garuda Palace in Nusantara, the country's future capital.

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Stopping the small boat arrivals was a key issue in Britain's general election in July.

Within days of taking power, Starmer scrapped a controversial scheme to deport migrants to Rwanda. The plan was a flagship policy of the last Conservative government.

More than 47,000 people died in Europe last year due to heat, report says

Monitoring Desk

MADRID: More than 47,000 people died in Europe due to scorching temperatures in 2023, with countries in the region's south hit the hardest, according to a report by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) published on Monday.

Last year was the world's hottest on record. As climate change continues to increase temperatures, Europeans live in the world's fastest-warming continent, facing growing health risks stemming from intense heat.

The 2023 death toll - below the more than 60,000 heat-related deaths estimated for the previous year - would have been 80%

higher without measures introduced in the past 20 years to help people adapt to rising temperatures, such as early warning systems and healthcare improvements, according to the report by the Spanish research centre.

"Our results show how there have been societal adaptation processes to high temperatures during the present century, which have dramatically reduced the heat-related vulnerability and mortality burden of recent summers, especially among the elderly," said Elisa Gallo, researcher at ISGlobal and lead author of the study. Researchers used death and temperature records from 35 European countries.

Athens suburbs on fire as Greece seeks EU help

Monitoring Desk

PENTELI: A massive wildfire blazed into Athens' northeastern suburbs on Monday as hundreds of firefighters battled to contain it, forcing thousands of residents to flee their homes and sparking a Greek government appeal for international help.

In scenes never before seen in the Greek capital, residents wearing masks against the choking smoke were desperately dousing their homes with water hoses in the leafy suburbs of Nea Penteli and Vrilissia in an effort to render them less vulnerable to fire.

"(It's) the first time ever the fire has come here," said Melina Kritseli, 40, a civil servant living in a two-storey white house in Patima Halandriou, another Athens suburb that was evacuated.

"I took my children to a friend's house to be safe," she said as her husband hosed the ground and grass outside their house. Television footage showed several cars doused by fire and the roofs of statey homes burning as water-bombing helicopters roared overhead.

"The situation is dramatic," Penteli mayor Natassa Kosmopoulou said.

"A school and homes are on fire, and I can see the fire coming towards the town hall," she said. The National Observatory, Greece's foremost institute monitoring natural hazards, narrowly escaped. Greece on Monday formally called for EU assistance, a spokesman said. "The EU civil protection mechanism was activated upon request of the Greek authorities," EU spokesman Balazs Ujvari said in a statement.



Students chant slogans as they protest to demand accountability and trial against Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, near Dhaka University in the capital.

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, felicitated 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 fore-

fathers, 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 prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, especially of the masses and the poor."



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.

He said Pakistan had

vast tourism potential and the government wanted the foreigners to witness the beauty of Pakistan which is endowed with stunning green valleys, famous deserts, beautiful oceans and mesmerizing landscapes.

To a query, he said all provincial governments and the secretary interior were informed that dedicated desks would be established to welcome tourists at the airports. All the stakeholders were taken on the board to ensure safety and security of tourists in the country, he added.

He said Gilgit Baltistan received massive inflow of foreign tourists that even surpassed the number of domestic visitors every year.

Envoys of Vietnam, Maldives, Ireland present credentials to President

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 co-



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



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

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.

In working for homeland's progress Dr. Rubaba stresses on importance of unity and collective effort

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan on Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi extended her heartfelt congratulations to the nation.

In a message on the occasion of Pakistan's 77th Independence Day being observed today (Wednesday), Dr. Rubaba Buledi emphasized that freedom is a priceless blessing, earned through the immense sacrifices of our forefathers. Today, we must renew our commitment to channel all our efforts towards the development and prosperity of our country.

In her message, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi highlighted the unwavering contributions of the people of Balochistan towards the integrity and defense of the nation.

She stressed the importance of unity and collective effort in working for the progress of our beloved homeland. She also underscored the need for women's equal participation in the development process, to realize the dream of a strong and prosperous Pakistan.

She prayed that Allah Almighty may keep our country safe and secure and guide it on the path of continuous development.

PML-N MPs delegation calls on Ishaq Dar

QUETTA (APP): The delegation of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s parliamentarians led by Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandukhail met with Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Governor House Quetta here Tuesday. Speaker National Assembly (NA) Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, overall situation of the country, ongoing development projects and ensuring good governance were discussed. In the meeting, it was agreed to make the relations between the federation and the provinces more stable and pleasant with the aim to develop the country.

Governor directs NHA to timely complete works on Balochistan highways

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhail on Tuesday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to focus on developing its national highways and ensure its timely completion with standard.

He said that completion of works on highways would not only boost our economy but also improve the lives of our citizens.

He expressed these views while giving a briefing to National Highway Authority West Zone Member Bisharat Hussain at Governor House Quetta.

Governor Balochistan said that national highways have a key role in the construction and development of the country and provinces.

He said that in the context of Balochistan, Karachi to Chaman N25 and Quetta to Zhob N50 highways should be given more priority as they were important national highways connecting Balochistan



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over high level meeting regarding law and order situation

Raisani emphasis need to remember Quaid's vision on Independence Day

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani Tuesday extended his greetings to the nation on the occasion of Independence Day and emphasized the need to remember the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, which led to the creation of a free nation.

"Today, we must honor the great sacrifices made by our elders for this homeland, and particularly

embrace the message that Quaid-e-Azam gave about the youth," he said while talking to APP. He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah regarded the youth as the architects of this nation, urging them to serve the country with dedication, hard work, and discipline. Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani, who lost his father and 300 comrades in a terrorist attack, stated, "I believe in the ideology of Shaheed Mohtar

Benazir Bhutto, that 'democracy is the best revenge.' We must strengthen democracy, justice and equality by following the principles of Quaid-e-Azam to fulfill the dreams of our martyrs."

He said that the progress and prosperity of the country depend on the capabilities and positive role of our youth. "We must advance in education and skills to build a strong and developed nation."

Ind. Day reminds of great sacrifices of our forefathers: Achakzai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has stated that the Independence Day reminds us of the great sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for the freedom.

In an official statement issued here on the eve of Independence Day being observed today (Wednesday), the Speaker said that our elders waged untiring struggle for getting the gift of freedom.

He said that Pakistan is our motherland and as such we should work together for ensuring development and prosperity of the country.

He stressed that let's unite for betterment of the nation setting aside our differences.

The Speaker provincial assembly also said that Independence is a great blessing of Allah Almighty. We should be thankful to Allah Almighty on the countless blessings. We should also work collectively for the bright future of country and nation, adding he stressed.

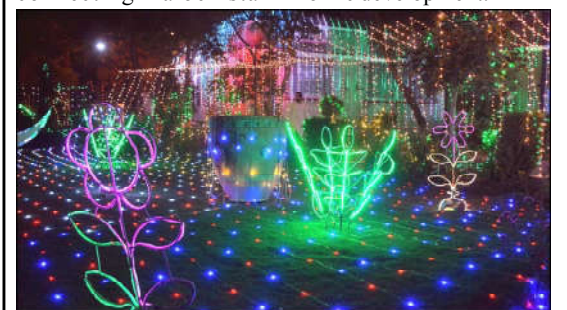
Besides, we also have to protect our national heritage and sovereignty, the Speaker maintained.

Shahid Rind congratulates nation on I-Day

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Government Spokesman Shahid Rind on Tuesday congratulated the whole nation on the occasion of Independence Day.

Talking to APP, he said that the Balochistan Government would celebrate the Independence Day with enthusiasm saying that the celebrations started from August 01 and the grand finale would be held in Quetta.

He said that Governor Sheikh Jaffar Mandukhail, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bagti, provincial ministers and other political personalities would participate in the program on Independence Day.



QUETTA: An illuminated view of Metropolitan corporation building decoration with national flag color lights in connection 77th Independence Day celebration.

Ahsan vows to revive dev. trajectory, include Pak in top-10 economies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday renewed his commitment to place the country on a national growth trajectory and include it among the world's top ten economies.

"We will once again turn the wheel of the economy and give the youth a Pakistan that will be among the top ten economies of the world by 2047," he said, promising a future where the country's youth would inherit a thriving and prosperous state.

The minister expressed this resolve while addressing the Istehkam-e-Pakistan seminar organized by the Islamic International University Islamabad (IIUI) in connection with the 78th Independence Day.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandukhail being briefed by Member NHA West Zone Balochistan Bisharat Hussain regarding NHA

Empowering women imperative for achieving economic growth: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Tuesday said that empowering women to take leadership roles in climate action will lead to more innovative and comprehensive solutions, driving progress in environmental conservation and sustainability.

"The impacts of rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and natural disasters disproportionately affect women and marginalized communities and it is imperative that response to these challenges is inclusive, equitable, and transformative," he expressed these views at a reception hosted in honor

IHC summons secretaries interior, defense in missing persons' case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday summoned secretaries of interior and defense, IGP ICT and DG FIA in person on non-compliance of orders to recover two missing brothers.

The court also summoned Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) for assistance in the same case on August 15.

The bench asked the respondents to clarify that why a contempt of court proceeding shouldn't be initiated against them for non-compliance of orders.

Speaker BA grieved over killing of DC Panjgur; terms death big loss

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has expressed deep grief and sorrow over killing of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch in the incident of firing in Khad Kocho area of Mastung.

In an official condemnation issued here on Tuesday, the Speaker paid tributes to the slain Deputy Commissioner saying that he was a dutiful and able

Three persons killed in road mishap

LORALAI (APP): Three persons have been killed when a truck ramed into a motorcycle.

On Dara road near Almadina hotel, a truck hit a motorcycle due to over-speeding, resultantly three riders including Asad Khan, Kaleemullah and Haji Faiz Muhammad died on the spot.

The police registered a case and started investigation.

Crackdown against fake cold drinks with forged labels of famous brands in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: In a major crackdown, the Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) seized huge consignment of the fake cold drinks having forged labels of different famous brands from a godown in the outskirts of Quetta on Tuesday.

The spokesman of BFA informed that the raid was conducted at a godown cum distribution unit located in Akhtarabad area of Quetta on a secret information.

During the raid, around 10,000 liters of fake cold drinks were recovered and seized.

Crackdown against fake cold drinks with forged labels of famous brands in Quetta

The spokesman of BFA said that the legal action has been started against the distributor of fake cold drinks.

Meanwhile, the Director General BFA, Attiqullah Khan said that the stern action would be taken against the production unit producing the fake cold drinks.

The DG BFA said that adulteration and forgery is a serious offence and as such stern action would be taken against those involved in it.

He warned that BFA would not tolerate those involved in forgery.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen presiding over a meeting regarding audit paras of Agriculture Department and Cooperatives



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-ul-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

of Acting Governor-General. Being aware of the partiality of Mountbatten in favour of the Indian National Congress and his leadership, the Quaid did not want to take any risk. There upon Mountbatten said: "Do you realise what this cost you?" Quaid-i-Azam replied, "I may cost several crores of rupees in the assets." Mountbatten replied, "It may well cost you the whole of your assets and the future of Pakistan." Due to the opposition of Atlee, the Prime Minister of UK, and Lord Mountbatten for the partition of India and the partiality to Congress leadership later, and threat to Mr Jinnah Pakistan was deprived of getting its due share and Kashmir's future was left unsettled so that Pakistan may not consolidate itself. While addressing the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, the Quaid had declared that the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan was the only 'solution' of the problem of India. Any idea of a United India could never have worked and in my judgment, it would have led us to terrific disaster."

The economic factor and the fear of Hindus domination also played a vital role in the struggle for separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

The Establishment of Pakistan brought the greatest responsibilities on the shoulders of Quaid-i-Azam, who was not only the first 'Governor-General of Pakistan but also at the same time the Father of Nation. Had to build the newly born State, starting from the scratch." At the time of independence there

was no administrative machinery to assume the day-to-day official business. Actually Pakistan was born with a number of serious disadvantages. In 1947, it was not only, politically and administratively backward as compared to the rest of India but also economically the poorest part of the British India. Its economy was basically rural based.

The majority of its population lived in the countryside and three-fourth of its GNP was contributed by the agricultural sector. The new country did not have its own currency. Being basically agricultural, the areas that in 1947 were set apart to form the State of Pakistan did not possess the institutional infrastructure to support a modern economy. In view of these handicaps, it was not therefore surprising that few people regarded Pakistan as economically not viable. The Quaid-i-Azam rose as a great Muslim leader in India. He galvanised and united the scattered Indian Muslims on the basis of Muslim nationhood. He categorically announced that there were two nations in India, Muslims and Hindus. He gave Muslims a destination in the form of a separate Muslim State in the Lahore Resolution, adopted by Muslim League on March 23, 1940.

The Quaid worked for the development of the areas comprising of Pakistan. He pressurised the British Government to introduce reforms in these areas. On the other hand he made Muslim League active in every corner of India. Due to his efforts, Muslim League branch was established in Baluchistan in 1939 and people of that area not only became aware of Muslim League but also supported Pakistan demand. Similarly under his leadership, Muslim League had also won all the four

by-elections in 1946 in NWFP, which was under the influence of the Congress. No doubt, it was Quaid's efforts and belief that made not only the British Government but also the Hindu dominated Congress agreed to the partition and establishment of two independent States in India, one for the Muslims and the other for Hindus. It was also due to the competent leadership of Mr Jinnah that Baluchistan, which was under the influence of princely States and Jagirdars, had given its verdict for Pakistan. NWFP too, which was under the Congress rule had voted for Pakistan. Hence, all Muslim majority areas i.e. Bengal, Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, and NWFP voted for Pakistan and even Muslim minority areas also voted for Pakistan. This was a great success of Mr Jinnah. No doubt, the establishment of Pakistan is an outcome of the efforts of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. His own qualities, character, knowledge, calibre, courage, way of reasoning, decision making, strength, perseverance, sense of honour and integrity were proved his weapons to crown him with success. The Quaid-i-Azam was an indefatigable political leader. It was due to his honesty and sincere approach that he was able to carve out the sovereign state of Pakistan, despite so many obstacles and impediments in his way.

The Quaid-i-Azam will be remembered in history as one of the few world leaders who combined in themselves many lofty traits such as statesmanship, courage, sense of responsibility, integrity, for-

wardness, 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.

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The Quaid-i-Azam will be remembered in history as one of the few world leaders who combined in themselves many lofty traits such as statesmanship, courage, sense of responsibility, integrity, forwardness, 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

of Acting Governor-General. Being aware of the partiality of Mountbatten in favour of the Indian National Congress and his leadership, the Quaid did not want to take any risk. There upon Mountbatten said: "Do you realise what this cost you?" Quaid-i-Azam replied, "I may cost several crores of rupees in the assets." Mountbatten replied, "It may well cost you the whole of your assets and the future of Pakistan." Due to the opposition of Atlee, the Prime Minister of UK, and Lord Mountbatten for the partition of India and the partiality to Congress leadership later, and threat to Mr Jinnah Pakistan was deprived of getting its due share and Kashmir's future was left unsettled so that Pakistan may not consolidate itself. While addressing the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, the Quaid had declared that the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan was the only 'solution' of the problem of India. Any idea of a United India could never have worked and in my judgment, it would have led us to terrific disaster."

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

By Taj Nabi Khan

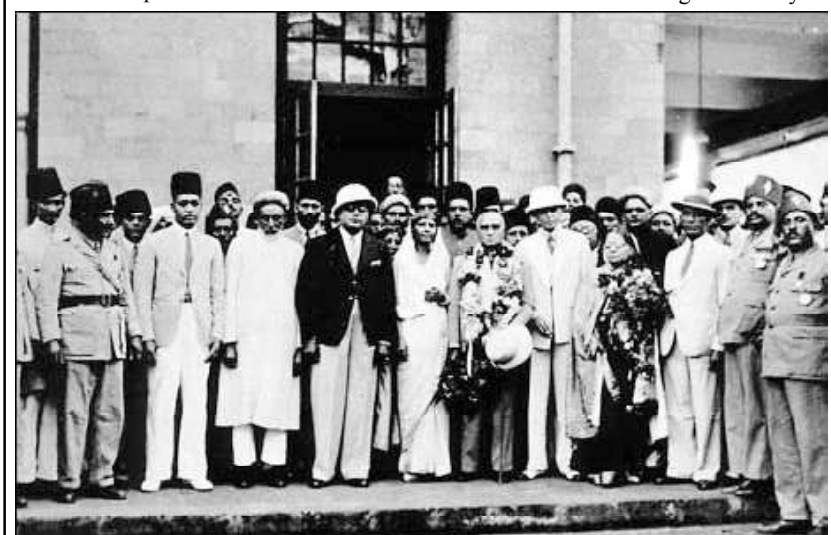
Every year, Independence Day of Pakistan is celebrated across the country and around the globe by Pakistani diasporas and in Pakistani missions abroad with patriotic zeal and zest to commemorate the matchless sacrifices of freedom fighters whose consistent efforts have placed Paki-

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

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



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

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-

ciations." 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.

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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-

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

Continued on page B



Continued on page B

Quaid-e-Azam and Balochistan

By Dr. Munir
Ahmed Baloch

The huge land mass of Balochistan rising steadily from the coastal plains of the sea of Arabia to the eerie heights of Quetta, and then descending in an undulating manner up to the fringe of the North-West Frontier Province, covers a little over 125,000 sq. miles constituting almost 43% of the total area of Pakistan. Another 45,000 sq. miles of Balochistan territory lie in the neighbouring state of Iran and smaller region in southern Afghanistan. 1

With the advent of British colonial rule over India, Balochistan came under colonial influence in 1876 and was partitioned among Iranians and the British. The Eastern part of Balochistan was further divided into British Balochistan, Balochistan States, while a part of Seistan was given to

especially for the British Parliament in London. In February, 1934, Yousuf Ali visited England in pursuit of his political objectives and both going and coming he visited Quaid-i-Azam at Bombay.

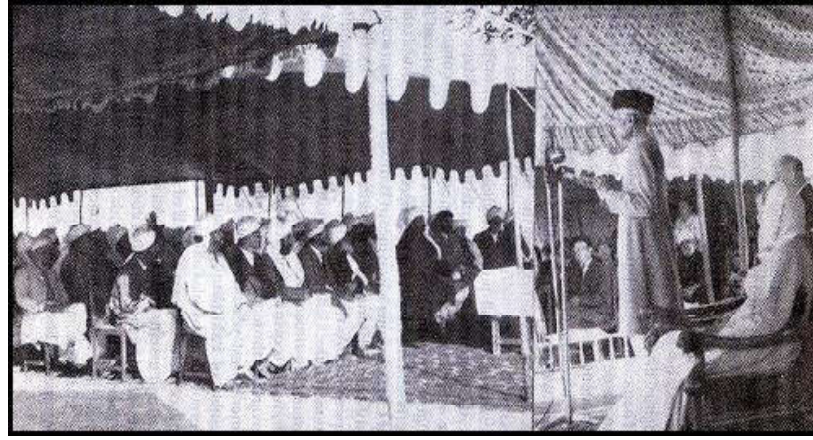
Muslim League was another political organization to sponsor the cause of Balochistan for the creation of a separate province for Balochistan.

The foundations of the Muslim League in Baluchistan were laid by a young known lawyer of Balochistan by the name of Qazi Isa. It was in 1938 that Isa paid a visit to Quaid-i-Azam at Bombay on his return from his studies in England and was so impressed that he accepted the invitation of the Quaid-i-Azam to form and organise the Muslim League in Balochistan.

Apart from the other activities and visits of Muslim League leaders, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali

part of British India." The memorandum was appreciated by Amry, as shown by his reply to Money on 18 November 1944 and his letter to Wavell, dated 23 November 1944.5

The Allies won the World War II on 2 September 1945. Ultimately, on 24 March 1946, the Cabinet Mission comprising three Cabinet Ministers arrived at Delhi presented the Partition plan of India on 16 May 1946. After the announcement of Partition plan the tempo of political activity and polarization was between contending parties and factions gained momentum. Balochistan was of vital importance to the future of Pakistan as a country and people and, Mr. Jinnah was keen to make Balochistan a part and parcel of Pakistan. Conversely, the people who were averse to the prospect of the Indian Muslims se-



Mountbatten differed with both Jinnah and Nehru. He thought that in Baluchistan Tribal System, democratic methods would not work, and the prevailing system could not be altered in a haste.

Later His Majesty's Government (HMG) revised the proposal and the revised draft was studied, and different proposals from the Quaid-i-Azam, Pundit Nehru and Sir Geoffrey Prior, the Agent to the Governor General (AGG) in Balochistan, were put up to the HMG. Finally it was decided to hold a referendum in Balochistan on June 30, 1947 in Shahi Jirga excluding the Sardars nominated by the Kalat state and non-officials members of Quetta Municipality. That would decide the future affiliations of Balochistan. An extraordinary joint Session of the Shahi Jirga was held on 30 June 1947 to decide the crucial issue. To the dismay of the Congress, 54 members of the Shahi Jirga and Quetta Municipality, voted en-bloc to join the new Constituent Assembly to be set up in Pakistan.

The credit, in a large measure, for the convincing success of the Muslim League in these circumstances goes to Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the Balochistan Provincial Muslim League who successfully countered the Congress propaganda.6 Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's role, first as the Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim Unity, and subsequently as the leader of the Muslims, during 1936-1947, supported the cause of Balochistan and demanded accession from the Khan. Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah regarded Balochistan as his last resort in case of the failure of the demand for Pakistan.

With the lapse of the British paramountcy in 1947, the Khanate of Balochistan became an independent sovereign state. The Khan, Mir Ahmad Yar Khan, announced independence in a public speech on 15 August 1947. Soon after the promulgation of the constitution, elections were held at the Kalat state National Party won 39 out of a total 51 seats on Lower House. The rest of the seats went to independent candidates, who supported the cause of the National Party.

On 13, December, the Khan summoned the Lower House to discuss, the official language, the Sharia (Islamic Law), and relations between the Khanate of Balochistan and Pakistan, with special reference to accession.7

In September 1947, the Prime Minister of Kalat, Nawabzada M. Aslam, and the Foreign Minister, D.Y. Fell travelled to Karachi to discuss the leased areas, under the Kalat-Pakistan Agreement of August 1947. The meetings between the officials of the two states were not fruitful, due to policy of the Pakistani Government, which insisted on an unconditional accession of the Khanate to Pakistan. On 20 September 1947, Mr. Ikramullah, the Pakistan Foreign Secretary wrote a letter to Aslam, the Prime Minister of Khanate, urging the accession of the Khanate and, meanwhile, the president of the British Balochistan Muslim League, Qazi M. Isa, met the Khan

and conveyed to him a message from Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Governor-General of Pakistan, who extended an invitation for the Khan to come to Karachi to discuss future relations between the Khanate and Pakistan. Before the Khan's visit to Karachi in October 1947, he discussed all possible courses of action with his Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister.

The Khan went to Karachi on Jinnah's invitation with a draft treaty which he wanted to use as a basis for negotiations with the Government of Pakistan. The draft treaty proposed by the Khan was aimed at entering into a treaty relationship with Pakistan.8

On his arrival in Karachi, the Khan was not received by the Governor General nor by the Prime Minister, because Jinnah advised him to accede the Khanate to Pakistan and stated that he could propose no better course than accession. Nevertheless, the



Khan refused the demand of Mohammad Ali Jinnah and said, "As Balochistan is a land of numerous tribes, the people there must be consulted in the affairs prior to any decision". The Khan promised Jinnah to reply after consulting the parliament of the Khanate. On December 12, 1947, a Session of the Darul-Awam was summoned by the Khan to discuss the matter of accession. The house after a debate adopted the following resolution unanimously on December 14, 1947. Relations with Pakistan should be established as between two sovereign states through a treaty based upon friendship and not by accessions.

On January 4, 1948 the



Darul-Umra also passed the same resolution. The Prime Minister Aslam visited Karachi with a copy of the proceedings of the parliament. He met Jinnah and discussed the matter of accession. On his return to Kalat in February, he brought a letter from Jinnah, dated 2 February 1948, addressed to the Khan. In this letter, once again Jinnah repeated the demand to join Pakistan.

On February 11, 1948, Quaid-i-Azam came to Sibi, situated in former British Balochistan, where a meeting was arranged between

the Khan and Jinnah on the evening of the following day. On the 13, they had a second meeting at Dadar—the winter capital of the Khanate. Another meeting fixed for the 14th, had to be cancelled due to the sudden "illness" of the Khan.

Jinnah was disappointed by the behaviour of Khan and his parliament. On March 9, 1948, it was communicated to the Khan that "His Excellency had decided to cease to deal personally with Kalat state negotiations, to decide the future relations of Pakistan and Kalat." Col. S.B. Shah was assigned to deal with the Khanate's affairs, with the help of Aslam, who knew the internal conflicts and rivalries among the Khan and his chief, including feudatory chiefs, Mir Bai Khan, Gichki, Nawab of Mekran (Brother-in-Law of Khan) Ghulam Qadir, Jam of Las Bela, and Mir Habibullah Nushervani, Nawab of Kharan. They

met Jinnah on 17 March 1948, and informed him that "if Pakistan was not prepared to accept their offer of accession immediately they would be compelled to take other steps for their protection against the Khan of Kalat's aggressive actions." After their meeting with Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's Cabinet met in an emergency session to discuss the request of the chief of Balochistan. The cabinet decided to accept the offer in order to put pressure on the Khan for accession. On 17 March Jinnah accepted the accession.

On 18 March, the Pakistan Minister of Foreign Affairs issued a press statement, announcing that Pa-



kistan had accepted the accession of Mehran, Kharan, and Lesbela, with the "accession" of these areas, Kalat lost its connection with Iran and Afghanistan and was left without any outlet to the sea.

After the accession of these states. The Joint Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Col. S.B. Shah approached the Baloch chiefs Wadera Bangulzai, Sardar Shahwani, Sardar Sanjarani, and offered them an autonomous status if they accede to Pakistan. Meanwhile Sardar Raisani offered his cooperation to Col. Shah.9 Nevertheless, the Khan saw two alternatives: To leave the palace and to take refuge in the mountains in order to fight. To accept the demand of accession. The first alternative was opposed by Fell, and supported by nationalists. Khan agreed with proposed of Mr. Fell and saw the "wisdom" of declaring "accession", without the approval of the parliament. On 28 March 1948, he informed the Government of Pakistan about his decision and the Khanate became a part of Pakistan.

The Flag of Pakistan

Pakistan's flag was adopted on August 14, 1947, when Pakistan became an independent Muslim state, no longer part of Great Britain. The flag was designed by Ali Jinnah, who founded Pakistan. The Pakistani flag is green and white.



A white crescent moon and a five-pointed star are on a green field; a white stripe by the hoist side represents the nation's minority non-Muslim population. The crescent and star are traditional symbols of the Islamic religion. The star symbolizes light and knowledge; the crescent moon symbolizes progress. The height of this flag is two-thirds the width.

Pakistan moves towards...

Continued from page A

ing the national economy, besides mitigating financial sufferings of the common man on priority. Over the decades, Pakistan population has increased, now estimated 230 million, requiring major remedial steps to improve the lives of the masses. The country, which weathered several political upheavals, has now started making headway towards stability and sustained development in all walks of life. The PTI government, after coming into power in 2018, initiated drastic measures to help downtrodden segments of the society, under its flagship project 'Ehsaas', including construction of 'Panagahs' (shelter-homes) for homeless, setting up 'Langarkhanas' (free food points), fixed monthly stipends for needy under 'Kafalat' initiative, interest-free loans to skilled youth, Nasho-o-Numa and Asset Transfer programmes.

The government also focused on across-the-board accountability and showed no leniency towards corrupt elements, who looted and embezzled the national wealth, especially using their public offices. It improved governance and efficiency of public sector departments, ensuring merit and transparency, besides introducing prudent policies to tackle economic challenges in an effective way. "No

Pakistan was inevitable...

Continued from page A

While addressing to the gazette officers in Chittagong, on March 25, 1948, the Quaid warned them: "You are not rulers, you do not belong to the ruling clan, make the people feel that you are their servants and friends. Maintain the highest standards of integrity, justice and fair play. If you do that, people will have confidence and trust in you and look upon you as friends and well-wishers." The Quaid advised to the officers of Government House, Peshawar, on April 14, 1948 that "you should not be influenced by any political pressure, political party of individual politician". Quaid-i-Azam did his best to make Pakistan self-sufficient and viable. He was totally against jobbery and nepotism. He rejected capitalist and communist systems for Pakistan and advised Muslims to adopt a system in Pakistan based on the principles of Islam. He had created an Independent Muslim State for the practice of Islamic principles. William Rushbrook a great historian writes about the achievements of the Quaid as under: "Probably no other Head of State, which had recently gained its independence, had been called upon to face the difficulties, which confronted Quaid-i-Azam. In West Pakistan, situation was bad enough, but at least he had some trained members of the All India Services on which to build the administration. Out of the initial confusion, when the Government in Karachi had to carry on records no precedents, no accommodation, and scarcely typewriter and with millions of homeless and penniless refugees from India to resettle. So long as Mr Jinnah lived, there was little real trouble, but after his death in 1948 the old difficulties emerged again."



Afghanistan. The areas of Derajat and Jacobabad (Khan Garh) was demarcated and given to British India.

British imperialists used Balochistan as a military base to check the extension policy of Tsarist Russia against India.2 Balochistan was denied almost all forms of reforms which over the years, since the turn of the century, were introduced in other parts of India.

Despite being a separate administrative unit, Balochistan was not included in the list of provinces because it did not enjoy the status of a province. It was

Jinnah himself visited Balochistan many times. In the middle of 1934, Quaid-i-Azam paid a visit to Balochistan and spent about two months there. In a public session of the League Conferences at Quetta, Qazi Isa made a dramatic and emotional gesture. Presenting the Quaid-i-Azam with a Sword, reportedly belonging to Ahmed Shah Abdali, he said:

Throughout history, the sword had been the constant companion of the Muslims. When the Muslims did not have an Amir, this sword was lying in safe custody. Now that you have taken

curing an independent homeland, Nehru and Mountbatten, for instance, created all types of difficulties for the Muslim League. The foremost issue was: Which of the two Constituent Assemblies will Balochistan join, that is, of India or Pakistan. Moreover, that would be the status of Balochistan states on the lapse of British paramountcy? Would the leased areas be restored to the Khan of Kalat? What will be the future of the Princely States, their rulers and, so also that of the Tribal Territories in Balochistan?

The draft Proposal as



an administrative unit headed by the Agent to Governor General. This implied that the reforms introduced in the recognised provinces of British India were not introduced in Balochistan.3

The Quaid-i-Azam was aware of the vexing problems of Balochistan. He had demanded reforms in Balochistan in his famous "Fourteen Points". He pleaded that Balochistan should be brought in the line with other provinces of In-

over as the Amir of this nation, I hand over this historic sword to you. This has always been used in defence, in your safe hands also, it will be used only for this purpose.

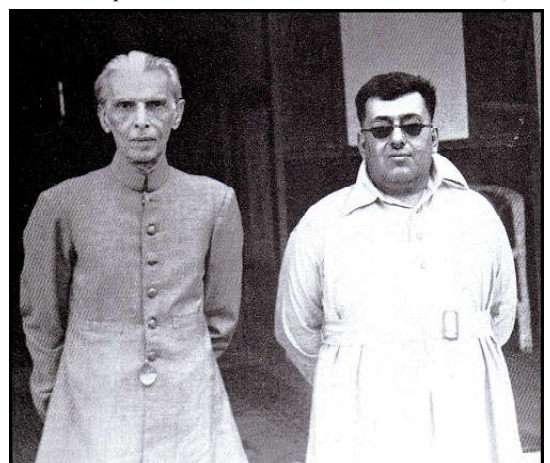
On this occasion, the Quaid-i-Azam paid a highly successful four days visits to Kalat on the personal invitation of Khan Mir Ahmed Yar Khan, the ruler of Kalat. In the meantime, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan went on pressing in the Central Assembly to

revised by Cabinet Committee upto 8 May said:

In British Balochistan, the members of the Shahi Jirga other than those members who are nominated as Sardars of Kalat State, and non-officials members of the Quetta Municipality, will meet to decide which of the three options in para 4 above they choose. The meeting will also elect a representative to attend the Constituent Assembly selected. Nehru objected to the proposal. He said: It leaves the future of the Province to one man chosen by a group of Sardars and nominated persons who obviously represent a vested semi-feudal element. Balochistan has an importance as a strategic frontier of India and its future cannot be dealt with in this partial and casual manner.

He added: "The future of Balochistan raised many strategic problems and the way at present envisaged is a very casual way of dealing with an important frontier area. Finally, he suggested that this case be deferred until the picture in the rest of India got clearer. This was not agreed to by the Vice-roy".

Whereas the Quaid-i-Azam emphasized that a democratic machinery might be devised to ensure free and fair expression of the will of the people, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, on behalf of the Muslim League, proposed a plebiscite. Any genuine democratic vote would satisfy the Muslims. He and the Quaid were very confident of winning Balochistan by the democratic method. They did not create any fuss, like Nehru. Lord



dia.

About the late twenties in Balochistan there were curbs on expression of open political opinions and there was no press. In 1927, Abdul Aziz Khurd and Nasim Talwi started a newspaper called "Balochistan" in Delhi. Yousuf Ali Khan Magsi, Sardar of the Magsi tribe, wrote an article for a Lahore newspaper in 1929 which he entitled "Fariade-Balochistan" or, "The Wail from Balochistan". In May, 1939 he produced a pamphlet called "Balochistan ki Awaz", or "The Voice of Balochistan",

give constitutional reforms to Baluchistan and ultimately succeeded when his resolution was passed by the Assembly in March 1944.4 In the same year, when British were involved in the second World War, General R.C. Money submitted a memorandum, "Post-War Reconstruction of Balochistan."

In the memorandum, it was suggested, that "Balochistan is the right place for a considerable imperial garrison after the war. It was added that after the transfer of power in British India, "Balochistan" is not



Quaid-e-Azam's presidential address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan

August 11, 1947

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen!
I cordially thank you, with the utmost sincerity, for the honour you have conferred upon me - the greatest honour that is possible to confer - by electing me as your first President. I also thank those leaders who have spoken in appreciation of my ser-

sions. The first observation that I would like to make is this: You will no doubt agree with me that the first duty of a government is to maintain law and order, so that the life, property and religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by the State.

The second thing that occurs to me is this: One of the biggest curses

and even death.

The next thing that strikes me is this: Here again it is a legacy which has been passed on to us. Along with many other things, good and bad, has arrived this great evil, the evil of nepotism and jobbery. I want to make it quite clear that I shall never tolerate any kind of jobbery, nepotism or any

verdict in favour of it. And what is more, it will be proved by actual experience as we go on that was the only solution of India's constitutional problem. Any idea of a united India could never have worked and in my judgement it would have led us to terrific disaster. Maybe that view is correct; maybe it is not; that remains to be seen. All

to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place or worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the State. As you know, history shows that in England, conditions, some time ago, were much worse than those prevailing in India today. The Roman Catholics and the Protestants persecuted each other. Even now there are some States in existence where there are discriminations made and bars imposed against a particular class. Thank God, we are not starting in those days. We are starting in the days where there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State. The people of England in course of time had to face the realities of the situation and had to discharge the responsibilities and burdens placed upon them by the government of their country and they went through that fire step by step. Today, you might say with justice that Roman Catholics and Protestants do not exist; what exists now is that every man is a citizen, an equal citizen of Great Britain and they are all members of the Nation.

Now I think we should keep that in front of us as our ideal and you will find that in course of time Hindus would cease to be Hindus and Muslims would cease to be

Women have been an important part and parcel of every Muslim society and the Subcontinent was no exception to it. Any fair investigation of the teachings of Islam or into the history of the Islamic civilisation will surely find a clear evidence of woman's equal-

cause was just. They boldly faced every hardship that came in their way but did not give up their mission. Some educated women opened schools in their homes to voluntarily educate Muslim girls. They also preached their husbands, sons and brothers to join the Paki-

wards. The Muslim League had no money to pay the salary of a secretary and Begum Ra'ana did that job happily. She also used to arrange parties, where Muslim women could meet the wife and daughter of Viceroy to explain their viewpoint and express their



stances and their personal references to me. I sincerely hope that with your support and your co-operation we shall make this Constituent Assembly an example to the world. The Constituent Assembly has got two main functions to perform. The first is the very onerous and responsible task of framing the future constitution of Pakistan and the second of functioning as a full and complete sovereign body as the Federal Legislature of Pakistan. We have to do the best we can in adopting a provisional constitution for the Federal Legislature of Pakistan. You know really that not only we ourselves are wondering but, I think, the whole world is wondering at this unprecedented cyclonic revolution which has brought about the clan of creating and establishing two independent sovereign Dominions in this sub-continent. As it is, it has been unprecedented; there is no parallel in the history of the world. This mighty sub-continent with all kinds of inhabitants has been brought under a plan which is titanic, unknown, unparalleled. And what is very important with regards to it is that we have achieved it peacefully and by means of an evolution of the greatest possible character.

Dealing with our first function in this Assembly, I cannot make any well-considered pronouncement at this moment, but I shall say a few things as they occur to me. The first and the foremost thing that I would like to emphasize is this: remember that you are now a sovereign legislative body and you have got all the powers. It, therefore, places on you the gravest responsibility as to how you should take your deci-

from which India is suffering - I do not say that other countries are free from it, but, I think our condition is much worse - is bribery and corruption. That really is a poison. We must put that down with an iron hand and I hope that you will take adequate measures as soon as it is possible for this Assembly to do so.

Black-marketing is another curse. Well, I know that blackmarketeers are frequently caught and punished. Judicial sentences are passed or sometimes

any influence directly or indirectly brought to bear upon me. Whenever I will find that such a practice is in vogue or is continuing anywhere, low or high, I shall certainly not countenance it.

I know there are people who do not quite agree with the division of India and the partition of the Punjab and Bengal. Much has been said against it, but now that it has been accepted, it is the duty of everyone of us to loyally abide by it and honourably act according to the agreement

the same, in this division it was impossible to avoid the question of minorities being in one Dominion or the other. Now that was unavoidable. There is no other solution. Now what shall we do? Now, 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. If you will work in co-operation, forgetting the past, burying the hatchet, you are bound to succeed. If you change your past and



lines only are imposed. Now you have to tackle this monster, which today is a colossal crime against society, in our distressed conditions, when we constantly face shortage of food and other essential commodities of life. A citizen who does black-marketing commits, I think, a greater crime than the biggest and most grievous of crimes. These blackmarketeers are really knowing, intelligent and ordinarily responsible people, and when they indulge in black-marketing, I think they ought to be very severely punished, because the entire system of control and regulation of foodstuffs and essential commodities, and cause wholesale starvation and want

which is now final and binding on all. But you must remember, as I have said, that this mighty revolution that has taken place is unprecedented. One can quite understand the feeling that exists between the two communities wherever one community is in majority and the other is in minority. But the question is, whether it was possible or practicable to act otherwise than what has been done. A division had to take place. On both sides, in Hindustan and Pakistan, there are sections of people who may not agree with it, who may not like it, but in my judgement there was no other solution and I am sure future history will record

work together in a spirit that everyone of you, no matter to what community he belongs, no matter what relations he had with you in the past, no matter what is his colour, caste or creed, is first, second and last a citizen of this State with equal rights, privileges, and obligations, there will be on end to the progress you will make.

I cannot emphasize it too much. We should begin to work in that spirit and in course of time all these angularities of the majority and minority communities, the Hindu community and the Muslim community, because even as regards Muslims you have Pathans, Punjabis, Shias, Sunnis and so on, and among the Hindus you have Brahmins, Vashnavas, Khatris, also Bengalis, Madrasis and so on, will vanish. Indeed if you ask me, this has been the biggest hindrance in the way of India to attain the freedom and independence and but for this we would have been free people long long ago. No power can hold another nation, and specially a nation of 400 million souls in subjection; nobody could have conquered you, and even if it had happened, nobody could have continued its hold on you for any length of time, but for this. Therefore, we must learn a lesson from this. You are free; you are free

Women's role in the Pakistan Movement



ity with man in what we call today 'political rights'. This includes the right of election as well as the nomination to political offices. It also includes women's right to participate in public affairs. Both in the Holy Quran and in Islamic history, we find examples of women who participated in serious discussions.

The history of Muslims is rich with women of great achievements in all walks of life from as early as the seventh century. Throughout history the reputation, chastity and maternal role of Muslim women were objects of admiration by impartial observers. Muslim women have made great contributions towards the Pakistan Movement and if we look at the history, particularly during the large-scale migration, we find them making all kinds of sacrifices. For the cause of a Muslim state, they were subject to killings, torture, abduction and rape at the hands of tyrant non-Muslims. The human history saw the worst treatment meted out to the Muslim women in the Subcontinent during the days of partition. They paid heavily for the cause and the heinous crimes against them have no parallel example in the history of the world.

Maybe this was because of their active role in the Pakistan Movement. At that time, our women used to observe strict 'pardah' (veil). They were less educated but were politically more aware than today's women. Many people may disagree that today most of our women, involved in politics, social welfare work, education and other fields of life, do not have any mission or objective towards their country and nation as they have joined their respective fields for the sake of their economical gains. One feels sorry to say that our female leaders' main aim is to get self-projection rather than doing some work of the welfare and development of the masses.

During the Pakistan Movement, our women presented themselves as

stan Movement and those who had earlier joined the struggle, were encouraged not to give up the cause until the goal was achieved.

Women's role in the Pakistan Movement (The name of Abadi Begum, popularly known as 'Bi Amma' is on the top of the list of such noble ladies. She was the mother of Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar and Maulana Shaukat Ali. She encouraged her sons in fight for freedom. The two brave brothers devoted their lives to the cause of Muslims and during their struggle they were arrested and imprisoned for two years by the British rulers. The tyrant rulers asked them to beg pardon for their release but Bi Amma sent a word to them not to give up their cause nor ask for pardon

protest over British high-handedness against the Muslims. She founded the All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA), perhaps the first NGO of the women. The APWA is still working for the welfare of women in Pakistan and it has opened many schools, colleges and technical institutes to educate the poor girls.

In Sindh, Lady Nusrat Haroon, Lady Sughra Hidayatullah, Begum Khairunnisa Shaban, Miss Fakhruddin Wali Muhammad Effendi and Fatima Shaikh of Hyderabad were noteworthy for their brave work for freedom. Lady Nusrat was elected the President of the All India Muslim Women League in 1943. She was a sincere worker of the Pakistan Movement. She was also an active member of sev-



eral educational institutions. Later she became Vice President of APWA. In Punjab, Begum Jehan Ara Shahnawaz was the first Muslim woman to make a speech in London's Guild Hall. She represented the Muslim women at the three Round Table Conferences, held in London. She was also elected to the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Other women who played an active part in the freedom movement are Begum Iqbal Hussain, Begum Salma Tassaduq Hussain, Geti Ara Bashir Ahmed, Begum Shaista Ikramullah, Begum Viqarunnisa Noon, Begum Nawab Muhammad Ismail and Noorus Saba Begum. Noorus Saba Begum was the Secretary of the Punjab Women's Muslim League. She joined the All India Muslim

and warned that if they did so, she would not forgive them. No doubt, she was the great woman and her greatness lies in the fact that she had taught her sons to be willing to sacrifice their lives in the cause of Muslims. Begum Muhammad Ali Jauhar, dressed in a 'burqa', was the only woman in the All India Muslim League working committee and she was also the first Muslim woman to address the public meetings. Then there was Miss Fatima Jinnah, the youngest sister of Quaid-i-Azam. For her great services to the nation, she was called 'Madr-e-Millat' by the grateful nation. The word 'Madr-e-Millat' means mother of the nation. She helped Quaid in his struggle and also worked as link between women and the Quaid-i-Azam. She was the right hand of

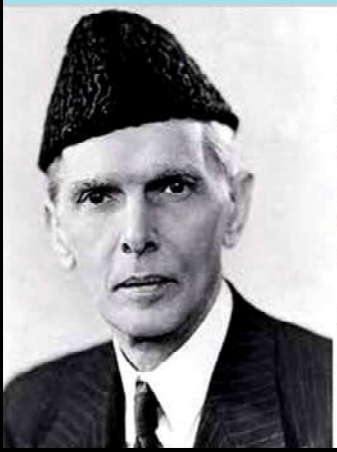


League in 1937. Begum Geti Ara was the President of the women's branch of the Muslim League. Begum Shaista organised the Muslim Girls Students and was appointed its convener. Begum Husan Ara Khan originally belonged to Swat but had settled in Calcutta, where she devoted herself to the Pakistan Movement. Apart from these ladies, there were other countless women, who had played their vital role to inspire the men to rise for the cause of a separate Muslim state in the subcontinent. We should never forget them while remembering those who had shared their part in the creation of Pakistan.

Quaid and associated herself with the Quaid at every step of Pakistan Movement. She was respected by all the sections of society. The year 2003 was declared the year of Madr-e-Millat by the government to acquaint the young generation particularly girls with her services.

Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan's name is also worth mentioning. She formed women's voluntary service and women's National Guard. She was a highly educated woman. She had also worked as honorary secretary of Liaquat Ali Khan at the time when he was General Secretary of the All India Muslim League before the creation of Pakistan and then Prime Minister after-

Quaid-e-Azam's Advice to the Constituent Assembly



"Pakistan not only means freedom and independence but the Muslim Ideology which has to be preserved, which has come to us as a precious gift and treasure and which, we hope other will share with us."

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

History of Pakistan

Introduction

Pakistan emerged on the world map on August 14, 1947. It has its roots into the remote past. Its estab-

lishment was the culmination of the struggle by Muslims of the South-Asian subcontinent for a separate homeland of their own and its foundation was laid when Muhammad bin Qasim subdued Sindh in 711 A.D. as a reprisal against sea pirates that had taken refuge in Raja Dahir's kingdom.



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and idioms, came to be spoken and written by the Muslims and it gained currency among the rest of the Indian population. Urdu is did not do so and accepted the new rulers without reservation. They acquired western education, imbibed the new culture and

ish at Simla and demanded separate electorates. Three months later, the All-India Muslim League was founded by Nawab Salimullah Khan at Dhaka, mainly with the objective of safeguarding the political rights and interests of the Muslims.

The British conceded separate electorates in the Government of India Act of 1909 which confirmed the Muslim League's position as an All-India party. Attempt for Hindu Muslim Unity The visible trend of the two major communities progressing in opposite directions caused deep concern to leaders of All-India stature. They struggled to bring the Congress and the Muslim League on one platform. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) was the leading figure among them.

captured positions hitherto filled in by the Muslims. If this situation had prolonged, it would have done the Muslims an irreparable damage. The man to realise the impending peril was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1889), a witness to the tragic events of 1857. He exerted his utmost to harmonize British Muslim relations. His assessment was that the Muslims' safety lay in the acquisition of western education and knowledge. He took several positive steps to achieve this objective. He founded a college at Aligarh to impart education on western lines.

Of equal importance was the Anglo-Muhammadian Educational Conference, which he sponsored in 1886, to provide an intellectual forum to the Muslims for the dissemination of views in support of western education and social reform. Similar were the objectives of the Muhammadian Literary Society, founded by Nawab Abdul Latif (1828-93), active in Bengal.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's efforts transformed into a movement, known as the Aligarh Movement, and it left its imprint on the Muslims of every part of the South-Asian subcontinent. Under its inspiration, societies were founded throughout the subcontinent which

led by a period of bitter Hindu Muslim antagonism. The Hindus organized two highly anti Muslim movements, the Shudhi and the Sangathan. The former movement was designed to convert Muslims to Hinduism and the latter was meant to create solidarity among the Hindus in the event of communal conflict. In retaliation, the Muslims sponsored the Tabligh and Tanzim organizations to counter the impact of the Shudhi and the Sangathan. In the 1920s, the frequency of communal riots was unprecedented. Several Hindu-Muslim unity conferences were held to remove the causes of conflict, but, it seemed nothing could mitigate the intensity of communalism.

After the annulment of the partition of Bengal and the European Powers' aggressive designs against the Ottoman Empire and North Africa, the Muslims were receptive to the idea of collaboration with the Hindus against the British rulers. The Congress Muslim

League soon took these schemes into consideration and finally, on March 23, 1940. The All-India Muslim League, in a resolution, at its historic Lahore Session, demanded a separate homeland for the Muslims in the Muslim majority regions of the subcontinent. The resolution was commonly referred to as the Pakistan Resolution.

The Pakistan demand had a great appeal for the Muslims of every persuasion. It revived memories of their past greatness and promised future glory. They, therefore, responded to this demand immediately.

League rapprochement was achieved at the Lucknow sessions of the two parties in 1916 and a joint scheme of reforms was adopted. In the Lucknow Pact as the scheme was commonly referred to, the Congress accepted the principle of separate electorates, and the Muslims, in return for 'weightage' to the Muslims of the Muslim minority provinces, agreed to surrender their thin majorities in the Punjab and Bengal. The post Lucknow Pact period witnessed Hindu Muslim amity and the two parties came to hold their annual sessions in the same city and passed resolutions of identical contents.

der this Act, the All-India Muslim League, which had remained dormant for some time, was reorganized by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had returned to India in 1934, after an absence of nearly five years in England. The Muslim League could not win a majority of Muslim seats since it had not yet been effectively re-organized. However, it had the satisfaction that the performance of the Indian National Congress in the Muslim constituencies was bad. After the elections, the attitude of the Congress leadership was arrogant and domineering. The classic example was its refusal to form a coalition government with the Muslim League in the United Provinces. Instead, it asked the League leaders to dissolve their parliamentary party in the Provincial Assembly and join the Congress.

Another important Congress move after the 1937 elections was its Muslim mass contact movement to persuade the Muslims to join the congress and not the Muslim League. One of its leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, even declared that there were only two forces in India, the British and the Congress. All this did not go unchallenged. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah countered that there was a third force in South-Asia constituting the Muslims. The All-India Muslim League, under his gifted leadership, gradually and skillfully started organising the Muslims on

Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was rejected at the time, but later on, in 1944, formed the basis of the Jinnah-Gandhi talks. **Demand for Pakistan** The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War. Every section of the Muslim community - men, women, students, Ulema and businessmen - were organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent.

Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim League election campaign was based on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elec-

tion, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms. **Cabinet Plan** In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authorities of the Plan. This provided the All-India Muslim League an excuse to withdraw its acceptance of the Plan and the party observed August 16, 1946, as a 'Direct Action Day' to show Muslim solidarity in support of the Pakistan demand. **Partition Scheme** In October 1946, an Interim Government was formed. The Muslim League sent its representative under the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with the aim to fight for the



Before the elections un-

rule in the Muslim minority provinces during 1937-39. The Congress policies in these provinces hurt Muslim susceptibilities. There were calculated aims to obliterate the Muslims as a separate cultural unit. The Muslims now stopped thinking in terms of seeking safeguards and began to consider seriously the demand for a separate Muslim state. During 1937-39, several Muslim leaders and thinkers, inspired by Allama Iqbal's ideas, presented elaborate schemes for partitioning the subcontinent according to two-nation theory.

Pakistan Resolution [1940] The All-India Muslim League soon took these schemes into consideration and finally, on March 23, 1940. The All-India Muslim League, in a resolution, at its historic Lahore Session, demanded a separate homeland for the Muslims in the Muslim majority regions of the subcontinent. The resolution was commonly referred to as the Pakistan Resolution.

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party objective from within the Interim Government. After a short time, the situation inside the Interim Government and outside convinced the Congress leadership to accept Pakistan as the only solution of the communal problem. The British Government, after its last attempt to save the Cabinet Mission Plan in December 1946, also moved towards a scheme for the partition of India. The last British Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, came with a clear mandate to draft a plan for the transfer of power. After holding talks with political leaders and parties, he prepared a Partition Plan for the transfer of power, which, after approval of the British Government, was announced on June 3, 1947. **Emergence of Pakistan** Both the Congress and the Muslim League accepted the Plan. Two largest Muslim majority provinces, Bengal and Punjab, were partitioned. The Assemblies of West Punjab, East Bengal and Sindh and in Balochistan, the Quetta Municipality, and the Shahi Jirga voted for Pakistan. Referenda were held in the North-West Frontier Province and the District of Sylhet in Assam, which resulted in an overwhelming vote for Pakistan. As a result, on August 14, 1947, the new state of Pakistan came into existence. May Allah keep Pakistan safe from enemy.

Advent of Islam

The first followers of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), to set foot on the soil of the South-Asian subcontinent, were traders from the coast land of Arabia and the Persian Gulf, soon after the dawn of Islam in the early seventh century A.D.

The first permanent Muslim foothold in the subcontinent was achieved with Muhammad bin Qasim's conquest of Sindh in 711 A.D. An autonomous Muslim state linked with the Umayyad, and later, the Abbasid Caliphate was established with jurisdiction extending over southern and central parts of present Pakistan. Quite a few new cities were established and Arabic was introduced as the official language.

At the time of Mahmud of Ghazna's invasion, Muslim rule still existed, though

His immediate successors, inspired by his teachings, tried to establish a modest Islamic state in the north-west of India and they, under the leadership of Sayyed Ahmad Shaheed Bareilvi (1786-1831), persevered in this direction.

British Expansionism and Muslim Resistance Meanwhile, starting with the East India Company, the British had emerged as the dominant power in South Asia. Their rise to power was gradual extending over a period of nearly one hundred years. They replaced the Shariah by what they termed as the Anglo-Muhammadian law

whereas Urdu was replaced by English as the official language. These and other developments had great social, economic and political impact especially on the Muslims of South Asia. The uprising of 1857, termed as the Indian Mutiny by the British and the War of Independence by the Muslims, was a desperate attempt to reverse the adverse course of events.

Religious Institutions The failure of the 1857 War of Independence had disastrous consequences for the Muslims as the British placed all the responsibility for this event on them. Determined to stop such a recurrence in future, the British followed deliberately a repressive policy against the Muslims. Properties and estates of those even remotely associated with the freedom fighters were confiscated and conscious efforts were made to close all avenues of honest living for them.

His contemporary and a great scholar of Islam, Syed Ameer Ali (1849-1928), shared his views about the Congress, but, he was not opposed to Muslims organizing themselves politically. In fact, he organised the first significant political body of the Muslims, the Central National Muhammadian Association. Although, its membership was limited, it had more than 50 branches in different parts of the subcontinent and it accomplished some solid work for the educational and political advancement of the Muslims. But, its activities waned towards the end of the nineteenth century.

The Muslim League At the dawn of the twentieth century, a number of factors convinced the Muslims of the need to have an effective political organization. Therefore, in October 1906, a deputation comprising 35 Muslim leaders met the Viceroy of the Brit-



ish at Simla and demanded separate electorates. Three months later, the All-India Muslim League was founded by Nawab Salimullah Khan at Dhaka, mainly with the objective of safeguarding the political rights and interests of the Muslims.

Khilafat Movement The Hindu Muslim unity reached its climax during the Khilafat and the Non-cooperation Movements. The Muslims of soothsayer, under the leadership of the Ali Brothers, Maulana Mohammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali, launched the historic Khilafat Movement after the First World War to protect the Ottoman Empire from dismemberment.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) linked the issue of Swaraj (self-government) with the Khilafat issue to associate the Hindus with the Movement. The ensuing Movement was the first country-wide popular movement. Although the Movement failed in its objectives, it had a far-reaching impact on the Muslims of South Asia.

After a long time, they took united action on a purely Islamic issue which momentarily forged solidarity among them. It also produced a class of Muslim leaders experienced in organizing and mobilizing the public. This experience was of immense value to the Muslims later during the Pakistan Movement.

The collapse of the Khilafat Movement was fol-

lowed by a period of bitter Hindu Muslim antagonism. The Hindus organized two highly anti Muslim movements, the Shudhi and the Sangathan. The former movement was designed to convert Muslims to Hinduism and the latter was meant to create solidarity among the Hindus in the event of communal conflict. In retaliation, the Muslims sponsored the Tabligh and Tanzim organizations to counter the impact of the Shudhi and the Sangathan. In the 1920s, the frequency of communal riots was unprecedented. Several Hindu-Muslim unity conferences were held to remove the causes of conflict, but, it seemed nothing could mitigate the intensity of communalism.

Muslim Demand Safeguards In the light of this situation, the Muslims revised their constitutional demands. They now wanted preservation of their numerical majorities in the Punjab and Bengal, separation of Sindh from Bombay, constitution of Balochistan as a separate province and intro-

duction of constitutional reforms in the North-West Frontier Province. It was partly to press these demands that one section of the All-India Muslim League cooperated with the Statutory commission sent by the British Government under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon in 1927. The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India.

The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims. **Allama Muhammad Iqbal** Several leaders and thinkers, having insight into the Hindu-Muslim question proposed separation of Muslim India. However, the most lucid exposition of the inner feeling of the Muslim community was given by Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) in his Presidential Address at the All-India Muslim League Session at Allahabad in 1930.

He suggested that for the healthy development of Islam in South-Asia, it was essential to have a separate Muslim state at least in the Muslim majority regions of the north-west. Later on, in his correspondence with Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he included the

one platform. **Towards a Separate Muslim Homeland** The 1930s witnessed awareness among the Muslims of their separate identity and their anxiety to preserve it within separate territorial boundaries. An important element that brought this simmering Muslim nationalism in the open was the character of the Congress



in a weakened form, in Multan and some other regions. The Ghaznavids (976-1148) and their successors, the Ghaurids (1148-1206), were Central Asian by origin and they ruled their territories, which covered mostly the regions of present Pakistan, from capitals outside India.

It was in the early thirteenth century that the foundations of the Muslim rule in India were laid with extended boundaries and Delhi as the capital. From 1206 to 1526 A.D., five different dynasties held sway. Then followed the period of Mughal ascendancy (1526-1707) and their rule continued, though nominally, till 1857.

From the time of the Ghaznavids, Persian more or less replaced Arabic as the official language. The economic, political and religious institutions developed by the Muslims bore their unique impression. The law of the State was based on Shariah and in principle the rulers were bound to enforce it. Any long period of laxity was generally followed by reinforcement of these laws under public pressure.

The impact of Islam on the South-Asian subcontinent was deep and far-reaching. Islam introduced not only a new religion, but a new civilization, a new way of life and new set of values. Islamic traditions of art and literature, of culture and refinement, of social and welfare institution, were established by Muslim rulers throughout the subcontinent.

Emergence of Urdu Language A new language, Urdu, derived mainly from Arabic and Persian vocabulary and adopting indigenous words



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