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

Urges nation to support govt in making Pakistan stable, prosperous

Muhammad Sharif on Wednesday, congratulating the nation on the 78th Pakistan Independence Day, urged the people especially the youth to support the government in its efforts to make the day celebrations. country, prosperous, stable and peaceful.

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

"The next few years are crucial for you and the country, so only focus on your studies and attaining skilled-based education, and

ISLAMABAD (APP): do not indulge yourself in countless unsung heroes of Prime Minister the negative agenda of the the Pakistan Movement, Shehbaz enemy who is out to target you and utilize your capabilities in anti-state activities," he asked the youth while addressing a ceremony held here in connection with the independence

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

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

who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and

Pakistan emerged as an independent and sovereign state on the map of the world on 14th August 1947 through the unwavering and steadfast leadership of Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and unmatched sacrifices of our ancestors, he added.

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

#### Green courts' campaign gets underway: CJ BHC vows to form such a society where every person gets basic rights

Mr Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan announces to introduce Green Courts, all judges to plant one sapling each

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has we have to make pledge on the Independence Day to form such a society where every individual gets one's basic rights.

He stressed that every person and institution make endeavour to form such a country where there every one gets rights as per the constitution and law, where life of all citizens is protected and where there is no concept of illegal detention and every one has the op-

portunity of fair trial. These views were ex-

pressed by the Chief Justice High Court while addressing the flag hoisting ceremony on Independence Day at the High court building premises on Wednesday.

The judges of High

court and subordinate courts, office bearers of the bar associations and senior lawyers, their children were present.

The Chief Justice on the occasion extended heartfelt greetings of the 77th Independence Day to

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Inspector General Frontier Corps, Inspector General of Police Balochistan and Provincial Ministers attending Independence Day Ceremony

#### President confers national awards on 104 Pakistanis, foreigners on I. Day

Nishan-e-Pakistan to be posthumously awarded to former PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for his public services

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday announced the conferment of Pakistan's national awards on 104 Pakistanis and foreigners, in recognition of their services, excellence and sacrifices in their respective fields.

The awards were announced on Pakistan's 78th Independence Day which will be presented to the awardees at an investiture ceremony on March 23,

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

vices and philanthropy, entrepreneurs, taxpayers and exporters, public service, gallantry, and services to Pakistan.

The president conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan award on the former president and prime minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed in recognition of his public services.

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

President Zardari con Continued on page 2

#### Adiala Jail deputy superintendent arrested for

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

The security agencies detained Adiala Jail deputy superintendent Muhammad Akram on the charges of misusing his powers.

Akram is accused of facilitating PTI founder Imran Khan and allegedly acting as a messenger for him. The security agencies informed the Inspector General of Prisons about the situation, and he had already been removed from his posi-

The agencies are inestigating the deputy uperintendent Muĥammad Akram, and departmental action will be taken following the probe.

#### Balochistan govt accepts land gifted by CJP, his brother

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

According to sources environmental centre for public welfare will be built on the gifted land wherein several activities for students and tourists will be carried out.

Exhibition hall, tourist centre and seminar hall will also be set up in environmental centre.

The gifted 31680 square feet land lies adjacent to the Quaid-i-Azam's Residency at Ziarat.

#### ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoists the national flag at the Pakistan Monument on the 78th Independence Day. **Local Government system to be strengthened: New divisions and districts should** be established on administrative grounds, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti announces to set up 50-bedded hospital in Pishin; forms committee for review of matters about forming Pishin as separate division; announces grant of Rs. 100 million for Pishin Local Council

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that new divisions and districts should be formed on administrative basis as the districts can't be formed on linguistic basis.

He said that Pakistan is our first identity and we must be proud of it. He said that local government system would be strengthened further. He said that the grant of local councils has been made double in the budget.

He announced to form committee for taking review of the matter about formation of Pishin as separate division. The commit-

tee would review the related matters in this regard. The Chief Minister was addressing a ceremony held to mark the Independence Day at Rest House,

Pishin on Wednesday. The Provincial Ministers, members of provincial assembly and other dignitaries were present at the occasion. The Chief Minister announced to start certain new projects for development of Pishin. He mentioned that Pishin is the district the elders of which always supported Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He also said that the elders of Pishin have proved

their loyalty with Pakistan.

and health are priorities of the provincial government. He said that the school or college teacher who is drawing salary from the government can't sit at home without teaching children.

He on the occasion announced to upgrade one middle school of Pishin as High one. Moreover, he announced to set up 50-bedded hospital in Pishin besides announcing Rescue 1122 service for the highway in district. He also announced to consider demand about setting up of sub-campus of Balochistan University in Pishin. Be sides, he announced grant of Rs. 100 million for the



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating Quetta Solid West Management project. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Speaker Balochistan Assembly Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Provincial Ministers and high officials are also present

Private company to collect around 1600 tons waste daily:

#### **Quetta solid waste management** project made functional in short span of three months

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta solid waste management project was made functional here on Wednesday. The Deputy Prime Minister, Muĥammad Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti formally inaugurated the project, which is being considered as first of its kind in the history of country. Also present on the occasion were Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and other high

While speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister congratulated the Commis-

Continued on page 2

#### One killed, eleven including children injured in grenade attacks

Independent Report QUETTA: Unidentified assailants lobbed a grenade attack on a hotel near Quetta railway station on Wednesday, leaving one person died and eleven other including children, injured. The attack, which targeted the busy area, sent shockwaves through the city, raising concerns about

security. The injured were

rushed to the trauma center

of the civil hospital Quetta

for medical treatment. Po-

lice reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

The injured were immediately provided with medical aid and transferred to Civil Hospital Quetta for further treatment. The condition of the victims is reported to be stable, but the attack has left the local community on edge. Shortly after the first blast, a second explosion occurred near Joint Road, injuring a total of seven people.

#### in cross-border firing"

**Independent Report** 

der forces to intervene. According to Aman Shinwari, the firing exchange took place in the Ghora Key mountainous area of Landi Kotal, Khyber district, after Afghan forces ignored warnings from Pakistani forces to stop construction work. The cross-border firing led to the closure of the Torkham border, and residents of the nearby area were evacuated to safer lo-

the Afghan side.

#### Two security personnelinjured

KHYBER: A cross-border firing incident occurred at the Ghora Key area of the Pak-Afghan border, resulting in injuries to two Pakistani security personnel The incident happened when Afghan Taliban forces allegedly crossed into Pakistani territory and attempted to build a post, prompting Pakistani bor-

Independent Report cations. Sources confirmed that

two Pakistani security personnel. Havaldar Akram and Sepoy Wahid, were injured in the firing from



#### QUETTA: A delegation of Parliamentarians of PML(N) Balochistan led by Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan and IGP are also present

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

Deputy Premier hoists national flag at BA

Deputy Prime Minister emphasizes we have to take Pakistan at place which was dreamed by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal

**Independent Report** 

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

"We have to achieve what Allah Almighty has written in our destiny. It is desire of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to improve economy and GDP of the country. Pakistan would have to emerge shining star in future and we would see Pakistan becoming developed and including in G20" stated the Deputy Prime

Minister while addressing the flag hoisting ceremony at the Provincial Assembly's law on Wednes-

The Deputy Prime Minister extended greetings of the Independence Day to the people of Balochistan on his as well as behalf of the President and Prime Minister.

The flag hoisting ceremony was attended by the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Speaker Provincial Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Federal Minister for Com-

Continued on page 2



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

Flag hoisting ceremonies held at Armed Forces HQs

#### CJCSC, services chiefs felicitate nation on Independence Day

The Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Services Chiefs extended heartfelt felicitations to the nation on the Independence Day of Pakistan, a momentous occasion that commemorates the realization of a longcherished dream of a separate homeland for Muslims.

On this auspicious day, the Armed Forces of Pakistan paid tribute to the visionary founding fathers and valiant veterans, who rendered supreme sacrifices in their unwavering pursuit of freedom and self-deter-

ISLAMABAD (APP): mination. Their unrelenting spirit and sacrifices continue to inspire generations, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Wednesday.

"The Armed Forces reaffirm their unwavering commitment to defending Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and values, upholding the trust reposed in them by the nation. As we celebrate this Independence Day, we reiterate our resolve to preserve our hard-won freedom with honor, dignity and an unshakeable commitmenttoour cherished ideals. Long live Pakistan!, the ISPR said.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Naseemur Rehman Mulakhail leading a rally on eve of 77th Independence Day

#### Grand flag hoisting ceremony at BA lawn attended by Deputy PM, Speaker NA, other dignitaries the ceremony marking celebrations of Independence

QUETTA: The grand flag hoisting ceremony was held at the lush green lawn of Balochistan Assembly here on Wednesday morning. The Deputy Prime

Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar hoisted the national flag along with the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Ret) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and other dignitaries.

Also present at the ceremony were the provincial ministers, members of provincial assembly as well as the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of FC, Inspector General of Police, senior civil and military officers, dignitaries from different walks of life, besides others.

The students of different educational institutions also participated in the ceremony. They also presented national songs. The siren was rung at the Quaid-e-Azam residency, Ziarat. The Commandant of FC, Loralai Scouts Brigadier Razzaq Ahmed and Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Liaquat Ali Kakar hoisted the national flag.

Special arrangements

Meanwhile, the flag

including security were

made to ensure no untoward

incident is occurred on the

hoisting ceremony was also

held in the premises of

Balochistan High Court where the Chief Justice,

Mr. Justice Muhammad

Hashim Kakar hoisted the

national flag. The ceremony

was attended by the judges

of higher and subordinate

courts besides the senior

lawyers, office bearers of

different bar associations

ceremony was also held at

Similarly, flag hoisting

and their children.

occasion.

The similar flag hoisting ceremonies were also held in different other cities of the province.



QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar alongwith Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister Balochistan, Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly and others watching fireworks during ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan

#### Pak missions celebrate 78th Independence Day with traditional zeal

Pakistan's missions across the globe on Wednesday celebrated the 78th Independence Day with various colorful events to mark the significance of the historic

Embassies, Consulate Generals and High Commissions in different countries held flag hoisting ceremonies in which messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out. The Pakistani diaspora participated in large numbers to express their patriotism and binding affection with the moth-

On the national occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, a graceful flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah. Consul General Khalid Majid led the ceremony and joined by Pakistani community with great pride and honour as he raised the National Flag, accompanied by the uplifting spirits of the national anthem.

According to a press release, students from Pakistani School delivered patriotic speeches portraying Pakistan's vibrant history, cultural heritage and remarkable accomplish-

Consul General Khalid Majid, in his remarks, highlighted the significance of the day and paid tribute to the founding fathers of Pacountry's achievements in various fields.

The ceremony con- Day of Pakistan. cluded on a joyous note,

An official ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of Independence of Paki-

stan was held at Pakistan House Tehran, today. Members of Pakistani community in Iran and officials of the Embassy, attended the ceremony. The ceremony com-

menced with the playing of national anthem and hoisting of the national flag by Charge d' Affaires Ahmad

Charge d' Affaires Ahmad Shami paid rich tributes to the founding fathers of the nation Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other leaders who led the Pakistan movement and offered sacrifices for the creation of an independent Muslim

Pakistan High Commission, London celebrated 78th Independence Day with traditional zeal and enthusiasm on Wednesday.

Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Dr. Mohammad Faisal hoisted Pakistan flag to the tune of bassy of Pakistan Seoul. National Anthem.

The special ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Ouran. and reading out of messages of the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister.

A flag hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan kistan and highlighting the House, Singapore on stan in Tokyo organized an Wednesday to commemorate the 78th Independence

Pakistan High Comwith a cake-cutting cer- missioner Rabia Shafiq children and the elderly emony, gifts distribution hoisted the flag to the tune among children. Special of the national Anthem, fol-

prosperity and well-being of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia. the President and the Prime Minister, read out by Press Minister, read out by Press Counsellor Athar Zeb Abbasi and Deputy High Commissioner Salman Mahmood respectively.

> Pakistan High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Major General (Retd) Faheem-Ul-Aziz HI (M) hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in an impressive ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo.

The special messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out for the audi-

To celebrate the 78th Independence Day, the Embassy of Pakistan in Bishkek organized a flag hoisting ceremony in the Chancery which was attended by members of Pakistani community in Kyrgyzstan including Pakistani students, faculty members of Kyrgyz medical universities, business community, members of civil society and media.

To mark the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan, a flag hosting ceremony was organized at the Em-

Ambassador of Pakistan Nabeel Munir congratulated the community on this auspicious occasion and called for unity and solidarity in pursuit of the common goal of development and prosperity of the na-

The Embassy of Pakievent to mark the Indepenmembers, including women, joined the event to celebrate Youm-i-Azaadi with patriprayers were offered for the lowed by the messages of otic zeal and fervor.

The event started with flag hoisting by Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar.

A flag hoisting ceremony was organized at the Embassy of Pakistan, Abu Dhabi to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with national zeal and enthusiasm

Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi congratulated the community members on the Independence Day and highlighted the need of unity, faith and discipline in pursuing collective efforts towards Pakistan's socioeconomic progress; and prayed for the beloved country's peace and pros-

perity.

The Embassy of Pakibosted a stan in Mexico hosted a joyous celebration on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

The event drew around 70-80 leading Pakistani community members living Mexico, as well as distinguished guests from the local foreign office and Mexican business circle, a press statement said.

A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Consulate General of Pakistan. Dubai to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. The event was attended by many Pakistani community members and their families.

Welcoming the guests, Hussain Muhammad, Consul General congratulated Pakistani community living dence Day of Pakistan. A in UAE on the 78th Indelarge number of community members, including women, "Pakistan appeared on world map as the largest Muslim state on 14th August 1947 under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-

i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Our forefathers rendered countless sacrifices for the creation of an independent state where we can live with freedom, dignity, and self-respect", a press release quoted the Consul

General as saying. On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad hoisted national flag to the tune of the national anthem at the Embassy of Pakistan, Paris and welcomed distinguished members of the community and French friends including large number of children.

The Ambassador noted that 14th August was truly auspicious as it brought together the entire nation - in celebration, in paying homage to the Quaid-e-Azam and other leaders of the freedom movement, in remembrance of the supreme sacrifices of their forefathers. in honoring their heroes and drawing inspiration from the glorious past and the tremendous achievements over the decades.

Similar events were held in Pak embassies in Cambodia, Azerbaijan, Consulate General Chicago, Oman and other cities.

Ambassador of Pakistan in Azerbaijan Qasim Mohiuddin congratulated the Pakistani community and highlighted the significance of the day.

Flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Tashkent on 14 August 2024 to mark the Independence Day.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan Ahmed Farooq hoisted the national flag on the tune of national anthem.

#### CJ BHC vows to form such a society...

Continued from page 1 the whole nation, all honourable judges and ju-

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

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

He said that our resolve is high, and no one can imagine the achievements what we made in different sec-

He said that we are included in the atomic powers of the world despite lim-

ited resources.

Our nation has set examples of sacrifices and sympathy which were witnessed during the relief of earthquake affected people and while tackling the issues of natural disasters. But still we are left behind the world in some sec-

He stressed that we have to ensure implementation on the green book of the constitution 1973. The Chief Justice an-

nounced that we are going to introduce the Green Courts in Balochistan in which all the judges would plant one sapling

Referring the issue of pending cases, the Chief Justice that we would make efforts to ensure prompt and cheaper justice to the

#### Will share good news on....

Continued from page 1

highlighted that although during the past 77 years, the country's journey had not been exemplary but it was also the fact that it managed to survive due to the resilience, its people had shown through natural disasters and economic and social

challenges. "We should learn from he added.

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

On the occasion, he also paid tribute to the people belonging to various sectors including sports, education, health, etc. He also saluted Olympic hero Arshad Nadeem who won a gold medal for Pakistan in Paris Olympics and was present in the ceremony

hard work for the county's

He said that currently electricity bills was the bigelectricity Pakistan's could not grow.

"The government is assuring that in few days the government will give the nation a good news of sigmance Award. For their contribution

Furthermore, he said that he would address the nation in few days in which he would present a fiveyears economic plan of the

the occasion, also condemned the ongoing Israeli barbarism on the Palestinians saying that the "massacre of thousands of innocent Palestinians has diminished our pleasures on the occasion of independence Similarly, he also ex-

resolve to stand by the Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the resolution of the issue according to the will of the people of Occu-Jammu pied and Kashmir(IIOJ&K).

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): They will have to think na- world in making charity, he Information Minister Atta Ullah Tarar has said with every passing day it is be-coming proved that two nation theory was correct.
"We are if this country

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

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

The political forces will have to think where the political interest ends, he held.

**Head-constable** 

martyred in

terrorists attacks

on police check

posts in KP

LOWER DIR (Online)

One head Constable has

been martyred and another

has been injured in terror

ists attack on Police checl

posts in Jamrud area and

Jandool in Lower Dir KP.

ists attacked on Mayar

Jandool police check post in

Lower Dir martyring one police

Some unknown terror

tional interest starts from observed. where, he underlined.

He stressed all will have to play their respective role to reach destination.

Reforms process is underway in state institutions, he remarked, He went on to say

Prime Minister (PM) will announce comprehensive plan in his address to nation. The plan includes privatization of some institutions, right and downsizing and other re-

Pakistanis come forward enthusiastically in any calamity and problem, he

When PTI founder fell from crane then Nawaz Sharif summoned party meeting within 15 minutes, he remarked. Nawaz Sharif said to party leadership we will not run election campaign. He extended offer to political rival to go alongde each other.

He stated one man was imposed and he did what with the country. This man annoyed friendly countries.

National hero Arshid Nadim has returned to country, he said adding he was given status of state guest in Islamabad.

Arshid Nadim himself Pakistani nation is said he is PM planted plant, ahead of all nations in the he pointed out.

#### Young labor union celebrates Independence Day at Torkham border

**Independent Report** 

KHYBER: The Young Labor Union organized an Independence Day celebration at the Pak-Afghan Torkham border, with the aim of conveying a message of loyalty to Pakistan to the world. The event included a rally and cake-cutting ceremony, where participants chanted slogans like "Long live Pakistan" and expressed solidarity

with the Pakistan Army.
Correspondent added Abdul Rahman Shinwari, President of the Young Labor Union, said that the purpose of celebrating Independence Day at the border was to send a message of devotion to Pakistan to the world. He added that on this day, they pay tribute to the heroes of the



**QUETTA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad** Ishaq Dar along with Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Chief Minister Balochistan, Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly and others are hoisting National Flag during Flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, in Quetta.

#### President confers national....

in the field of literature and Hilal-i-Pakistan on Saudi Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al Saud for his ser-

vices to Pakistan. In recognition of their excellence in the fields of science, the president conferred Hilal-i-imtiaz on Amir Hafeez Ibrahim, Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali and Sardar Muhammad Aftab Ahmed Khan; and Tampha-i-Imtiaz on Dr. Sara Qureshi, Dr Rafiuddin and Professor Dr Usman

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

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

of medicine. Similarly, Collin David was bestowed with Sitarai-Imtiaz in the field of arts; Arshad Aziz Malik, Bakhtiar Ahmed and Barrister Zafarullah were conferred Tamgha-i-Imtiaz; while Fariha Pervaiz, Hamid Rana, Shiba Arshad and Naveed Ahmed Bhatti to receive Pride of Perfor-

to the field of literature, the president conferred Hilali-Imtiaz on Javed Jabbar:

Continued from page 1 Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Salman Cardinal Joseph Coutts, ferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz Awan, Zafar Waqar Taj and Rehan Mehtab Chawla, posthumously on late Muniza Shamsi, Tamgha- Rear Admiral Tanvir and i-Imtiaz for Sy Hussain Jafari and Pride of Performance Award for

> Ambreen Haseeb. Besides, Maqsood Ahemd, Amad Shakeel Butt, Rehman Ishtiaq and Mir Nadir Khan Magsi were bestowed with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz and Amir Ishfaq with Presidential Pride of Performance Award for their excellence in the sports field.

President Zardari conferred Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Mian Aziz Ahmed, Hunaid Lakhani, Sana Hashwani, Safinaz Munir; and Hilal-i-Imtiaz on Khwaja Anver Majeed and Hussain Dawood.

The taxpayers and exporters who were conferred Sitara-i-Imtiaz included Syed Imran Ali Shah, Nazimuddin Feroz, Imtiaz Hussain, Adnan Niaz, Zahid Ahmed Ghareeb and Syed Asad Hussain Zaidi.

The president also announced the conferment of Sitara-i-Shujaat on Panjgur Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Baloch who was recently martyred in a terror attack in Mastung; Hilal-i-Imtiaz on Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha, Dr Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah and Umar Farooq.

In the public service field, Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi, Dr Hamid Attiq Sarwar, Waqasuddin Syed, Jameel Ahmed, Ayaz Khan, Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir, and Irfan Nawaz Memon were conferred Sitara-i-Imtiaz while Tamgha-i-Imtiaz was announced for Syed Shakeel Shah, Ashhad Jawad, Rubab Sikandar, Muhammad Yousuf Khan,

Amir Mahmood Laknanı To recognise their gal-

lantry, the president conferred Hilal-i-Shujaat posthumously on Sub Inspector Taimur Shehzad Shaheed, Muhammad Asif Shaheed. SP Muhammad Aijaz Khan, DSP Sardar Hussain Shaheed, DSP Allama Iqbal Shaheed, LHC Muhammad Farooq Shaheed, Additional SHO Adnan Afridi Shaheed, Allah Rakhio Nandwani, Constable Jahanzeb and Constable Irshad Ali Shaheed.

Malik Sabz Ali Shaheed and Captain (Retd) Hamza Anjum were conferred Sitara-i-Shujaat and Tamgha-i-Shujaat was announced for Malik Mahmood Jan Shaheed, Saeed Khan Samiullah Shaheed, Sahib Khan and Dr Shafi Muhammad Bazenjo.

For their services to Pakistan, President Zardari conferred national awards for foreigners including Hilal-i-Pakistan for Saudi Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman al Saud; Hilal-i-Quaid-e-Azam for Fu Zhiheng and Mohammad Saif Al Suwaidi; Sitara-i-Pakistan for Majid bin Abdullah Al Kassabi and Engineer Abdullah Al-Swaha; and Sitara-i-Quaide-Azam for Haydar Qurbonov and Dr. Christine Schmotzer. The president also conferred Tamgha-i-Pakistan on Mountaineer Lukas Woerle, Dr. Aurore Dither, Prof. Valeria Fiorani Piacentini and Agostino Da Polenza; Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam for Zhang Baozhong and Xinmiin Liu: and Tamgha-i-Khidmat for Diana McArthur.



LONDON: High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK, Dr. Mohammad Faisal along with spouse and guests cutting cake to celebrate Independence Day of Pakistan.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem visited the Governor House Peshawar on Wednesday on the occasion of Independence Day.

visit to Governor House.

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

ceremonial police guard saluted Arshad Nadeem, and flower petals were showered along the route. A traditional Khattak dance was also performed.

Arshad Nadeem was ac-

companied by his coach,

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

of life. The Governor presented Arshad Nadeem with a traditional turban and a souvenir.

Faisal Karim Kundi also cut a cake celebrating Independence Day with

model for the youth.

Public School martyrs.

athletes global stage.

government to support young athletes to positively represent the province and country. In response, Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem thanked Governor Faisal Karim Kundi for the warm hospi-

Arshad Nadeem. In his address, he praised Nadeem's outstanding performance at the Paris Olympics, noting that Nadeem not only achieved a historic victory but also enhanced the joy of Independence Day for the na-

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presents

a traditional turban to Olympics Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem during his

He lauded Nadeem as a national hero who has elevated the pride of the entire country, describing his Olympic success as a role

The Governor highlighted the province's struggles with terrorism over recent years and the sacrifices made by the people, forces and Army He emphasized his

commitment to developing sports facilities in the province and supporting young to emulate Nadeem's success on the He urged the provincial

tality and reception. He acknowledged that his victory was the result of hard work, the support of his parents, and the prayers of the entire nation.

#### We have to make Pakistan..

Continued from page 1 merce and Trade, Jam Kamal Khan, provincial ministers, members of provincial assembly, high civil and military officials, dignitaries belonging to different shade of life and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister said that Pakistan had become 24th best economy of the world in 2017. The stock exchange of the country had emerged as the number one stock exchange of the South Asia, he recalled. He said that in his political career of 31 years, he had seen that some hidden forces became active when Pakistan pro-

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

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

Minister appreciated the

provincial government

for arranging excellent events marking the Jashne Azadi in Quetta.

development.

The prime minister

our past and move forward with the renewed pledge and resolve to take the country on the path of prosperity and development," He said although, today,

along with his mother. The prime minister resolved that in order to to fulfil the dream of Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he would continue

gest concern of everybody and without reducing the industry, agricutlture, and exports working day and night to resolve this issue," he said

nificant cut in electricity

PM Shehbaz Sharif, on

pressed the government's

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

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

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

He stressed the need for rejecting extremism, policy inconsistency and

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Institute of Strategic

Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on

Pakistan's Independence

Day with a vibrant celebra-

tion under the theme "Mera

ISSI was a tribute to the rich

diversity, cultural heritage,

and indomitable spirit of

the Pakistani people, a

ticipation of ISSI Interns,

the festivities were imbued

with youthful energy, creativity, and an unshakable

belief in Pakistan's

a series of short videos, de-

speeches, and performed

milli naghmay (national

kistan People's Party Sena-tor Maula Bakhsh Chandio

Wednesday extended warm

greetings to the nation and

urged citizens to reflect on

the sacrifices, struggles, and

visionary leadership of its

founding fathers, including

Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and

news channel, Senator

Chandio reminded the na-

tion that the true essence

of independence lies in up-

holding the principles of

justice, equality, and pros-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Islamabad's F-9 Park be-

came the heart of Pakistan's

Independence Day celebra-

tions, where a historic

event brought together

families, renowned artists,

and the country's first-ever

drone show, created unfor-

gettable memories last

night. The Islamabad Capi-

tal Territory (ICT) admin-

istration organized an Inde-

pendence Festival at F-9

Park, marking a significant

celebration in the federal

capital. The event was high-

lighted by Pakistan's first-

ever drone show, a spectacle

that captivated the audience

as 500 drones lit up the night

perity towards a future citizen, he added.

ICT lights up I Day with

historic celebrations

at F-9 Park

patterns

festivities

Talking to a private

Allama Iqbal.

The Interns presented

passionate

Chandio greets nation on

I-Day, urges reflection on

founding fathers' vision

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

progress and prosperity.

news release said.

The event, held at the

With the active par-

marked

peded national develop- tion and ample employment ment and prosperity. "Let opportunities. Pakistan grow," he urged. "We aim

The minister noted that achieving development goals would require peace, stability, uninterrupted policy continuity and ongoing reforms.
"We envision a Paki-

stan where education, development, and employment opportunities are accessible to all, without discrimination," he said.

He highlighted that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government was working to foster an investment-friendly environment conducive to business growth, innova-

ISLAMABAD, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar

Shahid Ahmed Laghari and other cutting cake on occasion flag hoisting

ISSI celebrates I Day with fervor

under the theme "Mera Pakistan"

cultural richness of various

regions across the country.

highlighted the vital role of

women in the nation's

progress and paid homage

to important personalities

who have played a pivotal

part in shaping Pakistan's

sized that the Independence

Day reminded us of the just

struggle of the Kashmiri

people and that Pakistan

would remain in abiding

solidarity with them until

they realized their inalien-

able right to self-determina-

those who fought for a

legacy, the nation can reig-

nite the spirit of patriotism.

unity, and progress that

defined the country's early

message is a timely re-

minder to work together

towards a brighter future,

built on the principles of

justice, equality, and pros-

purpose of independence is

the responsibility of every

sky, forming the Pakistani

flag and other mesmerizing

otic spirit, javelin thrower

Arshad Nadeem's recent

gold medal victory at the

Paris Olympics was also

celebrated, further boosting

national pride during the

free entry to citizens, allow-

ing families to participate

in the wide array of activi-

ties planned, especially for

children. Various food stalls

were set up, catering to the

tastes of food lovers, ensur-

ing that everyone had some-

thing to enjoy.

The festival offered

Adding to the patri-

Attaining the true

perity for all Pakistanis.

By honoring their

Senator Chandio's

separate homeland.

years, he added.

The singing of patri-

otic songs by the young Pakistan movement.

It was also empha-

The videos depicted

The celebration also

the multifaceted identity of of unity and pride. Their

Pakistan, highlighting the performances were met

ceremony during 77th Independence Day celebration.

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

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

Reflecting on the past, he recalled that the founding fathers of Pakistan established an Islamic state with principles of passion,

Interns filled the atmo-

sphere with a distinct sense

with deep appreciation, re-

flecting the collective na-

tional spirit that defined

Independence Day celebra-

ISSI, Ambassador Sohail

Mahmood, in his address,

extended heartfelt congratu-

lations on the occasion of

Pakistan's Independence

Interns for their creative

contributions and the mean-

ingful content they pro-

PAL marks

special

celebration

on 78th I-Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): In

line with nationwide fes-tivities, the Pakistan Acad-

emy of Letters (PAL) orga-

nized a special celebration

to commemorate the country's 78th Indepen-

the grand commencement of the Academy's three-day

Youth Festival, was at-

tended by hundreds of

young students from across

Dr. Najeeba Arif, Chairperson of PAL, warmly welcomed the

young participants and

other literary figures from

**IRSA** releases

386,200

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Indus River System Au-

thority (IRSA) on Wednes-

day released 386,200

cusecs water from various

rim stations with inflow of

released by IRSA, water

level in River Indus at

Tarbela Dam was 1547.00

feet and was 149.00 feet

higher than its dead level of

1,398 feet. Water inflow and

outflow in the dam was re-

corded as 280,700 cusecs

and 251,700 cusecs respec-

tively. The water level in

River Jhelum at Mangla

Dam was 1210.90 feet.

which was 162.90 feet

higher than its dead level of

1,050 feet.

According to the data

427,500 cusecs.

around the nation.

The event, marking

dence Ďay.

duced.

He commended the

Ambassador Sohail

Director General of

tions in Pakistan.

faith, making significant

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with the singers and students who per-

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

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

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

#### Mohsin congratulates nation on Independence Day ISLAMABAD (APP): of those who were martyred we must set aside egos, dif-

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has extended heartiest congratulations to the nation on the eve of Independence Day. He said,"we are grateful to Allah Almighty that

we are living in a free homeland. He said that we must learn the value of freedom from the enslaved nations." He emphasized that we must appreciate the true

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

He paid rich tribute to the unparalleled sacrifices

Rana felicitates

nation on I Day

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Industries

Production and National

Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday urged for col-

lective efforts towards

achieving a prosperous,

in the Pakistan Movement. He also honoured the great sacrifices of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the peace of the homeland. Interior Minister stated that there is no country as beautiful and resource-rich as Pakistan in the world, but unfortunately, as a nation, we have wasted 77 years in mutual dicords, parochial, linguistic and sectarian biases.

He stressed that now is the time for the entire nation to unite and think about Pakistan collectively, because if Pakistan exists,

He underscored that opment of Pakistan.

ferences, and divisions forever and contribute towards making Pakistan a great country. He said, "Independence Day demands that we must learn from past mistakes and move towards a bright future. We must all play our part in national development by following the principles of faith, unity, and discipline.' He expressed confi-

dence that with the grace of Allah Almighty, the nation will overcome every challenge. He called for the resolve to put aside personal interests and work together for the progress and devel-



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

#### **Abdullah Gul says:** Youth must gear up to spearhead country's journey to progress

Chairman, Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan (TJP), Mohammad Abdullah Gul while congratulating the nation on 78th Independence Day said that the youth must gear up to spearhead country's journey to progress and glory to continue the legacy of tireless struggle of our founding fathers for the motherland.

In his message on the Independence Day, the TJP Chairman said that Pakistan was the name of success, whereas the leadership of the neighbouring country who used to say that Pakistan could not last for three months, witnessed that Alhamdulillah today Pakistan was celebrating it's 78th Independence

Day.

with success and was mov ing towards development. 'Our first five-year economic plan was taken by South Korea and China. When the then Chinese president visited Pakistan, he visited the industry in Lahore and was stunned to see the progress in Pakistan's engineering sector. Pakistan gave a loan of 140 million dollars to Ger-

many in 1967," he said.

He added that since 1971 Pakistan continued its journey of development despite being facing sepa-

He said that today our youth should work tirelessly to utilize the country's resources. "We have progressed in every field, be it industrial sector or engineering. Be it sports or agriculture, Pakistan has

Abdullah Gul said that raised flags of success in Pakistan started its journey every field.

ISLAMABAD: A youngster is busy in dangerous and risky stunt at Islamabad Highway during Inde-

## **Depts concerned as** monsoon rains expected

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Wednesday urged all relevant authorities and the public to take necessary precautions to mitigate the potential impacts of flooding and land-(NEOC) of the NDMA anticipated further rains in

eas, a news release said. 'Rain may cause urban flooding in various cities and flash flooding in hilly areas, flow of water in the streams and nullahs is also expected to increase, the NDMA said.

The NDMA issued instructions to all relevant departments to alert Emergency Response Teams and mobilized resources to ensure a swift response to any arising situ-

casted period, whereas the public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities

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

people towards the Two

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

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

During the 77th Independence Day celebrations, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh highlighted the im-Mahmood also took the portance of freedom and opportunity to share a histhe sacrifices made by the torical perspective on the

On the occasion, he emphasized the need for all citizens to put aside their differences and work to-

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

peaceful and united Paki-Felicitating the nation gether for the development, stability, and security of the on the country's Indepen dence Day, he emphasized the crucial role of the youth in driving Pakistan's progress, urging them to harness their potential and contribute to the country's growth through their tireless ef-



#### tian Labor participated in 77 Independence Day celebration rally. **Senator Talal greets** NA speaker promotes 270 nation, pays tribute to

founders & martyrs the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Senator Talal Chaudhry

congratulated the nation and paid glowing tributes to the visionary founders of Pakistan and the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country's free-

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

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

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

affirm the commitment to

the country's prosperity,

#### gether towards a brighter all Pakistanis. **APHC** leadership in jail extends warm wishes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The jailed leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Wednesday felicitated the people and Government of Pakistan on the eve of their 77th Independence Day which is being observed (today) on August 14.

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

Pakistani nation. He expressed gratide to Pakistan for its continued political, moral, and diplomatic support to the

Senior APHC leader

to Pakistan on I Day Shabbir Ahmad Shah, in a message from Tihar Jail, termed the Kashmir dispute an unfinished agenda of the partition of the Indian sub-

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

Incarcerated APHC leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan, in his message from Tihar Jail, expressed the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's (IIOJK) gratitude to Pakistan for its unwavering support to their just struggle for self-deter-

#### Rivers Indus, Kabul still run in medium,

low flood

employees of

NA secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online)

Speaker National Assem-

bly (NA) Ayyaz Sadiq has

promoted 270 employees

of NA Secretariat on the

occasion of independence

promoted include grade one

spokesperson the employ-

ees were not promoted on

the basis of merit and se-

to grade 20 employees.

Those who have been

According to NA

According to daily FFC report on Wednesday all other major rivers of the Indus River System i.e. Rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej are discharging normal flows. The current Combined Live Storage of the country's major reservoirs (Tarbela, Mangla & Chashma) stands at 10.573 MAF (79.17% of the total live storage capacity of 13.354 MAF).

#### niority since the last 8 years. Earlier the promotions were given on pick and

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that presently, River Indus is experiencing Medium Flood in Guddu-Sukkur Reach whereas it is in Low Flood at Tarbela-Kalabagh-Chashma-Taunsa reaches while River Kabul is also running in Low Flood at

## pendence Day celebrations, in the Federal Capital. NDMA warns in KP from Aug 14-18

slides as National Emergency Operations Center various parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from August

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Moderate to heavy sion, Peshawar, Bannu, DI Khan, Hangu, Haripur, Kohat, Kurram, Lucky Marwat, Mohmand, Orakzai and Waziristan ar-Mohmand,

Tourists were adrains are expected in vised to avoid traveling to these areas during the fore-

ISLAMABAD: People having huge national flag marching on Islamabad Expressway to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan.

## Daily soice of Masse Independent

Thursday August 15, 2024

#### Rebuilding a dream

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

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

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

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

The reason we are in dire are bringing future unstraits is that over the decades, we have been constantly moving further and further away from the vision of the founding fathers, par- paroxysms of chaos and ticularly Quaid-i-Azam. If turmoil, it is becoming tunities, health facilities, employment or any of the Providence were to allow him take these regular combasics of life — these impacts for the country, to witness the Pakistan of today, would the great man

memorations seriously. In this case, however, in a country made up of population the greater health of an entire genrecognise the nation he mostly of youth, taking we will be in terms of eration struggled for? It is highly a moment to consider the might. sort of world into which

The Quaid left a blueprint for how the state should be run, and most successive rulers have done all in their power to ensure none of his directives were implemented. For example, he had spoken white with flags all about democracy, constitutionalism, protecting minorities, eliminating corruption, etc. In each of these areas we from Karachi and Lahore, have done the exact opposite. to Quetta and Peshawar, In his 1943 Eid message, he and Gilgit. From glaciers said that "grave political issues cannot be settled by the stan is a proud nation, cult of the knife or by gangsterism. ... Nor can political geography, but mostly with its people. views be altered by the threats of violence". These ering from Covid 19 and prescient words sum up our a devastating 2022 flood, it is critically vulnerable current predicament.

Political forces are showing vived a macroeconomic cliff-hanger in 2023 that incredible rigidity, while the is slowly showing signs powers that be refuse to stay of abatement, and is facwithin the confines of their lenges that leave people constitutional role. Respect and authorities alike on edge. Lingering in the background are persistent trampled underfoot, while those who peacefully protest fundamental governance for their rights are dubbed as 'terrorists' and 'troublemakers'. The only path to redemption lies in upholding the constitutional framework, and respecting the popular will. realise the Sustainable Jinnah was crystal clear Development Goals, and \$53 billion required to do about this, and it rings true so, alarm bells are ringing now as it did then.

'True' independence — and not in the sense of a political slogan — can only be achieved when Pakistan's children are assured of a better tomorrow, and the people of this country are freed from a stifling 22 million children out of existence, and can achieve school and a mere 46pc literacy rate among their full potential.

#### Trial and retribution

#### **Zahid Hussain**

In a sign of the times, the all-powerful spymaster is facing courtmartial proceedings. Retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed is being charged for misuse of authority and violating the Army Act. It is for the first time in the country's history that a former ISI chief has been arrested and will stand trial for a serious crime. The timing of this action against him is curious. But more important is the message being con-

A highly controversial former intelligence chief, Lt-Gen Hameed had been unsome time even when he was in service. But perhaps no one expected him to be arrested and face court martial. While he is being investigated in connection with a housing scheme scanunspecified activities postretirement appear more se-

There is also speculation that he might be implicated in the May 9 incident. To many, his close association with the incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan is seen as a reason behind his arrest. It may also seem to some as a politically motivated case instead of what is being described as one driven by the military's 'tough internal accountability process'.

Interestingly, the development came amidst a worsening stand-off between the military-backed ruling coalition and the PTIled opposition. Speculations of a former intelligence chief being involved in violent protests that targeted military installations will not only heighten political tensions but also have implications for the security establishment. The arrest raises questions about the establishment's deep involvement in Pakistan's politics and the unchecked power that intelligence chiefs wield

in the limelight since 2017 as a two-star general and DG-C ISI during the TLP's Faizabad dharna, which paralysed the capital for weeks. The footprint of the intelligence agency in orchestrating the protest was apparent to most. A damning Supreme Court ruling in the dharna case reinforced these allegations, with an

Faiz Hameed has been

extremist religious group storming the capital, apparently to undermine the civilian administration.

Interestingly, Lt-Gen Hameed was also a signatory to the controversial deal that ended the dharna. It is hard to recall another instance of a senior intelligence official involved in brokering a deal between the government and extremists challenging the writ of the state. Many have pointed out that it could not have done so without the approval of the military leadership at that time. Not surprisingly, the clerics went back home triumphant, after paying rich tributes to the then army chief for his arbitration. The footage widely telecast on private TV channels of the Punjab Rangers chief distributing cash to the protesters and allowing them to take selfies with him was distressing

Lt-Gen Hameed became the face of such political manipulation, including the alleged engineering of the 2018 election results that brought Imran Khan to power. It was also in 2017 that he was allegedly involved in the Top City was accused of orchestrating raids on the offices and residence of the owner of the housing scheme.

This would indeed constitute criminal misuse of authority but there was no 'internal accountability process' initiated against him then. Instead, he was elevated to the three-star rank and appointed ISI chief. He was all-powerful during Imran Khan's government. The former prime minister later admitted that he relied on the intelligence apparatus for everything from propping up a fragile coalition government to taming the opposition. That was the reason that Imran Khan didn't want Faiz Hameed to leave his

But the general was not unique. Historically, the office of spy chief in the country makes any incumbent all-powerful. Most previous chiefs have also been accused of political engineering. In fact, the suppression of the opposition is more pronounced today.

Faiz Hameed reflected what has been taking place within the security establish-ment, which has been housing society scandal. He increasingly involved in a

game of thrones. His case is perhaps just the tip of the iceberg.

The claim of internal accountability process can be debated. For seven years, no action was taken against the general in the housing scandal despite the evidence against him. It was only following Supreme Court directives that an investigation was initiated. By then, he had taken early retirement after having lost the race for the position of army chief. The situation would have been completely different had he got the coveted po-

was, what the ISPR statement referred to as his post retirement activities, that led to the former ISI chief's arrest and initiation of court-martial proceedings against him. The military must

specify the activities which he indulged in and that violated the Army Act to stop speculation about his differences with the current army leadership. For sure, there must

be no tolerance for the breach of law and misuse of power. But the application of the law must not be

selective. A major issue here is the establishment's deep involvement in the country's politics. Faiz Hameed is a product of the system that allowed him sweeping powers. For instance, it has been asked why military spokesmen should issue political statements and why media representatives should be told what they can and cannot publish.

In a recent public address, the army chief is reported to have declared that he did not consider anyone a Pakistani who did not believe in the Sharia and the Constitution. The question to ask is whether the security establishment, in accordance with constitutional provisos, refrains from meddling in

What we are witnesstoday is the establishment's dominance in a civilian set-up. The leaders of the ruling coalition who are hailing the decision to initiate courtmartial proceedings against the former ISI chief do not mind leaning on the establishment to survive in power. This may come back to haunt them.

## Striving to hope

#### Rafia Zakaria

Today is Independence Day. On the back of Arshad Nadeem's victory in the Olympics this less grim than the ones immediately preceding it. As many commentators have opined at length, the victory of an underdog for an underdog nation points to possibilities and in doing so charges the engine of hope. And yet, while the underdog's story is the material that will fuel the dreams of many millions, spent on reflecting on the world into which we derdogs.

Aug 12 marked the annual UN commemoration of International Youth Day. As the world hurtles into ever greater like a worthwhile use of

anyone that Pakistan is experiencing what is euphemistically referred to as the 'youth bulge', an unusually large youth cohort — in Pakistan's over 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 30, and around 30pc in the 15- to 29years bracket.

The problem, of course, is that when this topic or these figures are offered up, too many people succumb to the fallacy that more is always good. Instead of understanding that having a large population of voungsters virtually guarantees that there will be too few resources to give these young people a decent existence — be they educational opporemployment or any of the

we are bringing even in what people do, or lockdowns of Covid-19 Instagram create an enmore young ones seems rather what people do that created a general vironment of constant not do. Despite all sorts of campaigns since It is not news to Pakistan's inception, the fertility rate in the country is around 3.5, which is the highest in South Asia (not counting Afghanistan which is also a part of Saarc). The 'youth bulge' is a topic of concern, so much so that it often figures in the civil service examinations that many of our youth try to pass in the hope of a better future. The story there is dismal; the vast majority will not pass the exam and will be relegated to the grim fate of searching for iobs that are simply not there. According to the cies are being imple-Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-2024, the age group between 15-24 years shows the highest unemployment rate in the country. Not only does this create severe and be transformed and be long-lasting economic made more hospitable for

feeling of uncertainty regarding what the world holds for our youth. The pandemic passed on its longer-term effects in the form of inflation, a constricted job market and drying up opportunities to the youth, many of to escape this environment of negativity. It is one thing to encourage the young population to have hope and to look at the victory of an Olympian as an example of being able to persevere against all odds, and it is quite another to hope for a better trajectory for them when very few polimented that guarantee a happier future.

In addition to these measures, the social and cultural environment of Pakistani society must Evidence of this lies came of age during the shown that apps like the country — the to win far more often.

young people report high levels of anxiety and depression because they feel pressured to match the consumption levels and lifestyle of wealthier

While a lot is said in whom wish to emigrate the media about this, very little is done to help young people manage the mental health consequences of the new world. It is not enough people to put down their phones or to stop using them. This may make sense to older people who did not grow up in an environment where emotional stresses assothey were in constant ciated with inhabiting a to work for those who their entire lives.

the odds is a good thing young people. Social and all examples of do- laudable when the undermedia has made the lives ing so are worthy ones dog wins, but at some of the very wealthy and to hold up before the point, it is also necessary famous accessible to young generation. How- to aim to be the favourite ion. even the poorest indiever, it is incumbent in a competition. Many young people vidual. Research has upon the older adults in Favourites, after all, tend

grown-ups so to speak to also reduce the obstacles and odds that young people will have to face. This begins with implementing workable programmes to stop population growth so that we are not stacking the deck against those who are already living.

Secondly, efforts need to be made by the government to develop trainee and internship programmes so that those who emerge from educato simply tell young tional institutions do not search aimlessly for jobs that are simply not there. Finally, it is important for people to understand the particular mental and possession of their virtual world that is both phones, but is less likely necessary for social survival and cruel in terms see it as an important of its ability to eviscerate navigation device for the self-confidence of those who have not vet Prevailing against grown to adulthood. It is always fantastic and

#### Pakistan at **Samuel Rizk**

of my first activities. Dressed in green and around, colleagues

Zindabad", a message I heard all around the country as I made my way to upper Chitral, Hunza to shorelines, and everything in-between, Pakiblessed with its beautiful

complicated. Still recovto climate change, has suring debt and security chalthe country on an inclusive, sustainable develop-

ment path. Data reveals this complicated storyline with more nuance. With six years remaining to with 40 per cent poverty, gaping gender disparities, with Pakistan projected to achieve only 35 out of 169 development targets. Pakistan at 77 is a young country, literally and metaphorically, with 60pc of a rapidly growing population under the

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

stan is greater than the sum of its statistics, a country with substantial ambition and potential, appearing dormant at times, and masking underlying factors of resilience and connectivity. Among many critical development priorities, three areas stand out as particularly promising: The first centres

around people. Investing in Pakistan's human capital is an investment in its present and future. At the dawn of the republic, Pakistan's founding father, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, stated: "...if we want to make this great state of Pakistan happy and prosperous, should wholly and solely concentrate on the wellbeing of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor". Pakistan's GDP could gain \$251bn by 2025 if women are as equally connected to the economy as men. And, away from seeing a youth bulge as a security or poverty risk, domestic investment and productivity can be turbocharged with youth entrepreneurs at the centre, skilled not only for their individual benefit, but as future business leaders. Connecting formal, technical and vocational training to future-

Pakistan and globally. The second area must be readying Paki- peaceful and prosperous. stan for an economy that

ready jobs guarantees a

significant return on in-

vestment, especially

when anticipating a more

digitised future of work in

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

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

hind, resolved to see a Pa-

kistan that is as equitable

and inclusive as it is

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

#### Beyond the javelin

Mahir Ali A singular athletic triumph in Paris triggered spontaneous jubilation in the

run-up to Independence Day in a nation that might otherwise have wondered what was worth celebrating 77 years after its birth. Success, as they say, has many fathers, and Arshad Nadeem's remarkable individual achieve-

ment predictably spurred

a flurry of efforts to scrape off a bit of glitter from Pakistan's first Olympic gold medal in 40 years — and to shower him with the kind of institutional support that was largely absent during his lonely journey to the top. By Monday, though, the focus of national attention had shifted to another first: an ISPR press

release stated that retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed was in military custody. He faces a court martial on charges that cover both his tenure as spy chief and its aftermath as well as activities that followed his early

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

transpire. There was a studentworker revolt in 1968-69 that rat-tled the established order. But the events that followed effecti-vely put democracy on the backburner, and it has never versary of independence completely recovered. The present scenario suggests that it never will unless the depressing status quo is superseded by Bangladeshstyle resistance — spearheaded not by the clueless PTI, but by rights-based movements, which are, unfortunately, anathema to the powers that be. These are the kind of movements that the established order cannot countenance, precisely because they militate against its repetitive absurdities.

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

But while the future is unwritten, one can draw considerable comfort from the attitudes of the mothers of Arshad Nadeem and India's Neeraj Chopra, both of whom claimed their offspring's friendly rival as an equally worthy son. Reports suggest the social media response was largely

That is something both Pakistan and India should be celebrating this week — but without losing sight of the various ailments that blight both nations in different ways. -

The female students clad in

Sindhi, Balochi, Kalash,

Kashmiri

Punjabi, Cholistan and

other regional dresses

accorded a warm reception

to the CM Punjab by

clapping. The excerpts

from the speech of Quaid-e-Azam were also presented in the ceremony.

The differently-abled

children presented the

national anthem in

connection with the

and sat among the differently-abled children

and appreciated their

presenting the national

anthem. Ambassadors from

various countries and

prominent personalities

from different walks of life

participated in the Independence Day

Îndependence

scouts standing on the stairs of Badshahi Mosque Hazuri Bagh.

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali

Shah launches a 10-day polio eradication campaign

by administering polio drops to children at Khalid

CM conducts surprise visit

to CBD Walton project,

directs swift completion

LAHORE (APP): Punjab possible. "We are fully chief Minister Maryam aware of the difficulties

surprise visit to the CBD due to the ongoing

Minister reviewed the directives, the three-lane

progress of the carriageway of Walton construction activities and Road is set to be opened

of the Walton Road drain. Additionally, the dual The CM emphasized carriageway is expected to the importance of quality be completed by October,

construction and directed with construction work

that the project be continuing around the clock

completed as soon as to meet these deadlines.

being faced by the people

construction of Walton Road," she stated, highlighting the

government's commitment

to minimizing public

In line with her

inconvenience.

Jameel Dispensary, Garden East.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif made a

Walton project on

Wednesday, closely inspecting the ongoing work on the Walton Road

47 project, which connects

Kalma Chowk to Walton.

During her visit, the Chief

The CM left her seat

Independence Day.

CM Punjab attends flag

hoisting ceremony on

77th Independence Day

AHORE (APP): Punjab and the school bands

Nawaz Sharif hoisted the

national flag at the Alamgiri

Gate of Lahore Fort on the

occasion of Independence

National anthem was

resented on the occasion.

The Chief Minister

participated in a special

ceremony being held at the

to the Mazar-e-Iqbal, laid

a floral wreath and offered

Fateha at the Mazar-e-

Iqbal. She prayed for the

prosperity and stability

of the country and paid

homage to the Poet of

Muhammad Iqbal in

glowing words. CM Maryam Nawaz

Sharif was presented a

salute by the smartly

turned out contingent of

The CM paid a visit

Hazuri Bagh.

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

Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori visited the mausoleum of the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on Wednesday morning and laid a wreath at the 'Mazar' and offered Fateha.

Governor also recorded his comments in the guest book.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and senior members of the provincial cabinet were also present on he

Speaking to the media at the shrine, Governor said "Today we pledge in front of Mazar-e-Quaid that we have to make more efforts to fulfill the purpose for which Pakistan was created. He said the spirit of the nation is still so high and today the nation to remain united Olympian Arshad Nadeem and resilient in the face of will be with us at Governor House to celebrate

Independence Day."

Governor Tessorisaid, "Celebrating independence day together is a sign that we are not

individuals but a nation. Presenting solute to the armed forces and law enforcement personnels, Governor said that our soldiers and policemen were sacrificing their lives to safeguard frontiers of out of its crisis.

During the control of the crisis of the critical of the crisis of the critical of the crisis of the critical of t our homeland.'

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

of Karachi are specially invited at Governor House to celebrate Independence day of Pakistan.

Meanwhile Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has urged counter divisive forces unity in that are spreading hatred in

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and

Olympics Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem along with other officials cutting

were also present on the

occasion.Murad Ali Shah

said that the anti-polio

campaign launched in 85

union councils of Karachi

city targeted over 1.1

million children under five

to receive oral polio vaccine

1,037,000 children (ages

four months to five years)

would receive fractional

inactivated polio vaccine

stated that innovative and

painless jet injector

technology is being used to

target high-risk areas in

Karachi, where the polio

mission aims to stop the

spread of the virus in the

Independence Day. She

highlighted that over 3

million trees are being

planted across Punjab as

also introduced a unique

plantation experiment

involving the use of seed

balls, emphasizing that

tree plantation is not only

a virtuous act but also a

Environmental Protection

Raja Jahangir, DG Wildlife

Mudassir Riaz Malik, DG

national necessity.

Secretary

The Senior Minister

part of the campaign.

He added that the

virus is still circulating.

The Chief Minister

(f-IPV) injections.

the cake of Independence Day at Governor House.

**CM Sindh launches** 

**Ten-day long** 

anti-polio drive

crucial 10-day polio

eradication campaign aimed

at immunising over 1.1

million children under five

in 85 union councils of the

city.He said 1,037,000

children, ages four months

to five years, would receive

fractional inactivated polio

will use innovative,

painless jet injectors to

target high-risk areas in

Karachi, where the polio

media, just after launching

a 10-day vital anti-polio

campaign, August 15-25,

2024, by administering

polio drops to children at

Khalid Jameel Dispensary,

Senior Minister Marriyum

Aurangzeb marked the

country's Independence

Day by inaugurating the monsoon plantation campaign titled "One Person, One Tree."

emphasizes environmental

stewardship, was launched

with the planting of a local

citrus sapling by the Senior

During the ceremony,

Minister on Wednesday.

Marriyum Aurangzeb

offered prayers for the

nation's success and

The campaign, which

East

Provincial Ministers city.

on

**Senior minister launches** 

monsoon plantation campaign

on Independence Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's saplings to celebrate

prosperity, urging citizens PHA Tahir Wattoo, and

to participate in the other dignitaries were

initiative by planting present at the event.

He was talking to the

virus still circulates.

'In the campaign, we

vaccine (f-IPV) injections.

Wednesday, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of following the principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to steer the country

During the media briefing, congratulated the nation on upcoming

youth and citizens. He

cited the response to the

2022 floods as evidence of the province's determination, noting that despite expectations of He said, "The people prolonged flooding, the Karachi are specially people quickly drained the water, prepared their lands, and cultivated

wheat. Reflecting on Pakistan's history, Shah expressed confidence that the nation would overcome its current challenges, just current challenges, as it has in the past. He emphasizing the need to stressed the importance of achieving growth, economic development, Speaking at the improvements in education Mazar-e-Quaid on and healthcare.

Rangers make

extraordinary

security on I-Day

KARACHI (APP): On the

occasion of Pakistan's

A spokesperson said

on Wednesday that Rangers

personnel conducted

extensive patrols in key

areas of the city, including

Mazar-e-Quaid, Shahrah-

e-Faisal, Tariq Road, M. A.

Jinnah Road, Allahwala

Chowrangi, Nursery,

Baloch Colony Bridge,

Heavy Bike Squad.

Security was heightened

around major landmarks,

markets, shopping malls,

parks, and highways to

70 persons

injured in

aerial firing

in different

areas of Karachi

KARACHI (Online): As

many as 70 people have

been injured in different

areas of Karachi due to

sources children and

women are included in the

injured in large number.

shifted to hospitals.

According to Rescue

The injured have been

Rescue sources said

Firing incidents have

injured have been brought

from Mari Pur road, PIB

Colony, Purana Golimar

taken place in the areas of

Jamshed Quarters, Gulshan

Iqbal, Liyari and Malir 15.

aerial firing.

and Korangi.

ensure public safety.

adjoining areas.



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

#### Flag hoisting ceremony held at Governor House to celebrate I Day

ceremony was held at the Governor's House in Peshawar on Wednesday on the occasion of Independence Day.

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

The event saw the special participation of Consul Generals from the United States of America, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Provincial Assembly member Ahmad Karim Kundi, along with the staff of the Governor's House and other distinguished guests, also attended the

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

Following the flag hoisting, special prayers

dignified flag hoisting country's development and prosperity.

> Karim Kundi extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire nation on Pakistan's Independence

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

the need for peace, prosperity, development in the province and called for collective efforts to honor the sacrifices that led to the

country's independence. In his message on Independence Kundi congratulated the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the merged districts.

He highlighted that the free nation is a result of the great sacrifices and sustained struggle of our Kundi reaffirmed his

the country along the path of development in line with the principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

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

As a nation, Kundi pledged to fulfill the dreams of Pakistan's

He underscored the significance of the green and white flag as a symbol of the country's identity and independence.

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

## PESHAWAR (APP): A were offered for the commitment to advancing

nations.

founder and work towards building a prosperous, peaceful, and stable Pakistan.

ideological homeland.

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab youth must act as a strong, KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Memon, Dr. Azra Fazal Murad Ali Shah launched a Pechuho, and Zulfiqar Shah Pechuho, and entire Pakistani nation on the occasion of 77<sup>th</sup>

> Independence Day. In her message, she emphasized that Pakistan stands as a testament to the sacrifices made by the nation's great leaders and ancestors, urging every citizen to cherish the freedom that was hard-

Karsaz, Drig Road, Natha Khan Road, Star Gate, In a statement issued Airport Road, Shaheen here on Wednesday, she Complex Chowrangi Ziauddin Ahmed Road, I.I. called upon parents to protect their children from Chundrigarh Road and discord and unrest, warning The patrols were that elements within the country are attempting to foster division. "The bolstered by the Rangers Anti-Terrorist Squad and

a sense of subservience in our nation's youth."

Reflecting on the significance Independence Day, the minister reminded the nation that freedom was not easily won. It came at the cost of countless sacrifices made by Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions in their struggle to establish a separate homeland for Muslims. "August 14 their tireless efforts and the monumental struggle they endured," she said

#### Ceremony held in PHC to mark I-Day PESHAWAR (APP): Ån

impressive ceremony was held on the premises of Peshawar High Court (PHC) to celebrate assessed the development for traffic in September.

abroad are trying to instill | Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Judges, Advocate General Deputy Attorney General, District and Session Judge Peshawar, Chairman Services Tribunal and members associations attended the ceremony.

Chief Justice hoisted the flag while a smart contingent of police presented salute.

Addressing ceremony, Chief Justice congratulated the nation on serves as a reminder of Independence Day and paid tribute to struggle of Muslim leaders to get separate homeland.



#### **PWPA** chairperson leads flag hoisting ceremony

Chairperson of the Punjab Protection Authority (PWPA) Hina Pervaiz Butt led a flaghoisting ceremony at her office here on Wednesday, followed by the planting of event was

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

In her address, Hina Pervaiz Butt extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan on the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. She emphasized that the nation envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal is rapidly progressing. The vision of development

prosperity is at the heart of the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League- Association.

CM Maryam Nawaz, Punjab has entered a new era of development. Within just a few months, Maryam Nawaz has accomplished feats that no previous chief minister could achieve. The leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is working to fulfill Quaid-e-Azam's mission and bring Allama Iqbal's dream to

Nawaz, she said and added

that under the leadership of

Later, Hina Pervaiz Butt participated in an Independence celebration at the Liberty Police Khidmat Markaz where she also performed a flag-hoisting ceremony and cut a cake in honor of the occasion. The event was graced by the presence of CTO Lahore Ammara Athar, Chairman of the All Pakistan

#### Largest national flag hoisted in Sukkur

national flag hoisting ceremony on Wednesday held here to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan.Spokesperson to Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur along with senior officers hoisted the largest national flag.

A large number of the people from minorities also attended the flag hoisting ceremony. Arslan Shaikh while addressing the gathering emphasized the need for unity in these other officials.

SUKKUR (APP): A challenging times to propel the country forward. Arslan congratulated participants on Independence Day and also paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan.

The event was attended by Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi, DIGP Pir Muhammad Shah, Commissioner Dr MB Raja Dharejo, SSP Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh and



Fataha on the grave of Poet of Nation Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal at Mazar-e-Iqbal during Independence Day celebrations, in the Provincial Capital.

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

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

A smartly turned-out contingent of the cadets of the Pakistan Naval Academy and sailors clad in ceremonial dresses assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with enthusiasm, traditional spirit, and military

customs. Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy

graced the occasion as Chief Guest and reviewed the guard. The Chief Guest and

cadets of the Pakistan Navy presented Qaumi Salam to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. ceremonial The

mounting of the guard was followed by the laying of a floral wreath at the Mazare-Quaid by the chief guest on behalf of the Chief of the Naval Staff, officers, and men of the Pakistan

Later on, the Chief Guest Commandant of Pakistan Naval Academy, Khalid, Commodore offered Fateha.

#### ANF recovers 15 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations, managed to recover 15 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that 6 kg hashish was recovered near Chungi Amar Sadhu

In another operation 5.4 kg weed was recovered from a vehicle intercepted on Coastal Highway Gwadar and an accused was arrested.

1 kg ice was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested in Dera Ghazi Khan. 990 grams hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near Bacha Khan Bridge Karachi

PESHAWAR: A view of Bala Hisar decorated with lights during 77 Independence Day celebration on 14 August.

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

renewed fervor and enthusiasm. The formal proceedings began with the hoisting of the National Flag, as the Navy band played the National

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

SBP, Governor Jameel Ahmad's message which was readout by Director Haroon Rasheed, praised the immense sacrifices made establishing a separate been no import homeland for Muslims of restrictions, and IT exports

macroeconomic indicators.

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

The Governor also noted that the situation regarding foreign reserves has improved, with reserves rising to USD 9.3 by the founding fathers in Furthermore, there have import

KARACHI (APP): The Indian subcontinent. Independence Day was celebrated at SBP with improvements in have risen significantly. These improvements, he emphasized, bode well for the country's economy.

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



ISLAMABAD: Commuters purchasing national flag displayed by the roadside vendors as the nation celebrates the Independence Day of Pakistan.

#### NTDC adds another 250 MVA autotransformer at Sheikhupura grid station

LAHORE (APP): National however, NTDC team Limited (NTDC) has shutdown period by successfully added a 250 deploying extra resources, MVA autotransformer at 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhupura to enhance its power transmission capacity.

The augmentation work of existing 160 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer (T-8) with 250 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer has been completed by Project Delivery (North) Lahore, the autotransformer successfully energized, today. A shutdown was approved up to 14-08- commercial and industrial 2024 for this work, consumers.

and completed the project 03-Company days before the scheduled according to NTDC spokesman here Monday.

The augmentation of this autotransformer will enhance the loading capacity of 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhupura and provide relief to the areas under Lahore Electric Company (LÉŚCO).

enhanced The capacity of this grid station will ensure smooth power supply, which will benefit the domestic,

#### Quaid's principles can develop Pak speedily

Chamber of Commerce and effectively to address the Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Wednesday said that true whether they relate to poverty, education, or implementation of the Quaid-i-Azam's principles of "Unity, Faith, and Discipline" in every sphere of life can serve as a powerful catalyst for populace. A nation driving Pakistan towards grounded in faith is more sustainable economic resilient and optimistic, growth, development, and prosperity.

traders delegation led by collective faith can inspire Muslim Khan Buneri here, he added the best way to celebrate Independence strong work ethic, all of Day is to practice the which are crucial for motto of the father of nation in their lives to lead the entire Muslim Ummah. He said unity fosters social cohesion, reducing internal conflicts and strengthening collective efforts towards national goals. He said, "When we are united, we the rule of law.

LAHORE (APP): SAARC can work together more healthcare.' He said Faith, on the

other hand, instills a sense purpose determination among the capable of overcoming obstacles with a strong In a meeting with a belief in its future. This innovation entrepreneurship, and a economic growth, he

Regarding discipline, he said, it ensures that efforts are organized and directed efficiently that good promotes governance, adherence to

#### **SNGPL** disconnects 10 more connections over violations

LODHRAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control ask Force raided and disconnected 10 more

connections. Three consumers metres were found seal tempered and further legal action recommended by disconnecting connections. Likewise, six more

metres were disconnected due to suspicious tampering and were disconnected recommend further legal While one action. consumer's meter was on billing and was installed on site. On which metre was disconnected and legal action recommended. Moreover, extensions from five consumers, who were found guilty of supplying gas to more than one house, were also removed.

#### **SCCI** celebrates I-Day

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

The event was by Leader Businessmen Forum, Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, President SCCI, Fuad Ishaq, Senior Vice President SCCI and other office bearers. On the occasion, glowing tributes were paid to forefathers for their struggle and sacrifices for a separate motherland.

Addressing the ceremony, speakers vowed to follow golden principles of founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.



RAWALPINDI: A roadside stall holder decorates glasses to attract customers, on footpath on Muree Road in the city.



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

#### **Experts stress enhancing** public finance for reducing malnutrition

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

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

LAHORE

Federation of Engineering

Institutions of Central and

South Asia (FEICSA) Secretary General Engineer

Sultan Mahmood said on

Wednesday that architects

and engineers play equally

building projects, driving

the progress and prosperity of a country.
Addressing the national flag hoisting

ensures that buildings and

infrastructures are not

only safe and efficient but

also durable and cost-

effective.

and

crucial roles in nation-

Noor, Dean of Allied Health Sciences Dr. Bashir Kantt, Donor Coordinator PM Secretariat Asma Andarabi, representatives from the health, education, women's tracking the allocations for development, agriculture,

livestock, fisheries, and

well as the other UN partners - World Food Programme (WFP), research academia, civil society, and media. Dr. Saba Shuja, ECD

Manager at UNICEF Pakistan, and Muhammad Iqbal, Resource Person from the SUN Unit KPK, Gillani, and notable joined as facilitators both attendees including DG in person and virtually, to **Engineers play** 

integral to the practical

architectural designs. Their

technical know-how fuels

innovation in construction,

making projects more

resilient and adaptable to

Syed Amir Jafri, leading consulting architect and member Pakistan

Council of Architects and

Town Planner briefly

speaking on the occasion

public

implementation

future needs.

building: FEICSA

ceremony here at Creative said that architects are

Group of companies responsible for envisioning

headquarters, he said and designing structures

hand, bring these cultural landscape of a

architectural visions to life. nation. He said they create

Their expertise in functional, aesthetic, and structural integrity, sustainable spaces, materials, and technology whether residential

constructing bridges, identity of cities, roads, and airports to contributing to their

developing energy systems economic growth and

networks, engineers are life for the people.

transportation enhancing the quality of

buildings,

infrastructures,

From architects shape the

monuments. By blending

creativity with practicality,

WASH departments, as vorks, and discussions.

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

#### **KPT Chairman** marks I-Day with flag hoisting

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Port Trust (KPT) commemorated

Chairman KPŤ, Syedain Raza Zaidi, led the event as the chief guest. accompanied by all General Managers and Heads of Departments, said a news release. The celebrations began with the sounding of sirens for two minutes, followed by the hoisting of engineers on the other that define the physical and the national flag by Chairman Zaidi. He also reviewed a guard of honor presented by the Port Security Force.

the significance of independence and paid contributions and sacrifices of the nation's forefathers in the creation of Pakistan. He honored those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to secure.

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

workshop and added

## ceremony

Independence Day, with a ceremony filled with national spirit at the KPT Head Office on Wednesday.

In his address, Chairman Zaidi highlighted tribute to the selfless



customers at F-10 area.

#### President of JazzCash, joins Forbes Finance Council

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

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

With over 25 years of experience, Murtaza has consistently demonstrated his ability to drive business growth and innovation. His leadership at JazzCash, a joint venture between Jazz and Mobilink Microfinance Bank and part of the VEON Group, has been instrumental transforming the digital services financial landscape in Pakistan.

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

He will engage with other respected leaders in private forums and members-only events and share his insights as a fintech expert Forbes.com and in Q&A panels.

"It is an honor to join the Forbes Finance Council and contribute to the global conversation on fintech and digital financial inclusion," said Murtaza Ali. "At JazzCash, we are committed to bringing digital financial services to every Pakistani, especially unbanked the underbanked. I look forward to sharing our experiences and learning from other leaders to driving continue innovation and growth in the sector.

#### **Kashif Ashfaq** hoists national flag at PFC HQ

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan was carved out as an independent Muslim homeland after immense sacrifices and bloodshed to lead their lives according to the tenets of Islam. Pakistan Furniture

Council (PFC) Chief

Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq expressed these views after hoisting national flag at PFC Headquarter on Wednesday. He said the journey to independence was marked by relentless struggles, hardships, and unwavering faith in the vision of a separate homeland for Muslims. The founders of Pakistan led by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, struggled for a separate land where Muslims could practice their religion freely, govern themselves according to Islamic principles, and protect their cultural and religious identity

#### WASA sings MoU of 10mln USD regarding mega projects of urban flooding MULTAN (APP): Water signed between WASA

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

Record of Discussion for

Project was held at Development and Public Engineering Health Secretariat in which Special Secretary Housing Punjab Tayyab Farid, Director Development Authority (MDA) Rana Saleem Ahmed, Managing Director WASA Khalid Raza Khan, Country Director of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Mr. Je Ho Yeon and Focal Person for the project Deputy Director Planning & Development WASA Muhammad Nadeem were Muhammad Nadeem

said these funds would be provided in the form of grant-in-aid to WASA participation of the Korea. Under the agreement

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

He said that capacity building of WASA Multan employees would also be done regarding Urban

Flooding.
On this occasion, DG MDA Rana Saleem Ahmed said that after the preparation of the master plan of this mega project, the risk of urban flooding would be decreased in the historical city. He said that this project would also play an important role in capacity building of the employees of WASA Multan. Managing Director WASA Khalid Raza Khan gave good news to the citizens of Multan and said that the government's plan to provide mega project to WASA Multan through the

friendly country Korea



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

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

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

staff. The plant's annual observance of Pakistan's Independence Day was a profound testament to the camaraderie and unity between its Chinese and

Pakistani staff. This year's festivities were marked by heartfelt ceremonies that showcased a remarkable bond between the two nations. The day began with a traditional flag-raising ceremony, a moment of great significance for the

Pakistani employees. He spoke about the As the Pakistani flag importance of patriotism, conducted with great and reverence and national pride, said a news release.

and acknowledgment that the Chinese colleagues have for Pakistan's

from the of the entire workforce emphasized the collective spirit and mutual respect that define the working environment at Huaneng

Shandong Ruyi Pakistan. Mr. Xu, the company's president, played a pivotal role in the day's events and his address to the staff was a highlight, reflecting both gratitude

encouragement. In his speech, Mr. Xu extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Pakistani employees, celebrating Pakistan's 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. He spoke about the

was hoisted against the not just on national backdrop of the power holidays but as a daily plant, the ceremony was commitment to excellence "Patriotism," he remarked, "is about contributing This symbolic act was positively to our not just a display of community and our patriotism but also an company every single day.

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

Pakistan marks its birthday today, the sweet aroma of patriotism wafts through the air where confectionery artists across the country action, with local bakeries were seen busy in crafting and sweet shops offering masterpieces with cake designs that reflect the nation's spirit, making the occasion even more unforgettable.

Cake shops across the country are witnessing a surge in demand for custom cakes. From Lahore to Karachi, and Islamabad to Peshawar cake shops are working overtime to meet the orders, said a report aired by a Private news channel. Cake cutting ceremonies have become an integral part Independence Day celebrations, said Hassan,

a event organizer. It is a way to show unity, solidarity and cakes are the perfect centerpiece, he added.

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): As shops and cake cutting ceremonies is not just limited to major cities Even small towns and villages are getting in on the their own specia Independence day treats, said a cake seller.

Cakes are a big part of our celebrations, and this year we wanted to do something special, said Ali, a local resident who ordered a custom cake for his workplace celebration.
The attention to

detail is impressive, said Sarah, a customer who ordered a cake for her family gathering. The cake designer incorporated the Pakistani flag's colors and even added a small edible Quaid-e-Azam portrait,  $she\ added.$ 

Cake cutting ceremonies are a wonderful way to boost morale and foster a sense of unity among our team members, ounts said a government for employee. Cake cutting ceremonies remind us of the sacrifices made by our forefathers and the importance of protecting our nation's freedom, said

## Ukraine is advancing deeper into Russia, **Z**elenskiy says

**Monitoring Desk** 

KYIV: Ukraine said on Wednesday its forces had advanced further into Russia's Kursk region in the biggest foreign incursion into Russia since World War Two, posing a dilemma for President Vladimir Putin according to US President

Thousands of Ukrainian troops rammed through the Russian border in the early hours of August 6 into Russia's western Kursk region in what Putin called a major provocation aimed at gaining a stronger hand in possible future ceasefire talks.

Ukraine has carved out a slice of the Russian border region of Kursk and though Putin said the Russian army would push out the Ukrainian troops, more than a week of intense battles have so far failed to oust them.

Ukrainian President

ing to gain ground in the Kursk region and that they had taken another one to two kilometres on Wednes-

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

Russia's defence ministry said 117 Ukrainian drones had been shot down within its territory overnight, mostly in the Kursk, Voronezh, Belgorod and Nizhny Novgorod regions. It said missiles had also been downed, and showed Sukhoi Su-34 bombers striking Ukrainian positions in the Kursk region.

Later, the ministry said Russian forces had repelled a series of Ukrainian

18km from the border, and pro-Russian war bloggers said the front has been

The Ukrainian drone attack included strikes on four Russian military airfields in an attempt to undermine Russia's ability to attack Ukraine with gliding bombs, a Ukrainian security source told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Russia's National Guard said it was beefing up security at the Kursk nuclear power plant, located just 35km from the

fighting.
The Ukrainian assault into Russian territory has dramatically changed the narrative around the twoand-a-half-year-old war. Russia had been advancing in eastern Ukraine since the failure of Kyiv's 2023 counteroffensive to make any major gains against Russian

Bangladesh's

ex-premier

Hasina faces

crimes against

humanity' case

**Monitoring Desk** 

DHAKA: A case was filed

against Bangladesh's former

prime minister Sheikh

Hasina and eight other

members of her now-dis-

solved cabinet and police

officers on charges of

and "genocide", according

to an official on Wednesday.

the local International

Crimes Tribunal in the capi-

tal Dhaka, Ataur Rahman,

a deputy director of the in-

IEXICO CITY: Mexican

President Andres Manuel

Lopez Obrador told a morn-

ing press conference on

crimes against humanity"

The case was filed at



Taliban security personnel ride in a convoy to celebrate the third anniversary of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in Kabul.

#### Harris cautiously rolls out policy, aiming to outmaneuver Trump and address 2020 liabilities

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Vice
President Kamala Harris is
When Harris inherited President Kamala Harris is trying to outmaneuver former President Donald

Vice presidents rarely have policy portfolios of their own — and almost always set aside any views that differ from those of the Oval Office occupant. Now, after four years of following President Joe Biden's lead, Harris is taking a cautious approach to unveiling a policy vision in her own

ticket after Biden dropped his reelection bid also would convince Congress means her policy platform to make progress on some

Biden's political operation in late July, the campaign's Trump and address old vulnerabilities on her policy positions as she starts to website was quietly scrubbed of the six-point "issues" page that framed fill in how she would gov- the race against Trump, tections to restoring nationwide access to abortion. Instead, Harris has peppered her speeches - so far heavy on biography for herself and her running mate — with broad goals like "building up the middle class." She has called for federal laws to provide abortion access and ban assault-style weapons, but But her surprise has been thin on the details ascendance to the top of the of what specifically they

vestigation agency of the court, told the media. The tribunal was formed by the then-Awami League government of Hasina in 2010 to prosecute those who had opposed Bangladesh's war of indewould entail or how she pendence in 1971.

#### Mexico to send US North Korea to open diplomatic note border for foreign tourists in over donations to Mexican December, tour operators say civil groups **Monitoring Desk**

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korea will resume international tourism to its northeastern city of Samjiyon in December, and possibly the rest of the country, tour companies said on Wednesday.

The move is a sign that the reclusive country is readying to reopen borders to bigger groups of foreign tourists after years of strict COVID border controls. "We have received confirmation from our local partner that tourism to Samjiyon and likely the rest of the country will officially resume in December 2024," the Beijing-based Koryo

International flights in and out of North Korea resumed last year and a small group of Russian tourists flew to North Korea for a

Tours said on its website.

private tour in February Top foreign officials, including Russian President Vladimir Putin in June, have been visiting the country.

not been fully open to in-2020. "Having waited for over four years to make this announcement, Koryo opening of North Korean firm said, adding its local partner would confirm itineraries and dates in coming weeks. North Korea has been building what it called Samjiyon, a city near the Chinese border, and "a model of highly-civilised mountain city" with new

But North Korea has Wednesday that he would send a diplomatic note to the ternational tourists since United States over what he called interference regarding US donations to opposition civil organizations. The Tours is very excited for the president cited US funding for Mexicanos Contra la tourism once again," the Corrupcion y la Impunidad, an anti-graft NGO which has investigated possible corruption in his administration as well as that of his predecessors. "We have a "socialist utopia" in dealt with it here several times, it has been made public but now we are going to handle it in the appropriate way through the letter I am apartments, hotels, a ski going to send President Biden," Lopez Obrador resort and commercial, cul-



Nigerian police personnel restrict protesters from convening for the sixth day of anti-government demonstrations against bad governance and economic hardship, in Lagos, Nigeria.

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

to avenge the death, which

came hours after an Israeli

strike in Beirut killed a se-

Hezbollah, the powerful

Iran-backed militant group

commander of

#### Biden says Gaza ceasefire could stop Iran attacking Israel

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: US President Joe Biden said Tuesday that a ceasefire deal in Gaza could deter Iran from attacking Israel in retaliation for the killing of a Hamas leader that sent regional tensions soaring. His remarks came after Iran rejected Western calls to "stand down" its threat of reprisals. The Islamic republic

and its allies have blamed Israel for Ismail Haniyeh's killing on July 31 during a visit to Tehran for the swearing-in of Iranian Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented. Iran has vowed

in Lebanon. Asked if a truce between Israel and Hamas could stave off an Iranian assault, Biden said: "That's my expectation". He told reporters in New Orleans that while ne-

gotiations were "getting hard" he was "not giving up". Westdiplomats have scrambled to prevent a major conflagration in the Middle East, where tensions were already high due to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

#### Unpopular Japan PM Kishida to step down

**Monitoring Desk** OKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on Wednesday he will step aside next month, ending a three-year term plagued by low popularity ratings and a splut-

tering economy.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has governed almost uninterrupted for decades, is due to hold a leadership contest next month, with the winner to become prime minister. Kishida said on Wednesday he will not seek re-election as party chief. "In this (party) presidential election, it is necessary to show the people that the LDP is changing and

the party is a new LDP,' Kishida told reporters in Tokyo. "For this, transparent and open elections and free and vigorous debate are important. The most obvious first step to show that the LDP will change is for me to step aside," he said. Kishida, 67, in office since October 2021, has

seen his and his party's poll ratings slide sharply in response to rising prices hitting Japanese incomes and several scandals.

In November, Kishida announced a stimulus package worth 17 trillion yen (more than \$100 billion at the time) as he tried to ease the pressure from inflation and rescue his premiership.

#### **US soldier** pleads guilty to selling defence information to China

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: A US Army intelligence analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday to providing sensitive de-fence information to China, including documents about US weapons systems and military tac-

tics and strategy.

Sergeant Korbein
Schultz, who held a topsecret security clearance, was arrested in March at Fort Campbell, a military base on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

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

**Monitoring Desk** OTTAWA: There is a real risk of escalation in the conflict between Israel and Iranbacked Hezbollah, and Canadians should leave Lebanon while possible because Ottawa may not be able to evacuate everyone if the situation worsens, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday.

'We see that the risk of escalation is real, the challenges in the region are significant," Trudeau told reporters in Ontario.

'We are making certain preparations to be able to support in the event that everything gets much, much



Thailand's Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin arrives to visit a food market

#### Romania defuses stray mine on its **Black Sea shore**

**Monitoring Desk** BUCHAREST: Romania's navy carried out a controlled explosion on Tuesday of a mine that had

drifted to its Black Sea shore, the defence ministry Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey have a joint taskforce to defuse stray mines, which began floating in the Black Sea after

Russia invaded Ukraine in

navy was alerted by local officials early on Tuesday about an unidentified object that had washed up on shore near Grindul Chituc in southeastern Romania. The area is part of the Danube Delta, which Romania shares with

Ukraine. "By examining photographs taken on site, the object is most likely an antilanding seamine of the YaRM type," the ministry

The ministry said the said in a statement.

#### More Indian hospitals hit by doctors' protest against alleged rape and murder

**Monitoring Desk** KOLKATA: Hospital services were disrupted in several Indian cities on Tuesday, after the nationwide spread of a doctors' protest against the alleged rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in the eastern city of Kolkata, authorities and

media said. Television images showed thousands of doctors marching on Monday to protest the incident at a government-run hospital, calling for justice for the victim and better security measures, paralysing health services in West Bengal

The protest rippled nationwide on Tuesday, joined by more than 8,000 government doctors in the western Maharashtra state, home to the financial capital of Mumbai, halting work in all hospital departments except emergency services, media said.

In the capital, New Delhi, junior doctors wearing white coats held posters that read, "Doctors are not punching bags," as they sat in protest outside a large government hospital to demand an investigation, Reuters Television images showed. Thousands of patients were left stranded by similar protests in cities such as Lucknow, capital of the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, and in the western tourist resort state of Goa that crimped some hospital services, media said.

#### Denmark to pressure Sweden over gang violence **Monitoring Desk**

STOCKHOLM: Denmark will put pressure on Sweden to contain growing cross-border gang violence, including armed Swedish teenagers acting as "child soldiers" in turf wars, the Danish justice minister said on Monday.

Denmark has seen a rise in violence on its soil by Swedish gang members in recent months and says the trend is a spillover from its northern neighbour which has by far the highest per capita rate of gun violence in the European

Danish police last week began a more active monitoring of passengers arriving by train from Sweden and the government on Monday said it aims to introduce facial recognition technology to speed up investigations that are currently done manually. We will of course

also put pressure on Sweden to take responsibility for these things," Minister Justice Hummelgaard told Danish Swedish gang mem-

bers involved in the violence will also face severe consequences, Denmark's national chief of police said.

"There will be a price to pay and it will be high, Thorkild Fogde told a press conference in Copenhagen.

The Swedish justice ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

#### Taliban celebrate 3 years since Afghanistan takeover with military show

**Monitoring Desk** 

three years in power on Wednesday with a military parade paying homage to their homemade bombs used in war, fighter aircraft, and goose-stepping security forces. The Taliban's armed forces towed Soviet-era tanks and artillery pieces through the former US air base in Bagram, where Chinese and Iranian diplomats were among hundreds who gathered for the parade and speeches. The former Bagram base once served as the linchpin for US-led operations against the Taliban for two decades.

A swarm of motorbikes strapped with yellow jerry cans, often used to carry homemade bombs during the fight against international forces, also rumbled past as- apartheid".

KABUL: Afghanistan's
Taliban rulers celebrated
There were also USmade armoured personnel carriers, the black-andwhite flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan —

the Taliban government's formal name for the counfluttering above them. Helicopters and fighter aircraft flew over the base, where Taliban fighters were once imprisoned, about 40 kilometres north of Kabul. Taliban forces seized the capital on August 15 2021, after the US-backed government collapsed and its leaders fled into exile. The anniversary is marked a day earlier on the Afghan calendar. Their government remains unrecognised by any other state, with restrictions on women, who bear the brunt of policies the United Nations has called "gender

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

**Monitoring Desk** 

CAIRO: The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas said on Wednesday it would not take part in a new round of Gaza ceasefire talks slated for Thursday in Qatar, dimming hopes for a negotiated truce that Iranian sources say could hold back an Iranian attack on Israel.

The US has said it expects indirect talks to go ahead as planned in Qatar's capital Doha on Thursday, and that a ceasefire agreement was still possible. However Axios reported that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has postponed a trip to the Middle East that had been expected to begin on Tuesday.
Three senior Iranian

officials have said that only a ceasefire deal in Gaza would hold Iran back from direct retaliation against Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on its soil last month. The Israeli government said it would ing on eastern areas of the send a delegation to city centre.

Thursday's talks, but Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that controls Gaza, requested a workable plan to implement a proposal it has already accepted rather than more talks.

'Hamas is committed to the proposal presented to it on July 2, which is based on the U.N. Security Council resolution and the Biden speech and the movement is prepared to immediately begin discussion over a mechanism to implement it," Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters. "Going to new negotiation allows the occupation to impose new conditions and employ the maze of negotiation to conduct more massacres," he added. There has been no let-up in fighting in Gaza, where residents of the southern city of Khan Younis said Israeli forces blew up homes in the east and intensified tank shell-

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

**Monitoring Desk** LIMA: Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said on Tuesday that President Nicolas Maduro had "entrenched himself' with the nation's top military leaders in order to stay in power after last month's disputed election. The electoral authority, the CNE, which the opposition says is loyal to Maduro, declared that he had won reelection in the July 28 vote, while the opposition argues it was won by its candidate, Edmundo

Gonzalez. The CNE has not released a detailed vote count and its website has been down since the early hours of July 29. The opposition has posted its ballot count online, which shows Gonzalez receiving double the number of votes as Maduro. Machado, speaking at a virtual press conference with media from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru on Tuesday, called on Venezuelans at home and abroad to protest to "respect" the election re-negotiated transition.

sult. "What Maduro has chosen to do is entrench himself with the top military com-mand, that's all he has left," Machado said. Venezuela's military

has long supported Maduro, in power since 2013, and there have been no public signs since the election that leaders of the armed forces are breaking from the government Machado is under criminal investigation for allegedly inciting police and military to civil disobedience after she published a letter calling for them to abandon Maduro. Security forces have also launched a crackdown on people they say were perpetrators of violent crimes during post-election protests. They have made more than 2,400 arrests, which advocacy groups say has left people fearful to take to the streets. "Maduro has incorrectly weighed his options," Machado said. Pressure needs to be put on him so he understands that the best option for him on Saturday to force Maduro is to accept the terms of a

#### More than 1,000 arrested following UK riots, police say

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: British authorities have now arrested more a 69-year-old accused of than 1,000 people following days of rioting involving violence, arson and looting as well as racist attacks targeting Muslims and migrants, a national policing body said on Tuesday.

The riots, which followed the killings of three young girls in the northern English town of Southport, began after the July 29 attack was wrongly blamed on an Islamist migrant based on online misinforma-

Violence broke out in cities across England and also in Northern Ireland, but there have been fewer instances of unrest since last week after efforts to identify those involved were ramped up.

Many have been swiftly jailed, with some receiving long sentences

The National Police Chiefs' Council said in its latest update that 1,024 had been arrested and 575

Those arrested include vandalism in Liverpool.

A 13-year-old girl pleaded guilty to violent disorder at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court, prosecutors said, having been seen on July 31 punching and kicking the entrance to a hotel for asylum seekers.

"This alarming incident will have caused genuine fear amongst people who were being targeted by these thugs – and it is particularly distressing to learn that such a young girl participated in this violent disorder," prosecutor Thomas Power said.

The last time Britain witnessed widespread rioting was in 2011, when the fatal shooting of a Black man by police triggered several days of street violence. Fast and tough judicial action was viewed as helping quell the unrest in 2011, when around 4,000 people were arrested over several weeks.

#### Assures to issue directives for timely release of funds for projects: We are serious in bringing Balochistan in mainstream development at par of other provinces, says Deputy PM

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti tells Ishaq Dar timely completion of federal development projects conditional with timely release of funds

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Deputy

Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar has categorically stated that we are serious for bringing Balochistan in mainstream development at par of other

provinces.
The Deputy Prime
Minister assured to issue directives to the concerned authorities for timely release of the funds for federal development projects in the province.

He expressed satisfaction over the measures of provincial government for

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

The Deputy Prime Minister was in meeting with the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti before leaving for Islamabad on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and other senior high ups were also present

There was discussion on the measures about on-

QUETTA: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being signed between

Government of Balochistan and Akhuwat Foundation. Chief Minister

retary, Asfandyar Kakai

Member National Assem-

bly, Ahmed Shah Gorgej

Agha Shahzaib Durrani

Chief Secretayr, Shakeel

Qadir Khan, spokesman of

provincial government, Shahid Rind witnessed the

MoU, the Government of

Balochistan and Akhuwat

Foundation would provide

interest-free soft term loans

provided as per the viable

business plan, mentioned in

the official hand out issued

here adding that these loans

would be returned in easy

instalments. Besides, the

graduate women and mi-

norities would also benefit

from the loan scheme, it was

further mentioned.

According to the

These loans would be

signing ceremony.

Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti is also present

MoU signed between GoB &

**Akhuwat Foundation to** 

provide interest free loans

to unemployed graduates

The Principal Secretor that the Union of the Unemployed graduatery to Chief Minister, at with mutual coopera-

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administra-

tor Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza Shafqat along

with others hoisting National Flag during Flag hoist-

ing ceremony on the occasion of 77th Independence

Day of Pakistan, at Metropolitan Office in Quetta.

Martyr DC Panjgur

laid to rest In Turbat

with official honour

of native area, Turbat
Wednesday.

A large number of
His funeral prayer
was also offered in Central
Police Office Quetta. The

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy

Commissioner Panjgur,

Zakir Baloch, martyred in

attack in Mastung, was laid

to rest in the local grave-yard of native area, Turbat

people including the Com-

missioner Makran Divi-

sion, Dawood Khilji,

Deputy Commissioner Kech, Ibrahim Ismail, other

officers besides relatives of

the martyr Deputy Com-

missioner participated in

his burial and funeral.

on Wednesday.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Memoran-dum of Understanding

(MoU) has been signed be-

tween the Government of Balochistan and Akhuwat

Foundation here at the

unemployed graduates of

the province would be of-

fered interest-free and soft-

Imran Zarkoon signed the

MoU on behalf of provin-

cial government while head

of the Akhuwat Founda-

tion, Dr. Muhammad

Amjad Saqib signed the MoU on behalf of his orga-

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti,

Senator Sardar Umar

Gorgej, Parliamentary Sec-

The Chief Minister,

nization.

Under the MoU, the

Chief Minister's secretariat

on Wednesday

projects, law and order and social development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that we are making provincial development programme compatible with the public needs.

determined to improve service delivery system and establishment of the good governance.

However, the timely completion of the federal development projects is conditional with timely release of the funds

Massive

**Independence** 

Day rally held

at Pak-Afghan

**Border** 

QUETTA (INP): The 78th

Independence Day of Pa-

kistan was marked by a vi-

brant and patriotic rally at

the Pak-Afghan border in

direction of Balochistan

Awami Party (BAP) cen-

tral leader Mir Ijaz Sanjrani,

the rally took place in the

Barbachah area. The event

saw thousands of partici-

pants raising slogans of

'Pakistan Army'' and "Pa-

kistan Zindabad," with the

atmosphere filled with en-

thusiasm as national songs

echoed through the crowd.

Sheikh claims

facing death

threats amid

rising political

tensions

RAWALPINDI (INP)

Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed

Ahmed has revealed that he

is facing death threats but

remains resolute in his

stance, asserting his right to stand by his beliefs.

the former interior minister

government's time has come

to an end, urging them to

"pack up and leave." He

criticized the current admin-

istration, stating that it has

become a symbol of hatred,

making it unsafe to travel

anywhere in the country

without security. Rasheed

claimed that the public has

grown to detest the rulers.

Tarar grieved

over demise of

senior journalist

Akhlaq Bajwa

I S L A M A B A D (APP): Federal Minister for

Information, Broadcasting,

National Heritage and Cul-

ture Attaullah Tarar on

Wednesday expressed deep

grief and sorrow over the

death of senior journalist

oressed his heartfelt sym-

pathy and condolences to

the family of the de-

Bajwa rendered valuable

The minister ex-

"Late Akhlaq Ahmad

Akhlaq Ahmed Bajwa.

declared

In a video statement,

that the

Organized under the



Sindh and Balochistan. These supplies, part of USAID's \$27.8 million investment in the health sector's flood response, will enable lady health workers and health facilities to provide better health services to more than 80,000 children and 100,000 married women of reproductive age, said a press release.

devastating floods in June 2022 severely disrupted health services in Sindh and Balochistan, affecting over strengthening the health re-silience of flood-affected 13 million people and exposing them to waterborne and vector-borne diseases. communities in Sindh and This crisis worsened Balochistan.

'By enhancing health

service delivery and ensur-

ing the availability of essen-

tial commodities, we can

save lives and build resil-

remarked Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath,

Coordinator to Prime Minister, MoNHSRC.

Speaking on the occasion Minister for Health and

Population Sindh Dr. Azra

Fazal Pechuho said tha

this assistance has been piv

otal in improving Pakistan'

health system's capacity to

respond to public health emergencies and ensure continuity of essential

Pak embassy

in Beijing

celebrates

77th I-Day

BEIJING (APP): The Em-

bassy of Pakistan in Beijing

on Wednesday marked the

77th Independence Day

anniversary with a flag

the recitation of the Holy

Quran, followed by the rais-

ing of the national flag by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,

who was accompanied by

embassy officials and a

large gathering of the Paki-

stani community in Beijing.

messages of felicitation

from the president, prime

minister, and deputy prime

minister/foreign minister of

Pakistan were read aloud.

These messages paid glow-

ing tribute to the nation's

struggle for independence

under the visionary leader-

ship of Quaid-e-Azam

Mohammad Ali Jinnah,

which ultimately led to the

creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Internet woes.

WhatsApp

outage disrupt

lives, business

in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan is grappling with ongoing issues related to

internet connectivity, with

users reporting consis-tently slow speeds and fre-

quent disruptions, particu-

larly in mobile data ser-

exacerbated by a wide-

spread outage of WhatsApp, a crucial com-

munication tool for both

This disruption is not

only impeding daily communication but is also

causing significant finan-

cial losses, according to affected individuals and en-

There is no

vision of rulers

except of

distributing

laptop: Hafiz

LAHORE (Online): JI

Amir Hafiz Naeem has said

that unfortunately no vision

of the rulers except distributing laptop comes to fore.

lap tops since the last ten

years, he said this while

addressing flag hoisting cer-

emony here in Mansoora

Wednesday on the occasion

We can hardly export

of independence day.

they are distributing

trepreneurs.

citizens and businesses.

The situation has been

During the ceremony

The event began with

noisting ceremony.

health services.

ience against future crises.

tion, maternal health, and child malnutrition. In response, USAID and its partners assessed health commodity needs in

issues in routine immuniza-

identified critical shortages. The commodities delivered during the handover reflect the needs of these communities and align with

the hardest-hit districts and

national priorities. Speaking at the handover ceremony, USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri emphasized the long-term impact of this assistance.

The donation of \$2.3



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): peace, progress and pros-Prime Minister perity. I am confident that Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday thanked his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his warm greetings on Pakistan's Independence

Day.
"I thank Your Highness and the entire leadership of UAE for always standing with Pakistan in our journey towards perity. I am confident that by working together, we can build a bright future for our peoples.

Long live Pakistan-UAE brotherhood," the prime minister wrote on his official X account in response to the felicitation message by Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

#### GoB to bear passport expenses for Lagharis

**Independent Report** 

Balochistan government has announced that it will bear all expenses for the issuance of passports for Lagharis living in the Pak-Afghan border areas of Chaman. This move aims to facilitate local trade and travel while ensuring com-

ments. According to a spokesperson for the Balochistan government, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed the provincial government to cover the costs of passport issuance for the local population, particularly the underprivileged, to ease their business and family



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

#### NAB organizes **I-Day celebration**

**Independent Report** 

Balochistan celebrated Independence Day with zest and enthusiasm on 14th August 2024 to pay homage for the independence.

DG astic participants. A ceremonial salute was presented by the police personal mark the occasion

honoring the nations sovereignty and independence. The Director General interacted with the officers, staff, and children in the ceremony. The Director General NAB emphasized the importance of self-accountability and encouraged employees to play a proactive role in contributing to the betterment of our beloved country, by highlighting the significance of personal responsibility and collective effort in fostering positive change within the organization and society at large. Furthermore, DG NAB asked the NAB officers and officials to actively participate in celebrations of Independence Day.

### new registration centers in Balochisan QUETTA (APP): Deputy institutions to fully coop-

Darinaugurates NADRA's

Wednesday inaugurated 21 new NADRA registration centers and six new mobile registration vehicles in Balochistan during a cer-emony held at CM Secretariat here. National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries, assembly members, NADRA officials, were also present.

Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar expressed satisfaction with the provision of new NADRA registration centers and MRVs in the prov-

He instructed federal

Minister erate with the provincial government in providing services to the remote ar-

eas of Balochistan. Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, on the occasion hoped that the establishment of new registration centers in 21 tehsils of Balochistan's remote areas would facilitate the public in obtaining registration and identity cards.

The Chief Minister added that the people in remote areas had faced difficulties in registration and obtaining identity cards.

The new registration centers and mobile vehicles would particularly benefit the elderly and women, allowing them to register and obtain identity cards at their doorstep.



BEIJING: A dignified investiture ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Khalil Hashmi, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred the prestigious "Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam" award, upon Ambassador Nong Rong, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and former Ambassador of China to Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

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

Bhutto and the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto serve as guiding lights for us. Under President Asif Ali Zardari's vision of reconciliation and national unity, we find hope and strength to navigate our challenges.

mitted to the principles and

vision of the founding fa-

thers. He remarked, "The

ideology of Quaid-e-Awam

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali



PISHIN: Parliamentary Secretary Asfandyar Kakar and MPAs Asghar Tareen and Syed Zafar Ali Agha wearing traditional turban to Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani on eve of a ceremony held in connection with Independence Day

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

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

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

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

Speaker National Assembly participated in the Independence day celebrations in Quetta. The Deputy Prime Minister also presided over the meeting about law and

here that Ishaq Dar and

It may be mentioned

order and development projects. He also participated as chief guest at the main ceremony of flag hoisting at the provincial assembly's law on Wednesday morn-

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



QUETTA: Balochistan Youth ittehad hold rally to

## missioner participated in his burial and funeral. Earlier, his funeral prayer was offered in Turbat. Panjgur. The smartly turned out contingent of police presented salute to his coffin. Barylices in the field of journalism," he said adding the vacuum created in journalism due to his death cannot be filled. Bazai vows to remember sacrifices rendered for creating Pakistan

It may be mentioned

here Zakir Baloch was killed

by unknown armed men

while he was on his way to

Quetta from Panjgur a

Governor Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Chief Minis-

ter, Mir Sarfraz Bugti,

Corps Commander Quetta.

Lt. General Rahat Nasim

and others participated in the funeral prayer of DC

couple of days back.

Deputy Attorney General, must remember for a life-

many people were sepasenior lawyer Ameenuddin Bazai, said on Wednesday to achieve this great nathat the joy we received on 14 August is something we tion. Today, we must try. and our future generations pay tribute to all their

Paying homage to the While addressing a founder of Pakistan, he ceremony held in Kuchlak said, "today is a day to re-

"We must remember how Muhammad Ali Jinnah and we are breathing in the free

expressed gratitude to all those who made, protected, and contributed to the construction and on the occasion of the 78th member the greatest debt we development of this coun-Independence Day, he said owe to Quaid-e-Azam try

The ceremony was held at the premises of NAB (Balochistan) and NAB officers, officials, and their children actively participated. The children of NAB employees were dressed in bright ceremonial clothing. (Balochistan) Mr. Izhar Ahmed Awan unfurled the flag in front of the enthusi-

IT worth three billion dollars. If we focus on IT and capture 3 or 4 percent of market, it stands at 40 billion dollars, he held. It is food security issue. Agriculture is ruined. Over two and half crores children are out of schools.

he questioned

#### University education is in sion of government then how will we move ahead,

miserable plight. No attention is being paid to environment. If there is no vi-

mark independence day.

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