



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے تمہیں منہ نہیں لیا گیا کہ تم سے
سچائی نہ بیان کیا، ان سے زمین اسلم نے
کہا کہ میں نے ان عمر رضی اللہ عنہما سے سنا،
انہوں نے بیان کیا کہ دو آدمی مدینہ کے
مشرق کی طرف سے آئے، وہ مسلمان ہو
گئے اور خطبہ دیا، نہایت فصیح و بلیغ رسول
اللہ ﷺ نے ان پر فرمایا کہ بعض تقریر
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There is dire need to spread true image of Islam: Ahsan

Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal says there is a dire need of hour to work together to spread the true picture of Islam and to counter the hatred from the societies. There is also need to spread the true image of Islam through good governance, protection of human rights and ensuring equality and development for all.



PTI govt destroyed the economy: Amir Muqam

Adviser to the PM Engineer Amir Muqam says the PTI government has destroyed the economy, while Imran is misleading the nation by consistently telling lies over the foreign funding case. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is striving for progress and prosperity of the country, adding that the practical measures by the government resulted in appreciation of rupee against dollars.

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Economy matters

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sahrif witnessing the signing of Trade in Goods Agreement between Pakistan and Turkiye on Friday.



Photo: PID

Pak, Turkiye ink PTA

Pact to take bilateral trade economic ties to new heights: PM

Says COAS address at Royal Military Academy recognition of Pak-UK strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD:- Pakistan and Turkiye on Friday inked the Preferential Trade Agreement aimed at boosting trade in goods between the two countries. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the inking of the PTA at a ceremony held here at the PM Office, as the visiting Turkish Trade Minister Dr. Mehmet Mus and Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar signed the accord. Commonly known as Trade in Goods Pact, the PTA includes comprehensive provisions on bilateral safeguards, balance of payment exceptions, dispute settlement, and periodic review of the agreement.

Prime Minister Sharif in his remarks termed the agreement "a great moment and a milestone" in the brotherly and historic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye. He recalled that following his official visit to Turkiye in May, the untiring efforts of the ministries of both sides resulted in the signing of the agreement. He said immense business opportunities existed between the two countries and expressed confidence that the accord would further explore the trade avenues in diverse sectors.

Prime Minister said Pakistan would continue to work with Turkiye on strengthening bilateral ties. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the "landmark trade in goods agreement" between Pakistan and Turkiye would reflect the strength of bilateral fraternal relations and take trade and investment ties to further heights. The prime minister, addressing a luncheon reception he hosted for the visiting Turkish Trade Minister Dr. Mehmet Mus and his delegation, urged the business communities from both the countries to explore the opportunities in varying sectors particularly the renewable energy.

Trade Minister Dr Mehmet Mus said the occasion marked a significant milestone which would contribute in a long way to further strengthening and expansion of trade ties. He said meeting expectations of all stakeholders was not easy, however added that dedication and step-by-step measures led to conclusion of the accord. He thanked PM Shehbaz Sharif for his leadership to seal the agreement for the betterment of the two countries and enhancing linkages between their business communities.

Syed Naveed Qamar hoped the PTA between Pakistan and Turkey would open up new opportunities to boost bilateral trade across various sectors. He said Pakistan also looked forward to working towards materializing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Turkiye. He stressed the need to increase business-to-business interaction for strengthening trade and investment relations between the brotherly countries.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that the address of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst UK was recognition of Pakistan-UK strategic partnership. "COAS Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa's address at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst UK as chief guest is not just a matter of honour for the armed forces but also for Pakistan," the Prime Minister said in a twitter post.

"This is a recognition of the Pakistan-UK strategic partnership and the success of our armed forces in war on terror," he added.

Cabinet nods gas, power rates for export sectors

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Friday approved gas and electricity rates for five export sectors. The government has announced to increase the price of gas for five export sectors, gas will be supplied to five sectors at \$9 per mmbtu, earlier the price of gas was \$6 and a half per mmbtu. The gas price has been fixed for the current financial year, these five sectors include textile, leather, carpet, surgical and sports. RLNG rate will be effective from July 1, while the electricity rate will be from Aug 1 till the end of FY23.

Prohibited funding

FIA forms more teams to probe PTI

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has constituted more teams, expanding the scope of investigation into the prohibited funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). According to details, the FIA has constituted five investigation teams to collect data and record statements in Islamabad and the other four provinces. Deputy Director Amna Baig will head the probe team in the federal capital, which includes Ajmal Siddique, Sardarullah Babar, Asghar Ali Baloch, Rehana Kausar, and Arbab Abbasi.

A four-member probe team in Balochistan includes Muhammad Ali Abro, Muhammad Rashid Bhatti, Afroz Ahmed Kalwar and Rajta Muhammad Intiaz. Meanwhile, a five-member team in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) will be headed by Deputy Director Mohammad Aftab Butt. The team includes Afzal Khan, Muhammad Tahir, Irfanullah and Saima Nadeem. Moreover, Deputy Director Rabia Qureshi will head the five-member probe team of Sindh Zone One. Rauf Sheikh, Sabeen Ghori, Aftab Vito and Rahat Khan are part of the team.

The probe team of Punjab Zone One will be headed by Deputy Director Mian



Amir Iqbal. The team includes Muhammad Yusuf, Shahid Ali and Irfan Khan. Earlier in the day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Sindh governor Imran Ismail moved Sindh High Court (SHC) against FIA's notice in a prohibited funding case. Imran Ismail was summoned by FIA to probe into PTI foreign funding case after the ECP announced its verdict. The ECP bench in its reserved verdict

said prohibited funding against PTI had been proven. ECP, in its unanimous verdict, ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and from 34 foreign nationals. A three-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, comprising Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Shah Muhammad Jatoti announced the reserved verdict.

Pak gets closer to IMF deal

IMF board to review staff-level agreement Aug 29

WASHINGTON/ ISLAM-ABAD: Days after Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamabad received the letter of intent (LOI) — a document declaring the preliminary commitment of one party to do business with another — from the global lender. The receipt of LOI shows that Pakistan's deal with IMF to release two tranches worth \$1.17 billion under a stalled loan facility is trudging closer to the finish line. The letter is now to be

jointly signed by the Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Acting State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor Murtaza Syed. The IMF and Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement in the second week of July after months of deeply unpopular belt-tightening by the government, which took power in April and has effectively eliminated fuel and power subsidies. The staff-level agreement would be reviewed by the Fund's board at a meeting due on August 29. The board would also consider adding \$1 billion to a \$6

billion programme agreed on in 2019. The new government had slashed a raft of subsidies to meet the demands of global financial institutions but risks the wrath of an electorate already struggling under the weight of double-digit inflation. An original \$6 billion bailout package was signed by former prime minister Imran Khan in 2019, but repeatedly stalled when his government reneged on subsidy agreements and failed to significantly improve tax collection. Agencies

Weekly inflation

Prices of 26 essential items increase

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation report issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) shows that prices of 26 essential items increased in the last week, while the annual inflation rate dropped by 0.94%. According to the data issued by the PBS, a drop of 0.94% was noticed in the annual inflation rate in the last week. However, prices of 26 essential items increased in the last week, while 8 items decreased, PBS

data shows. The price of tomatoes increased by Rs 8.58, eggs by Rs 7.35, Maash pulse by Rs 12.87, Moong pulse by Rs 6.54, and Masoor pulse by Rs 6.70. The price per kg of Garlic increased by Rs 6.70m while a spike in prices of beef, yoghurt, potatoes, salt and flour was noticed. However, prices of eight essential items, including onions, LPG cylinders, ghee and chicken dropped in the last week. The price per kg

of onion dropped by Rs 9.59, LPG cylinder by Rs 30.27, and Ghee by Rs 4.46. The prices of chicken, rice and cooking oil also dropped in the last week. The PBS data shows. Last week, the annual inflation rate in the country, after a weekly increase of 0.82%, had gone up to 38.63%. According to data shared by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), CPI inflation increased by 4.35pc compared to June. APP

Punjab politics

President Dr Arif Alvi talking to media persons at Governor's House in Lahore on Friday.



Photo: PID

Rana Sanaullah bars police's raid at Bani Gala



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday stopped the Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan from raiding Bani Gala to arrest the driver of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehbaz Gill. According to the sources, the IGP from Saudi Arabia over the phone and got the details related to the Shehbaz Gill case.

The Interior Minister stopped the IG Islamabad from conducting a raid to arrest the driver of Shehbaz Gill and also expressed his displeasure over the arrest of the driver's wife and daughter.

He ordered IG in case of non-cooperation, to inform him first and his permission should be taken before conducting any raid on Bani Gala Red.

Interior Minister said the driver of Shehbaz Gill should be arrested in any case to recover the laptop and mobile phone. He said during the process of arresting the driver and gathering evidence in the Shehbaz Gill case, the law should be fully observed. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah also expressed his displeasure with IG Islamabad for arresting the wife of Shehbaz Gill's driver along with her child. He said arresting housewives is not the policy and tradition of our government of the Muslim League (N) and any such practice cannot be encouraged.

Parliament should be consulted on TTP talks: President

Says he is ready to talk to PM Shehbaz, Imran Khan for sake of country

LAHORE: President Arif Alvi, talking to journalists in Governor House Lahore on Friday, said that the parliament should be taken into confidence regarding the negotiations with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Talking to the media representative here at the Governor House, the President said that he respects all institutions and does not believe in engaging in conflicts. All stakeholders need to sit at the table to find out solutions to the current crisis, he added.

However, he added that engaging with stakeholders is not in his domain as the President of the country. It is the executive, opposition and relevant institutions' responsibility to curb polarization, he added. He added that political parties and other stakeholders need to devise a charter of the economy and talk about free and fair elections. Corruption is the biggest reason for any country's decline, he added. Talking about the PTI prohibited funding case, he added that all funding transac-

tions must be done via banking channels. He added that he signed all summaries forwarded to him in accordance with the constitution. Four summaries that were

President Alvi visits Fatima Jinnah Institute of Dental Sciences

returned unsigned were also in accordance with the law, he added. The President added that political parties should agree upon the usage of modern technology such as the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) to make the electoral process free and fair. He backed the implementation of EVMs in the PPP and PML-N era too, he added. The parliament should be taken into

confidence regarding the negotiations with the TTP, he recommended. President Dr Arif Alvi said that he was ready to talk to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for the sake of the country. The President stressed that everyone has to think about the current economic and political conditions of the country, adding that politicians need to get rid of their egos and sit at a table.

"President has a constitutional role and I am willing to play any role to mediate between political leaders," he said, adding that he was ready to talk to Shehbaz Sharif and Imran Khan for the sake of the country. "Politicians are not sitting together at the talking table; they have to unite. If I don't see the situation getting better, I will ask them to sit at the table. As the president, I can only ask, not order," Alvi noted. President Alvi said he was "worried" that the polarisation was increasing and noted that it had to end in the coming days.

BJP ignites hatred toward Muslims: Bilawal

Condemns India's SC for protecting arrest of ex-BJP spouse Nupur Sharma

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari Friday condemned India's Supreme Court's decision to provide former Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma protection from getting arrested in the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) case. Sharma was suspended following her derogatory and hateful remarks against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Her comments sparked many protests throughout India.

Following the incident, 15 Muslim nations joined hands to stand against Indian politicians' derogatory remarks, reported NDTV. The foreign minister said that this decision of not arresting the former BJP spokesperson shows that India not only has hatred towards Pakistan but also towards Islam. He added that the BJP promotes hatred and extremism toward the Muslims living in India.

"We have minimal influence on India's Supreme Court, however, we need to raise this issue at the international level including the Organi-



sation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness and we have raised this issue," he added. Bilawal said that the people are now seeing India's real face through these actions.

IS Punjab CM election

Hamza files review appeal against SC decision

LAHORE: Former Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz on Friday filed a petition in the Supreme Court (SC), praying to the court to review its July 26, 2022 decision in which it had declared the Punjab Assembly (PA) deputy speaker's ruling in the election for Punjab chief minister null and void. Advocate Mansoor Ali Awan submitted the petition on Hamza's behalf. In the petition, CM Pervaiz Elahi and former deputy speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari have been made parties in the case.

The SC had on July 26, 2022 annulled the ruling given by the then Punjab Assembly deputy speaker Dost Mazari's in the run-off election for the Punjab CM. On July 22, Mazari had rejected the votes of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) members of the Punjab Assembly (MPAs) in the favour of Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi during the provincial chief minister election citing a letter from PML-Q's head Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain under Article 63-A of the constitution. The apex court, in its 11-page short order, accepted the plea of Elahi and pronounced him as Punjab chief minister

IS Rs9.90 per unit

Nepra jacks up power tariff

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday increased in electricity tariff by Rs9.90 per unit on account of the monthly fuel adjustment (MFA) for June 2022.

According to the notification issued by the Nepra, CPPA had requested an increase of Rs9.91 per unit, and the authority held a public hearing on July 28, 2022. The recent hike in power tariff will be applicable only on August bills while it will not apply to K-electric consumers.

Earlier on Thursday, Nepra on Thursday approved a hike in the power tariff by Rs10.11 per unit on account of fuel charges adjustment for June month. According to the notification issued, Nepra has approved to increase in the electricity price of K Electric. "The fuel adjustment for June will be charged to consumers in 2 months, in August consumers will be charged Rs 3.01 per unit," the notification stated. The regulatory authority clarified that out of a total FCA of Rs10.11 per kWh, an amount of Rs3.01 per kWh shall be charged in the billing month of August and Rs8.09 per kWh in the billing month of September.

IS Azadi march' torture

Punjab govt transfers 25 SHOs

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Police on Friday transferred station house officers (SHOs) of 26 police stations over their alleged role in torturing PTI activists during Azadi March on May 25. The police officials said that the SHOs have been transferred to police line and were not yet suspended. "The suspension will come only after an inquiry proves allegations against them," they said. The officials further deny removing superintendents of police (SPs) who were on duty on May 25. The SHOs removed

from their posts included Adnan Rasheed, Amir Riaz, Wajih ul Hasan, Asim Rafique, Qadir Ali, Muhammad Jamil, Javed Iqbal, Farooq Iftikhar, Muzammil Hussain, Rashid Saleem, Zahid Hussain, Ahmed Adnan Sultan, Muhammad Riaz, Shabbir Hussain, Irfan Ashraf, Asad Iqbal, Nadeem Khalid, Nisar Ahmed, Furqan Mahmood, Yasir Bashir, Abdul Wahid, Aamir Anjum and Nasrullah Chhattah.

On Thursday, Lahore police decided to remove station house officers (SHOs) and deputy super-

intendents of police (DSPs) allegedly involved in torturing PTI activists during Azadi March, days after the party demanded the provincial government to take action against such officials.

Initially, the police began process to remove the SHOs and the DIG Operations has begun process to interview fresh station house officers. It may be noted that SHOs in Lahore have played a key role in crackdown against the PTI leaders and activists ahead and during the Azadi March of the PTI towards Islamabad.

Sino, Pak agree to enhance trade & economic relations

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong holds conducive meeting with Ch Salik

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan on Friday agreed to enhance the business and economic relations for joint ventures, business to business talk for increasing industrial cooperation. On the backdrop of the successful meeting of the Minister, Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Secretary, Asad Rehman Gillani, Board of Investment with Ambassador of China, Mr. Nong Rong, during which the resolve was made to create conducive atmosphere for B2B, Joint Ventures and Matchmaking, especially in the ambit of the recently signed Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation.

The Board of Investment led by the Additional Secretary/ EDG-II, Khushshir Rehman and Project Director, CPEC-IC, Asim Ayub, called on the Consul General, Li Bijian in Karachi.

The Consul General, Li Bijian appreciated BOI for meeting the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi, and bridging the gap between the private sector of both countries. He praised the BOI's efforts of taking calculated steps for attracting high quality FDI through concrete efforts. An example of which is the BOI's initiative along with All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association and the Chinese Embassy for

establishing the Pakistan Business and Investment Forum, the same forum was appreciated by President Xi Jinping during Pak-China joint statement.

The Consul General, expressed, through this platform the issues of the Chinese companies can be resolved; while, enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese Enterprises. The Consul General, appreciated the B2B CPEC investment conferences organized by BOI in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar. And, invited the BOI to take these endeavors to China as well for promoting the bilateral investments. Agencies

IS May 25

All involved in torture will be brought to justice: Imran

Urges people to attend August 13 Haqiqi Azadi power show

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said the Punjab government will bring to justice all those involved in the May 25 incidents, and those who have retaliated against us will be dealt with according to the law. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and former Federal Minister Moonis Elahi met Imran Khan, former Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry and former Federal Education Minister Shafiqat Mehmood were also present.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and administrative

matters, political situation and measures to provide relief to the people of Punjab were discussed while yesterday's rally was also discussed. Punjab CM gave a briefing about the measures to give relief to the people, especially the Ehsaas Ration Discount Program and also informed Imran Khan about the steps taken to maintain peace and order in the province. Imran Khan appreciated the initiative of the Punjab government to end the restriction of working hours for the business centres and praised the initiative of launching the Ehsaas Ration discount program for the people of Punjab.

The former prime minister praised the efforts of the Punjab government under the leadership of CM Pervaiz

for the best security arrangements on Muharram, especially on Ashura Day. Meanwhile, during a meeting with the party leadership, Imran Khan said that the Punjab government will bring to justice all those involved in the May 25 incident. Those who have retaliated against us will be dealt with according to the law.

"The morale of our leaders and workers is high, and the nation is seeing the reality, the imported government has ruined the lives of the people. The Punjab government should take steps to provide relief to the people. Ministers should resolve public issues on an urgent basis," the PTI chairman added.

Imran Khan appealed to the public



to attend his party's independence day celebrations tomorrow (Sat-

day) where he will take Pakistani into confidence over his journey of "Haqiqi Azadi".

In a video message released on Twitter, the former prime minister asked people to attend his party's power show at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore to celebrate marking 75 years of Pakistan. "Why do you have to come? Because we have to celebrate our 75th birth anniversary and along with that I have to take you on my journey of Haqiqi Azadi [true freedom]," said Imran, claiming that they have reached the last stage of the journey.

The PTI chairperson told his followers that they have to make the country, which was made in the name of

La Ilaha Illah Allah, into a nation that does not bow before anyone but Allah.

"I have invited all of you for this and everyone has to participate with me. We will celebrate and decide how to reach the ideology on which Pakistan was made," said the PTI leader. The PTI had initially scheduled to hold its "power show" at the Islamabad Parade Ground.

However, it was shifted to Lahore as the government did not give them permission to hold the gathering at the venue due to objections by the TLP. PTI's decision to hold the public gathering at the hockey stadium in Lahore has generated controversy as the astroturf of the stadium was removed to make space for the gathering.

Samina Alvi stresses equal rights for differently-abled persons

She said "Allah Almighty has blessed the differently-abled persons with a lot of abilities"

LAHORE: Samina Alvi, the wife of President Dr Arif Alvi, has emphasised giving equal rights to differently-abled persons in society and ending a sense of deprivation among them.

She said this during her visit to Pakistan Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PSRD) on Friday. Samina Alvi also visited different sections of the PSRD including school and vocational training centre. She appreciated the Society's work and said it was very pleasing to visit the place.

She said that facilities available there

were good and termed it a really good setup. Samina Alvi wondered why such a setup was not available in Karachi.

The first lady said it was a very good approach to make different facilities available for the differently-abled persons under one roof. She said that she and President Dr Arif Alvi wanted to make the system inclusive where differently-abled persons get facilities like other persons of society.

She also stressed the need to empower the differently-abled persons and to ensure maximum facilities for them.

She said there should be ramps at public places to ensure ease of mobility for the differently-abled persons, as their movement was very essential for their better growth in society.

Efforts were also being made at the government level to facilitate the differently-abled persons to the maximum, she added. Samina Alvi said that education and vocational training were important for making the differently-abled persons useful citizens.

She said that passion and commitment were required to facilitate and

serve this segment of society in the best possible way. She said, "Allah Almighty has blessed the differently-abled persons with a lot of abilities and people should understand that they are not less than anybody else in society."

Info-Tech training was also very important for the differently-abled persons as through it, they could earn while sitting in their homes.

She announced Rs 1 million for the PSRD. PSRD President Syed Shamsi and Chairperson Nighat Saeed also spoke.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Boys Scouts Association Girls Guide attended Diamond Jubilee Women Session at Parliament House here on Friday.

SCBPL, British Dy. HC celebrate Independence Day



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan Limited (SCBPL) in partnership with the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC), Karachi organised an event to celebrate 75 years of Pakistan's independence.

The event was widely attended by girls between the ages of 11-15 years, from schools of underserved communities which the Bank supports through their Goal programme. Volunteers from the Bank conducted a mentoring sessions with these girls on career prospects and how they can leverage opportunities to be independent and confident in life. The purpose of the celebration was to enable these girls to structure their ideas on how can they be the catalyst for social change in the future.

Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer at Standard Chartered Bank, said, "We are delighted to partner with British Deputy High Commission for the celebration of Independence Day. Today, once again BDHC has supported the Bank's efforts to address the social and economic challenges being confronted by young girls. Educating girls and providing them with additional tools to shape their own future through our GOAL programme, enables them to address life's challenges themselves and has an incredible intergenerational multiplier effect on communities and societies. We have been running this programme locally for 6-years now and have already created an impact for over 22,000 girls in Pakistan, through 71 schools in Karachi and Islamabad.

With activities such as these we bring our brand promise here for good to life and it is integrated as a core component of our community engagement strategy, enabling our employees to do the right thing. Fundamental to the Bank's culture, purpose and values, the EV activities support volunteers from the Bank contribute to the delivery of our community programmes, such as teaching financial education to disadvantaged young people and mentoring females."

SCO launches new offer Announces "azadi contest" for independence day

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: On the occasion of Pakistan's 75th Independence Day, Special Communications Organization (SCO), leading telecom operator of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) has announced a special one day offer for its valuable customers and is holding a Azadi Contest. Details are as under:- 14th August Offer: On this Independence Day SCO gives one-day special offer for its valued subscribers by providing free 1400 MB data, 1400 on-net minutes and 1400 SMS for only Rs 14 plus tax.

In order to get "14th August offer" Dial *129#. This offer is valid for 24 hrs from 23:59 hrs 13 August 2022 to 23:59 hrs 14 August 2022.

Azadi Contest: Special Communications Organization is delighted to celebrate diamond jubilee of Pakistan for the people of AJ&K and GB. Capture a picture or make small video with Pakistan flag in any scenic location of AJ&K and GB to participate in "Azadi Contest".

Preparations

KARACHI: Students of University of Karachi hold a huge size national flag to celebrate 75th Independence Day ceremony, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Current situation of society is not to be proud of, says Iqbal Memon

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Former Chairman of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, speaking at the launch ceremony of his book 'Iman Aur Bandgi', said that it is one of the countless gifts given to us by Allah Ta'ala. I have written it in recognition of Allah's blessings because faith and worship of Allah make us successful in both religion and the world. Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, KATI Patron General SM Munir, President KATI Salman Aslam, Senior Vice President Maheen Salman, Vice President Farrukh Qandhari, CEO of KITE Ltd Zubair Chhaya, Former Presidents Saleem-uz-Zaman, Farhan-ur-Rehman, Danish Khan and Ehteshamuddin, Johar Qandhari, Deputy Commissioner Korangi

Muhammad Ali Zaidi and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan further said that Allah Ta'ala opens the treasures of His blessings on the servant who creates ease for His people. He said that faith is word and deed and deed is the basis of faith. Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan said that those rulers who do not care about the welfare of the people, will be rewarded on the Day of Resurrection. He said that Allah Ta'ala has given us Tawfiq, so we should have good manners and fulfill the rights of the people. It is not difficult for a believer to act and he is entitled to heaven.

On this occasion, Chief Guest Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon said that there was a formal meeting with Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, but the opportunity to have a detailed

discussion came when he came to invite me to the inauguration ceremony. He said that I have read the book which is very interesting and faith-inspiring, reading the book refreshes faith. He said that it is true that what kind of society we are giving to our future generation, the current situation of our society is not proud. Iqbal Memon said that Islam is a complete code of life, and as Muslims, we have to play our role for the betterment of society. He said that Sindh is the land of Sufis, thanks to whom Allah has bestowed His special grace on Sindh, especially Pakistan.

KATI Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer said that Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan is my friend and mentor, in our Nation the habit of lying has increased drastically, I am a resident of Canada who does not lie and there are severe punishments there.

PBG demands issuance of notification to end ban on luxury goods

Faraz ur Rahman says FBR should issue the notification soon

Our Correspondent



KARACHI: Faraz ur Rahman, founder and chairman of Pakistan Business Group, has said that despite the federal cabinet's approval to lift the ban on the import of luxury goods, it is beyond comprehension that why the notification has not been issued yet.

He said that FBR should issue the notification soon otherwise there is fear of loss of advance amount by the importers in case of delay. He further added that the country is currently suffering from an economic crisis and disturbing the business community in the current dire situation would only result in loss.

Faraz ur Rahman further said that Karachi port has become a warehouse for imported goods, importers are worried due to the stoppage of goods delivery and they are losing million of rupees daily and the delay is causing an increase in the cost of industrial goods.

He said that the auto parts stock is also stuck due to the State Bank's restriction which is like the final nail in the coffin for the auto parts manufacturing industry.

Ombudsman office interacts to help citizens to get Rs7.5m plus relief

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab worked to provide a cumulative relief of Rs.75,17,380 to 41 plaintiffs of different districts who approached it to redress their grievances relating to provincial government departments.

In a statement issued on Friday, the spokesman mentioned that the inter-

vention of the ombudsman office helped five complainants from Mianwali to get Rs10,75,725, five applicants from Attock received Rs.6 lakh and four people from Muzaffargarh got Rs.12,04,351 from concerned departments. Also, three complainants from Lahore received Rs.9,02,670. Meanwhile, three Sahiwal-based applicants received a legal relief worth Rs.4,68,000 after they submitted complaints to the ombudsman's office

for the protection of their legal rights.

In a separate development, Rs.5,11,137 was paid to three complainants from Multan, the spokesman added.

Similarly, the spokesman explained that the efforts of the ombudsman's office resulted in the payment of Rs.3,46,400 to two persons from Faisalabad. Rs.4,52,880 was paid to two individuals from Toba Tek Singh and Rs.57,620 was given to two users from Jhang.

Huawei Pakistan holds tech workshop for NBP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: An IT Technology workshop was organized by Huawei Pakistan for National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) during which Huawei regional experts presented various SDN solutions for Enterprise networks and how those are helping banks achieve digital transformation. The event was attended CIO NBP, Amin Manji, Head of Technology, M. Ali Khawaja, Divisional Head Technology infrastructure, Noman Muzaffar, Imran Taqi and other NBP IT team members, along with representatives from Huawei Pakistan.

The goal of workshop was to assess the performance of Huawei's unique value propositions, of their solu-



tions and technologies, affirmation of customer requirements, working of intelligent SD-LAN, SD-WAN & SD-DCN solutions with detailed explanation of each component of solution and its applications in financial sector. The interactive workshop was well received by CIO NBP and his

team. Participants took active interest in all sessions, sharing their challenges and had open discussions with the experts on how these technologies can help NBP in its digital transformation journey.

Noman Muzaffar, Executive Vice President NBP, stated regarding the

event, "Huawei conducted an informative session that offered the opportunity for NBP to learn about latest innovations in Software Defined Networking including SD-WAN, DCN and next generation Autonomous Data Center."

Banks have the ability to capture and store enormous tranches of customer data on a daily basis. The problem is, that with legacy methods such as data storage siloes, banks are severely limited in how they use and connect this data, if at all. Digital transformation can centralize the data capture, storage, and interpretation processes. It can also reduce the costs associated with these critical processes and generate far richer, more precise, faster data-led insights, which banks can use to drive performance.

ACCA welcomes ISSB standards

But warns greater guidance and consistency required

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: ACCA says that the draft standards from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) are urgently needed to provide a consistent global base line for companies reporting on sustainability-related financial information.

While welcoming the two exposure drafts (EDs) ACCA notes that it is imperative that reporting drives the necessary systematic change in sustainability reporting and that operational changes take place in companies and that investors use the information provided to allocate capital more efficiently and responsibly.

Commenting on the ISSB's exposure draft (ED) IFRS S1, General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information ACCA is calling for a clear definition of the meaning of sustainability-related financial infor-

mation. The global accountancy body is also calling for standard setters to give greater guidance on how entities will determine materiality when reporting on sustainability issues.

While agreeing with the requirements, ACCA also warns that proposed disclosures about risks and opportunities emerging from companies' supply chains, including Scope 3 emissions, will present new disclosure challenges for many companies as will working out how to provide forward looking information.

Sharon Machado, head of Sustainable Business, ACCA says: "The ED does not define what is 'sustainability-related'. As a result, the breadth and scope of the risks and opportunities that need to be considered and disclosed is left to the judgement of the preparing companies, to the detriment of consistent application, comparability, as well as cost and effort in reporting."

Alibaba.com to hold Faisalabad Seller Summit

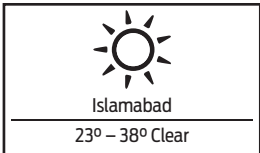
Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Leading B2B e-commerce platform Alibaba.com will host an event in Faisalabad on 16 August to discuss the new era of B2B e-commerce with existing and potential exporters in the region.

The event, titled "Go Export with Alibaba.com," will bring together existing and potential exporters to offer tips and counsel on ways to begin and

develop an online export business, as well as address questions on the necessary skills required by Pakistani sellers to grow in the field. It will be the first event of its type to be held by Alibaba.com in Faisalabad.

The event will feature highly qualified guest speakers, including Mr Song Song, Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan; Mr Atif Munir Sheikh, President of FCCI and Mr Muhammad Haider Zaidi, Law Specialist of AUC|Law.



SERVICES	
Namaz Timings	
Fajr	3:56 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:00 pm
Maghrib	6:58 pm
Isha	8:29 pm
EMERGENCY	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20
Women Police Stations	
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

PAC organizes photo exhibition "Umeed ka Safar"

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council arranged a photo exhibition titled "Umeed ka Safar" to mark Pakistan Diamond Jubilee celebration. The exhibition was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Rawalpindi Abdullah Mahmood along with Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. The exhibition has kept memorable photographs of freedom movement, Muslim League and life of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah from 1857 to 1947.

Addressing the ceremony, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Rawalpindi Abdullah Mahmood said that Pakistan is the interpretation of the dreams of the Muslims of subcontinent. Photo exhibition shows that how many sacrifices our forefather has given for making of Pakistan. Our young generation is very diligent and worthy.

The young generation has to protect Pakistan on ideological grounds. Today we are breathing in the free atmosphere because of the Quaid-e-Azam, he added.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that the purpose of the exhibition is to make people believe that no one has given us freedom in the plate, but for this, our ancestors have offered the everlasting sacrifices of their lives. We will have to follow Quaid-e-Azam's guidelines for faster progress of Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam believed in the work, work and the principle of work only. After gaining independence from British imperialism, he spent his life in making Pakistan a developed country, settling issues such as resettlement of refugees, distribution of assets, water problems and defense. Dozens of people from different walks of life attended the image exhibition.

British HC staff plant trees to mark 75 years of UK-Pak ties

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: On Friday to commemorate 75 years of UK-Pakistan relations, British High Commission staff joined by Chevening alumni and personnel from the Islamabad Capital Development Authority, planted 75 trees native to Pakistan, in the Shakarparian National Park.

This activity compliments a vast year-long tree planting programme carried out in the UK by the British Pakistan Foundation and Pakistan High Commission. Named 'The Legacy Project', this was launched to celebrate the achievements of British Pakistanis over the last 75 years. A total of 7,500 trees are set to be planted.

The UK-Pakistan relationship has gone from strength to strength this year, with major events such as the independence anniversary and the Birmingham Commonwealth Games revitalising deep people-to-people ties.

On the occasion the Acting British High Commissioner Andrew Dalgleish said: "Right now the UK and Pakistan are



collaborating to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges from driving forward action on climate change to improving gender equality. I know that we

will continue to do so over the next seventy-five years. Happy Birthday, happy Independence Day, Azzm-e-aali Shaan, Shaad rahe Pakistan!"

In field of education

Losar appreciates OPF for rendering valuable services

Chairman, Pak-EU Friendship Federation addresses ceremony of 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence day at OPF Girls College

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pak-EU Friendship Federation Pervez Iqbal Losar, an overseas Pakistani stationed in Belgium for the last 35 years said that no power on earth can undo Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony of 75th anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Pakistan's independence day at OPF Girls College F-8/2, Islamabad, he further stated that Pakistan is a miracle that came into being on 14th August 1947 by rendering valuable sacrifices



by our forefathers. "Now, it is our duty to make Pakistan prosperous, peaceful, developed and dynamic country by contributing our due role."

He said that education is a social process that enables human beings to improve their quality of life and lead a productive life. It makes indi-

viduals to contribute to human development in accordance with the requirements of the nation. Education is one of the most important elements for collective development of a society and a state.

Losar appreciated OPF for rendering valuable services in the field of education by providing quality education to the children of Overseas Pakistanis and general public. Earlier, the national flag was hoisted at OPF Girls College, Islamabad and prizes were distributed among the high achievers.

Excel Labs open new state-of-the-art diagnostic center in Islamabad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Excel Labs organized the launch of its Melody Branch, a multi-specialty center, with an open house in Islamabad on 12th August, 2022. The ribbon cutting was performed by Senator Mushahid Hussain, who congratulated Excel labs on introducing such a fine quality unit in the heart of city where it was much needed.

The center situated at Melody Market, G-6 Markaz adjacent to GPO Islamabad and offers a state of art GE Optima 520, CT scanner which performs high resolution images with 70% lower radiation. A Fuji Digital x-ray unit provides images and reporting promptly. The GE Ultrasound unit



installed does regular and Doppler studies. Full lab services with urgent reporting are also available.

Excel Labs is Pakistan's most trusted state-of-the-art diagnostics organization with over 100 collection centres across Pakistan. It was founded upon core values of patient service and quality

testing. During the past 28 years, Excel Labs has built a reputation for excellence in both of them and from a small local lab; it has grown to become a national network serving each patient with the same care and service.

CEO Karandaz, Waqas ul Hasan, shared that the capital contribution by the UK's

Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office has enabled Karandaz to make an investment in Excel labs which has not only helped the business grow and create more jobs but provided an additional support to Excel Labs to quickly establish COVID-19 testing capacity after the pandemic broke out.

On the occasion, Dr. Naser Ahmad expressed his gratitude to the all the guests for participating and pledged to continue providing state of the art services across the country. He remarked that there is a great need for high quality healthcare in Islamabad and this center provides a neat and clean environment for patients who can avail multiple services without waiting for an appointment.

Health Corner

Lasting Immune Boosting Benefits of TB Vaccine

ISLAMABAD: The immune boosting benefits of a tuberculosis vaccine can be seen in infants more than one year after vaccination, according to a new study.

The research, led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and published in Science Advances, has shown how the BCG vaccine, developed to prevent the risk of tuberculosis, can produce a 'trained immunity response' lasting more than 14 months after the vaccine is administered.

The randomised controlled trial involved 130 infants from the Melbourne Infant Study: BCG for the Prevention of Allergy and Infection (MIS BAIR) and cell dish models to study the immune system's response to BCG vaccination. Those randomised to be vaccinated received their jab within 10 days of birth.

Murdoch Children's Dr Samantha Bannister said 14 months after having the BCG vaccination they saw reprogramming, a process where genes were switched off or on, in a specific blood cell type, called the monocyte.

"The off-target effects of the BCG vaccine against a range of viruses are explained in part by the reprogramming of how your genes work in the monocyte due to environmental and behavioural factors," she said. The reprogramming of monocytes, a cell previously thought to have no capacity for memory, leads to trained immunity."

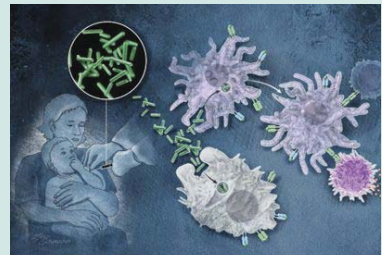
Murdoch Children's Associate Professor Boris Novakovic said the off-target effects were first identified in Africa, where BCG vaccinated children had reduced overall death rates.

"The off-target effects in Africa were known to last more than a year, but previous studies looking at BCG-associated monocyte signatures only looked at one month and three months following vaccination in adults," he said. For the first time we have shown how the BCG vaccine can have long-lasting effects on the immune system of infants.

"As babies are the main population given the BCG vaccine, this study is important because findings in adults do not always translate to children."

For the trial the research team collaborated with the lab of Professor Mihai Netea from the Radboud University Medical Center in the Netherlands that first described trained immunity and scientists from the International Trained Immunity (INTRIM) Consortium.

Murdoch Children's and University of Melbourne's Professor Nigel Curtis said the next step was to see what impact this early trained immunity offered later in childhood and into adulthood. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



CG COMSTECH calls on HC of Pakistan in Malaysia



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, had a meeting with the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Malaysia, Ms. Amna Baloch. The meeting was held at the Pakistan High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Coordinator General COMSTECH proposed the establishment of an alliance of the Islamic universities whose founding meeting to be held in Islamabad. The High Commissioner liked the proposal and assured her support. The High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur is the member of board of governors of the International Islamic University, Malaysia, and is also a focal point of ASIAN region.

Coordinator General also briefed the High Commissioner about the MiGHT and TUBITAK joining of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence.

Both the dignitaries discussed the avenues of COMSTECH and ICCBS collaboration with Malaysia. The High Commissioner and the Coordinator General agreed to structure the fellowships program for Malaysia and other ASIAN member countries and to launch this program in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

For Leaders of Tomorrow!

Tech Valley, Beaconhouse sign MOU to digitise education

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Beaconhouse is a global network of private schools and institutes educating over 315,000 students in seven countries. Carrying forward its mission to inculcate global best practices to improve education delivery, Beaconhouse has joined hands with Tech Valley, an innovative digital consulting firm and trusted country partner of Google for Education in Pakistan.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two parties in Lahore to work towards incorporating different Google technologies in Beaconhouse schools.

Under this MOU, Tech Valley, with the support of international Google for education teams, will assist Beaconhouse in procuring and incorporating Chromebooks for their programmes such as Homebridge and the inception of the Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD) model on their campuses. In addition to that, Tech Valley will conduct training for teachers and admin staff to help them effectively utilise Google technologies such as Google Workspace and Google Cloud Platform.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ali Ahmed Khan, COO of Beaconhouse Group, mentioned, "Beaconhouse is extremely delighted to work with the Google for Education team and its local partner, Tech Valley. Being the first one in the education sector to partner, we are excited to kick off this project and empower our students with Google tools and devices."

CEO Tech Valley, Umar Farooq, mentioned that as a local partner of Google for Education in Pakistan, their goal is to revolutionise the education sector of Pakistan by empowering students, teachers, and administrators with a simple solution for fast, intuitive, and easy-to-manage computing through Chromebooks.

Paul Hutchings, Country Manager, Australia, New Zealand, and Pakistan, and Tim Paolini, APAC Sales Lead from Google for Education, also joined the ceremony remotely.

The purpose of this project is to equip students & teachers with the latest devices and acquaint them with technology through an easier and more flexible education model. Undoubtedly, it is time to move away from the traditional learning style and adopt technologies to help students adapt to the dynamic high-tech environment.

CAMEA at ISSI in collaboration with IWPS, Kabul organize webinar

Webinar titled "Taliban in Power-A Year On"

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) in collaboration with the Institute of War and Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul hosted a webinar titled "Taliban in Power-A Year On".

The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers at the webinar included Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Ms. Nargis Nehan, Former Afghan Politician, Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Charge d'Affairs/ Minister Counselor, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Lotfullah Najafzada, Co-Founder and Senior Journalist at Amu TV, Mr Adam Weinstein, Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and Dr. Mandana Tisheyar, Department of Regional Studies, ECO College, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran.

The concluding remarks were given by Tamim Asey, Founder & Executive Chairman of the Institute of War and



Peace Studies (IWPS), Kabul.

During her welcome remarks, Ms Amina Khan stated that August 15, 2022, will mark one year since the Taliban dispensation assumed power. While, initially, there were certain questions as to what the Taliban's rule will mean for governance, political freedom, human/women's rights, counter-terrorism assurances, or regional peace and stability, the past year has somewhat set the tone and is an indication of how the group intends to govern the coun-

try. Even within the confines of the current interim setup, the real test for the Taliban is by no means limited to securing power but revolves around legitimacy, acceptance, performance and of course recognition.

During her remarks, Ms Nargis Nehan, was of the view that August 15, 2021, was not the only collapse of the country but the collapse of the entire nation, which includes women, media and society. She highlighted that it is very important to remember what Afghanistan was before the transition

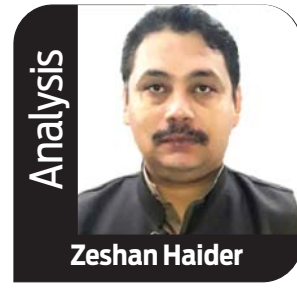
of power. There was a constitution, government, media and civil society and a number of people who were working for the development of the country. She highlighted that women have always been sufferers in Afghanistan and they have been led down by all stakeholders, including the international community and Afghan dispensations including the Taliban who have promised that women will be given their rights but so far have not honoured their commitments.

Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb highlighted the Taliban's achievements since they assumed office in August 2021. The political transition that took place was peaceful with no civilian or military casualties.

He went on to say that in a very short time the new government announced the resumption of all official affairs as well and in this way the group was able to restore the trust vacuum between neighboring and regional countries of Afghanistan. The Taliban have also been engaging with the international and regional community in a more robust manner.

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75 Years of Broadcasting



Analysis
Zeshan Haider

History is a witness that Radio Pakistan has played an important role in the awakening of social, social and political consciousness. The announcement of the establishment of Pakistan was first broadcast from this national and cultural institution. The first announcement of independence was made by the beautiful and charming voice of Mustafa Ali Hamdani that this is Radio Pakistan, congratulations on independence. For years, every Muslim prostrated and thanked when the message of independence was heard from the microphone of Radio Pakistan. If you look back at the past, it will not be wrong that Radio Pakistan was the first government institution after the existence of Pakistan. After the establishment of Pakistan, only three radio stations Dhaka, Peshawar and Lahore came in the part of

Pakistan and with the passage of time its scope expanded to the entire country. At that time, these major cities of Pakistan are Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Bahawalpur, Hyderabad, Khairpur, Dera Ismail Khan, Larkana, Turbat, Abbottabad, Sibi, Gilgit, Khuzdar, Skardu, Radio stations are established in Jhope, Chitral, Loralai, Mianwali, Sargodha, Mithi, Kohat, Bannu, Gwadar and Bhatshah from which political, social, religious, academic, literary, moral, agricultural and various kinds of cultural programs are broadcast. There is no corner of Pakistan where radio broadcasts do not reach, there is no doubt that radio is still the biggest, fastest, most effective and cheapest medium of communication where television, newspaper or any other media. There is no reach of mass media, only the voice of radio reaches there. No media group has a big network like Radio Pakistan, whether it is official or non-official. When television was introduced in Pakistan in 1964, Radio Pakistan did not let its importance diminish due to its purposeful standard programs and the parrot of radio continued to speak. When Radio Pakistan raised the spirits of its military brothers, in the same way, it was intended to give a face-to-

face response to any calamity or enemy's propaganda, then Radio Pakistan supported step by step alongside other national institutions. Apart from this, Radio Pakistan has introduced many artists who have made their name and their country famous in various fields of life. Even today, if you look at famous musicians, artists, actors, writers, journalists, the reason for their fame will be radio. The list of services provided by Radio Pakistan is too long to be forgotten. The prominent and important feature of Radio Pakistan is that the United Nations has assigned each day of the year to one or the other. Radio Pakistan is the only organization that broadcasts the program of each specific day through its network. Despite the presence of hundreds of private TV channels and social media, the programs and news of Radio Pakistan have their own distinct identity. Even today, foreign and foreign media, newspapers, news agencies and radio stations seem to be quoting the news of Pakistan. After the establishment of Pakistan, this newly born Islamic state faced the problem of Kashmir like other problems, which is still the cause of enmity between Pakistan and India, despite the passage of 72 years. From the beginning till now, Radio Pakistan has played a purposeful role to resolve this issue and Radio Pakistan's irresponsible role in effectively responding to India's negative propaganda on the Kashmir issue is a part of history. Radio Pakistan's services to Kashmir are acknowledged even today by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Indian Parliament. The Indian Prime Minister clarified that the effective response of Indian propaganda on the issue of Kashmir is like a thorn in the platform of Radio Pakistan. But it is a matter of concern that the most important institution that has rendered valuable services to Pakistan has been suffering from financial difficulties for the last several decades which no government has taken seriously. In the government houses, Radio Pakistan is considered a white elephant and frivolous questions are raised and suggestions are given to abolish it or to merge it with another broadcasting organization as a burden on the treasury, while our neighboring country has its own public radio. According to a report, India has recently installed hundreds of modern transmitters. Whereas in our country, it is surprising to ignore this ancient broadcasting institution, contrary to the reality. Recently Sohail Ali Khan, senior officer of Informa-

The writer is senior analyst and columnist.

August 15-A Black Day

In order to express extreme hatred against India besides to register strong protest over Delhi's forced August 05, 2019 sinister action of scrapping special status of the Jammu and Kashmir state, the people of the disputed Himalayan state living at both sides of the line of control and rest of the world, would observe India's independence day (August 15) as Black Day. Kashmiris observe, every year, India's all national days including the independence day as black day to condemn India for constantly denying Kashmiris birth right to self determination besides to apprise the external world of the India's ongoing worst reign of state terrorism making people of occupied Jammu Kashmir state besieged, at gun point of over two million of her military and para military troops. India has unleashed history's worst atrocities and state terrorism against the people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir fighting for liberation of the motherland from the forced Indian rule since past 75 years. The observance of the scheduled Indian Independence day as black day is also aimed at to express indignation against the Indian imperialism for forcibly keeping bulk part of the State in her unlawful and forcible occupation for past 75 years. Anti-India rallies followed by protest demonstrations in all small and major cities and towns at both sides of the LoC, will be hallmark of the day.

The people of the territory would observe complete shutdown and civil curfew on August 15 to express their resentment against Indian illegal occupation of their homeland. It said that the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Kashmiris living in Pakistan and across the world would hold protest demonstrations to draw the attention of the international community towards the Indian brutalities in IIOJK. India had no legal or moral justification to observe its Independence Day in Jammu and Kashmir as it had occupied the territory against the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It appealed to the international community to fulfill its promises of resolving the Kashmir dispute by granting the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination.

Participants of the protest rallies will wear black bands around their arms as a sign of hatred against India, according to the organizers of the special black day programs. Black flags will be hoisted atop the private and buildings by the protesting Kashmiris at both sides of the LoC. In Azad Jammu & Kashmir, anti-India rallies will be staged and processions will be brought out in all small and major cities including AJK's capital city of Muzafferabad and all other nine district headquarters of Mirpur, Kotli, Bagh, Bhimbher, Palandri, Rawalakot, Haveili, Jhelum Valley and Neelum valley by the people belonging to walks of life to reiterate severe hatred against the Indian imperialism.

Participants of the rallies will march in major city streets carrying black banners and placards to express hatred against India for turning the Indian-occupied Jammu Kashmir the world's largest prison perpetuating brutalities and human rights abuses in the occupied state since August 05, 2019 - the black day in Jammu & Kashmir State's history following revocation of the special status of the disputed Jammu & Kashmir at the gun point by the despotic and fascist BJP-led Indian government

In Mirpur, major protest rally to observe the Indian Independence day as black day will be taken from District Courts premises in the city on Saturday at 10.30 a.m under the auspices of the National Events Organizing Committee Mirpur district, the grand forum of all public representative organizations representing all segments of the civil society," according to the local authorities. A large number of people from all shades of public opinion will attend, like all previous years to observe the Indian independence day as Black day.



The modern relevance of 1984

Jamal Nasir

Orrwell's writings are very fascinating. If you are a reader, you can't escape yourself from reading him. His masterpieces are in the most of the school's syllabi all over the world. The language and vocabulary of Orwell are also very circumscribing. The big brother, thought crime, dystopian world, ingosc, and many more are contributions to the English language. His prophecies can be seen but with a slight difference which can be called modern relevance. Gone were the days, when thought police had to do physical punishments. Now, things have been altered in every aspect of life from thinking freely to moving freely, political developments to social progress, and technological advancements to AI threats. So, there is a question that with academics has been dealing for a long time 'what is the modern relevance of Orwell (particularly 1984)?' 'BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU' tells us about the notion of surveillance and Orwell fears that the path to keep eye on every person in the state, every segment of the life of an individual, and every part of society may lead toward a totalitarian regime. The point of difference with Orwell is very simple. Nowadays, we are living inside a digital panopticon on where everything is being checked. All activities on Facebook, YouTube, and social media sites are being examined. Surveillance in the modern world is far more advanced, powerful and perfect than the big brothers. In Oceania, there were torture cells but the digital panopticon on has a very different method of torture - a kind of torture where you don't realize that you're in a torture cell. Modern torture cells are digital sites where one is continuously manipulated by different

tactics. So, one may entangle in the bushes of irrelevant things. This is how the digital panopticon on works. 'FREEDOM IS SLAVERY' is replaced with the freedom of forced choice. As Byung Chal Han argued in his book saving beauty that the notion of freedom of forced choice means that we are compelled to do things but we think that we are free? Take, for example, on YouTube one may think that the next video is the choice of his/her but it actually isn't. The same is the case with Facebook. Sometimes we think that we are sending this request to a friend of our own choice, we think that the next post is of our own will, and the page we like is of our own desire but it is merely an illusion because everything is monitored. To be a free subject in either Oceania or the modern world is just impossible. Jenny Holzer portrayed the same argument in her art: "Protect me from what I want" 'IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH' has changed into misinformation and disinformation is strength. In the vicious days of COVID, there was a lot of misinformation on social media that led to nothing but moral panic. In the case of the COVID vaccine, misinformation spread like a fire on dry wood and the most saddening thing was that people believe in that falsified information. The vaccine caused infertility in women as well as in men, after the dose of the vaccine you would die within two years, and there was a chip in the vaccine that would hack you - these are a few examples from COVID. On the other hand, disinformation is used for certain political and economic goals. As Noam Chomsky argued about the necessary illusion that information is molded into disinformation for many political gains and he gave the example of the war of Vietnam. So, in this democratic totalitarian regime disinformation is a strength. The famous words of Han

"In 1984, Orwell's society knew that it was being dominated by today's not" The basic premise of democracy is the free will of the voter and the voter uses that to elect a good candidate. This is the standard method for democracy to work. What if the desire of voters is hijacked? Would democracy work? In Orwell's 1984, they had to control the history, writings, and everything but the modern-day tactics are different. Nowadays, the subjectivity of people is controlled through different means. Take for example the case of Donald J. Trump and Cambridge Analytics. When the desire (free will) of the voter is trapped either by getting information from Facebook to shape one's slogan or form a soft narrative about the leader to catch voters. This raises the question 'Is it the end of democracy?' The society in Orwell's 84 was dominated and they used physical punishments. But now there is immunological torture around us. A 2017 study shows that around half a million children - from eight to 12 grades and having a smartphone - are suffering from depression. The increasing restlessness, stress, depression, and immunological disorder show us that today's society is much more frightening than the 84's society. Democracy is replaced with infocarcy, torture is replaced with burnout syndrome, and suppression is replaced by illusionary freedom. "Who controls the information, controls the future" Orwell's writings have an elegant quality of having literary taste as well as a political message. Two of the most influential books by Orwell are 1984 and Animal Farm. Both books inspired a separate thought which is known as 'Orwellian thought'. George Orwell is one of those writers who need to be discovered in every period of time.

The writer is student at the University of Punjab, Lahore.

Guarantor of Peace in the Country



Analysis
Barkat Ullah

Geo strategically, Pakistan is located in such a region which provides both challenges and opportunities for it. For instance, it is the shortest possible route for China toward the middle east and central Asian Republics. China has a major part in economic globalization in the shape of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) thus, both regions hold immense importance for raising global economic power. Similarly, Pakistan is located in a region which is constantly impacted by the rivalries of regional and major powers such as that of China and India border disputes, the China-US trade war and Russia and the US political tensions etc. Keeping all of the above facts in mind, it is stated that Pakistan has a number of economic and political opportunities in the region. However, despite all these opportunities, there are several constant issues and challenges to Pakistan which greatly impact foreign policy, economy and national security of the country, over the years. The long conventional rivalry with neighbours like India, unstable Afghanistan and security challenges on the Iranian Border in Baluchistan have been brought Pakistan to trouble, the majority of the time. For instance, after the incident of 9/11, the United States of America invaded Afghanistan, which provoked a series of insurgencies in the western areas of Pakistan, as the later shares a long border with Afghanistan. Several terrorist groups came into being in the former FATA region and especially in the Malakand division, which presented drastic security challenges to the country. Such insurgencies not only weakened the already struggling economic conditions of the country, but brought severe security, social, psychological and political hurdles as well. At the time when there was a blood game, lack of law and order a sort of chaos in Malakand division, the security forces launched several successful military operations in the region; in order to secure

peace in the region. For instance, operation Rah-e-Haq and Rah-e-Rast was conducted between 2007 and 2009 in order to eliminate the outlawed Terrorist groups. Such military operation was launched at a very critical time as Pakistan was facing high hostility on the eastern border with the India and upraising insurgency in Baluchistan. But the armed forces showed great enthusiasm, professionalism and unity; and they not only got rid of terrorism in Malakand division but also kept both borders with Iran and India secured. The armed forces lost hundreds of their personals in order to fulfill such a huge responsibility of restoration of peace. More importantly, the more difficult task was to sustain the reestablished peace and restoration of people's confidence. In this regard, the security forces played a tremendous role. For instance, they not only made arrangements for meeting the needs of the public, but organized recreational activities for the local population as well. For instance, activities like Kalam sports Festival, Malam Jaba skiing competition and sports gala were arranged time to time in the post-insurgency era, due to the support and sacrifices of the armed forces. This region was famous for its tourist attributes and greenery. Moreover, local economy and development is greatly linked with the tourism which was reduced to a large extent due to the terrorism in the region. Once the security forces have restored peace and stability in the region, the economic condition and development of the region is again climbing, which shows an indirect but major role of the armed forces in this sector as well. Thus, it can be concluded that despite all economic limitations and hurdles, the armed forces show great professionalism and sense of responsibility to preserve peace in the country in general and in Malakand division in particular. *The writer is a Research Associate at the International Parliamentarians Congress Islamabad and can be reached at barkatullahbarkat@gmail.com.*

IS China-US tension

Pelosi's Taiwan trip has nothing to do with democracy: China

PLA, Thai forces to hold joint large scale air force exercise

BEIJING: United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region is downright political theater that has nothing to do with democracy...



fire and to ensure that the U.S. will never again violate the UN Charter and the norms of international relations, Wang stressed. He also noted China will work together with its peace-loving and justice-seeking friends to resolutely oppose all interference in the internal affairs of other countries...

remarks on the suspension of China-US, counternarcotics cooperation.

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force will hold joint air force exercises "Falcon Strike 2022" with Thai military starting August 14, China's Ministry of National Defense (MND) announced on Friday...

According to the MND, the main exercise subjects of this year include air support, ground assault, and force operation. The Chinese Air Force will send fighters, destroyers and early warning aircraft.

send six J-10C/S fighter jets, a JH-7AI fighter-bomber and a Shaanxi KJ-500 airborne early warning and control aircraft to take part in the exercise.

The joint exercise is aimed at enhancing mutual trust and friendship between the air forces of the two countries, deepening practical cooperation and promoting the continuous development of China-Thailand comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, MND said.

IS China concerns

US, Indonesia, Australia hold drills

BATURAJA, INDONESIA: Soldiers from the US, Indonesia and Australia joined a live-fire drill on Friday, part of annual joint combat exercises on Sumatra island amid growing Chinese maritime activity in the Indo-Pacific region.



The United Kingdom, Canada, France, India, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and East Timor also sent observers to the exercises, which began early this month.

C. Aquilino Aquilino, said the 14 nations involved in the training are signaling their stronger ties as China grows increasingly assertive in claiming virtually the entire South China Sea and holds exercises threatening self-ruled Taiwan.

in Baturaja, a coastal town in South Sumatra province. "We'll continue to help deliver a free and open Indo-Pacific and be ready when we need to respond to any contingency," Aquilino said.

along" in the territorial dispute since 2010 after China claimed part of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone in the northern region of the Natuna Islands, said Connie Rahakundini Bakrie, a security analyst at the University of Indonesia.

The edge of the exclusive economic zone overlaps with Beijing's unilaterally declared "nine-dash line" demarking its claims in the South China Sea. Increased activities by Chinese coast guard vessels and fishing boats in the area have unnerved Jakarta, prompting Indonesia's navy to conduct a large drill in July 2020 in waters around Natuna at the southern portion of the South China Sea.

Ethiopia completes 3rd filling of mega-dam reservoir

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia has completed the third filling of its mega-dam reservoir on the Blue Nile, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said Friday, a development that could raise further tensions with downstream neighbors Egypt and Sudan.

"Compared to last year, we have reached 600 meters which is 25 meters higher than the previous filling," he said. "The Nile is a gift of God given to us for Ethiopians to make use of it."

The massive \$4.2 billion dam, set to be the largest hydro-electric scheme in Africa, has been at the center of a regional dispute ever since Ethiopia broke ground on the project in 2011.

There is still no agreement between Ethiopia and its downstream neighbors Egypt and Sudan about the GERD's operations despite talks held under the auspices of the African Union. Cairo and Khartoum view it as a threat because of their dependence on Nile waters, while Ethiopia deems it essential for the electrification and development of Africa's second most populous nation.

Egypt, which relies on the Nile for about 97 percent of its irrigation and drinking water, last month protested to the UN Security Council about the third refilling. The process of filling the GERD's vast reservoir, which has a total capacity of 74 billion cubic meters, began in 2020.

On Thursday, Abiy sought to reassure the two countries over the impact of dam and called for negotiations to reach an understanding. "Any other option will not stop what we have started and will be futile," he said, insisting that the third filling was not causing any water shortages downstream.

Ethiopia first began generating electricity from the GERD in February. Currently, the two turbines, out of a total of 13, have a capacity to generate 750 megawatts of electricity.

EU proposal to revive nuclear deal acceptable: Iran

Says US fabricates stories to escape int'l responsibilities

DUBAI/TEHRAN: A European Union proposal to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal "can be acceptable if it provides assurances" on Tehran's key demands, the state news agency IRNA said on Friday, quoting a senior Iranian diplomat.

ed a final decision from the parties within a "very, very few weeks." IRNA quoted the unidentified Iranian diplomat as saying Tehran was reviewing the proposal. "Proposals by the EU can be acceptable if they provide Iran with assurance on the issues of safeguards, sanctions and guarantees," the diplomat said.

The Islamic Republic has sought to obtain guarantees that no future US president would renege on the deal if it were revived, as then-President Donald Trump did in 2018 and restored harsh US

sanctions on Iran. However, President Joe Biden cannot provide such ironclad assurances because the deal is a political understanding rather than a legally binding treaty. Washington has said it is ready to quickly reach an agreement to revive the deal on the basis of the EU proposals. Iranian officials said they would convey their "additional views and considerations" to the EU, which coordinates the talks, after consultations in Tehran.

The 2015 pact seemed near revival in March. But

11 months of indirect talks between Tehran and the Biden administration in Vienna were thrown into disarray chiefly over Iran's insistence that Washington remove its elite Revolutionary Guards Corps from the US Foreign Terrorist Organizations list. Under the 2015 agreement, Iran curbed its disputed uranium enrichment program, a possible pathway to nuclear weapons, in return for relief from US, EU and UN sanctions. Tehran says it wants nuclear power only for peaceful purposes.

I support denuclearisation of North Korea: UN chief

SEOUL: In Seoul for meetings with South Korean leaders, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday said he fully supports efforts to completely denuclearise North Korea.

Yoon, a conservative who took office in May, has said he is open to diplomacy but has also vowed strong military measures to deter Pyongyang from using its weapons. North Korea has test-fired a record number of missiles this year, and officials in Seoul and Washington say that it appears to be preparing to test a nuclear weapon for the first time since 2017, amid stalled denuclearisation talks.

Pyongyang also says it is open to diplomacy, but accuses the United States and South Korea of maintaining hostile policies such as sanctions and military drills. Meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin, Guterres pledged support for diplomatic efforts to persuade North Korea to surrender its nuclear weapons.

Chinese military threat remains high: Taiwan

Says 10 PRC planes approached island

HONG KONG/XIANGGANG: The head of the Taiwanese administration, Tsai Ing-wen, believes that the military threat posed by China "remains high," the island's CNA news agency reported.

On August 4, the Chinese military began large-scale exercises, including rocket launches in six areas around Taiwan. These exercises were supposed to end at noon on Sunday (07:00 Moscow time), but were prolonged indefinitely. Taiwan has been governed by its own administration since 1949, when the remnants of the Kuomintang forces under Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) fled to the island after being defeated in the Chinese civil war.

US committed to New START treaty with Russia: State Department

WASHINGTON: The US administration remains committed to implementing the Russian-US nuclear arms reduction treaty known as New START, a Department of State spokesperson has told reporters. "The US is committed to implementation of the New START Treaty. And as President Biden has said, today perhaps more than any other time since the Cold War, we must work to reduce the risk of an arms race or nuclear escalation.

In his words, Washington expects inspections under the agreement to resume soon. "I will reiterate what I said previously, is that we will continue to exercise our on-site inspection rights under the New START treaty while also prioritizing the health and safety of personnel conducting and hosting inspection activities," the spokesman continued.

It is an important instrument of stability in the bilateral relationship," he added. According to Patel, Washington and Moscow keep exchanging information under the New START.

Putin, Russian Security Council discuss military security issues

NOVO-OGARYOVO: Russian President Vladimir Putin has held a meeting with permanent members of the Russian Security Council to discuss security issues. "The agenda of our meeting includes ways to ensure security in the truest sense of the word, that is, on the military track. Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu will present a report," the president said at the beginning of the meeting that took place via video conference.

The meeting involved Federation Council Chairperson Valentina Matviyenko, State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin, Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev, Kremlin Chief of Staff Anton Vaino, Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Federal Security Service (FSB) Director Alexander Bortnikov.

Russia is considering buying the currencies of "friendly" countries such as China, India and Turkey to hold in its National Wealth Fund (NWF), having lost the ability to buy dollars or euros due to sanctions. The bank said it was sticking to the policy of a free-floating rouble exchange rate but highlighted that it was important to reinstate a budget rule which diverts excess oil revenues into the rainy day fund.

In a report on its monetary policy for 2023-2025, the central bank said various options on how to return to the fiscal rule and replenish the NWF are now being discussed, taking into account the Western sanctions against Russia.

Shrinking sea ice poses major threat to global climate

Drought officially declared in several parts of England

ARCTIC OCEAN/LONDON: Turkish scientists on an expedition to the Arctic circle completed their studies on Friday into the effects of global warming on polar sea ice and glaciers, which are crucial in the planet's heat balance and in danger of disappearing as temperatures hit unprecedented levels.

"We've been tracking the sea ice with satellite data since the 1970s. However, satellite data requires ground confirmation," he said, adding that this summer, the team was observing the ice in the Barents Sea. The scientific team began their voyage from the port of Tromso in northern Norway and traveled to the 82nd parallel, a circle of latitude over 1,300 kilometers (808 miles) north. The expedition was carried out under the coordination of the MAM Polar Research Institute, part of the Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Türkiye (TUBITAK).

Nearly 1.5 million square km (580 sq mi) of sea ice has melted in the arctic region due to global climate change. Studies using satellite data since 1970 indicate

that the polar sea ice has been shrinking every year.

Capt. Oktar, who is also in charge of logistics, stressed the role of the sea ice in preventing a new ice age in the world. As it freezes, polar seawater releases some of its salt into the surrounding ocean, resulting in a denser body of water near the bottom, which then courses around the world in a system of currents before arriving back at the pole, he said. "Currents are important to us because while the land and sea can retain heat, the atmosphere can't. So, this current system helps create the climate and, by moving masses of both air and water, prevent the world from freezing over," Oktar added that the current glaciers were left over from the world's last glacial maximum, a major climat-

ic event about 20,000 years ago that saw major landscape changes across many areas.

Underlining that the Arctic was warming twice as fast than the rest of the planet due to climate change, Oktar said both sea ice and glaciers were at risk of vanishing. The disappearance of the sea ice has caused extreme events in our climate system, Oktar said, adding that the disappearance of the glaciers, on the other hand, was affecting sea level and salinity due to the increase in the amount of ocean fresh water. The UK government on Friday officially declared a drought in several parts of England, following months of record low rainfall and unprecedented temperatures in recent weeks. At a meeting of the



National Drought Group, the government's Environment Agency said the "drought trigger threshold had been met" in parts of southwestern, southern, central and eastern England. Drought was last officially declared in England in 2018. The Environment Agency on

Friday published a report saying that England as a whole had its driest July since 1935. The exceptional weather comes as France is also experiencing a record drought and battling huge wildfires. The Met Office, the UK's meteorological authority, said the period from January to June this year saw the

least rainfall in England and Wales since 1976. That summer saw the use of drastic measures such as roadside standpipes and water rationing. The government statement said the move to drought status was based on factors such as rainfall, river flows and levels of groundwater and reservoirs and their impact on public water supply.

"We urge everyone to manage the amount of water they are using in this exceptionally dry period," National Drought Group chair, Harvey Bradshaw, was quoted as saying. The Environment Agency and water companies "will step up their actions to manage impacts" and press ahead with their published drought plans, including things like hosepipe bans.

