



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

مجھ سے اسما میں بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا کہا کہ مجھ سے ابراہیم بن سعد نے بیان کیا ان سے ان کے والد نے بیان کیا اور انہوں نے ابن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما سے سنا کہ میں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو حجور کو کھڑی کے ساتھ کھاتے ہوئے دیکھا۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5447)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

India committing HRs' violations in IIOJK: Dr Alvi

President Dr Arif Alvi says India has been committing egregious human rights violations in IIOJK for decades and it has been three years since India unilaterally revoked Article 370 and abolished Article 35A to deprive IIOJK from its special legal status on August 5, 2019. I assure our Kashmiri brethren that Pakistan will continue to extend its all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to them in their legitimate struggle for self-determination in accordance with the UN Resolutions.



Parliament sole source power & authority: NA Speaker

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf says Parliament is the only source of all powers and authority in the country. Parliamentarians are the precious asset of Pakistan's democratic and constitutional struggle and the nation is proud of them. These are parliamentarians whose efforts and sacrifices have protected the right of expression and sanctity of speech in the beloved country.

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No independence sans economic self-reliance: PM

Offers 'charter of economy again

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that the nation is facing despair and crisis today but it has full potential to achieve every goal. Addressing the nation, the Prime Minister said that today, with many others, we face an emotional crisis. He said that Pakistan has been achieved after millions of sacrifices. On the eve of August 14, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the nation that there is no concept of a nation's independence without economic self-reliance.

The prime minister reiterated his call for the formation of a "charter of economy", saying that time has come for Pakistan to head in the right direction. "We should keep national interest above personal interest [...] as real political leadership does not look towards the next elections, but at the future of the next generation," he said. In the beginning of his address, the prime minister congratulated the nation on completing 75 years as an independent nation.

He said that the people celebrate Independence Day, Pakistan Day, Quaid-e-Azam Day, and Iqbal Day but the "truth" is, in the

last 75 years, the nation has only only celebrated these days but not acknowledged the founding father's purpose. The premier noted that the country failed to provide the young generation what they deserved. "Why this nation is still lost even when God has blessed it?" he questioned.

Earlier in the day Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the human and financial losses caused by recent flash floods in Qila Abdullah after another heavy monsoon rainy spell lashed Balochistan province. Seeking an immediate report over the affected areas, the prime minister also directed the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities to expedite the rescue and relief operations in the flood-hit areas.

A directive was also issued for the submission of a complete report regarding breaches in two dams and the subsequent damages caused by flood water. The prime minister is soon expected to visit the flood-affected areas of Qila Abdullah.

Tribute

Islamabad: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with Parliamentary Leaders in the National Assembly cutting ribbon to reinstall the original portrait of the Quaid-e-Azam painted by Saeed Akhtar for the National Assembly Hall in 1972.



Photo: PID

KSA mulls re-depositing \$3b to Pakistan

Official announcement expected within two days

Our Correspondent

RIYADH/ ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia is planning to renew the kingdom's \$3 billion deposit with Pakistan, as the cash-strapped country desperately seeks financial assistance. Citing people familiar with the matter, the publication said that apart from renewing the deposits with the State Bank of Pakistan as soon as this week (SBP), Saudi Arabia is also considering providing further financial help.

"The kingdom also plans to provide \$100 million a month for 10 months in petroleum products that will be granted as additional support," the publication quoted the people. The announcement is expected within two days, it added.

Once the plan becomes official, Pakistan's \$4 billion funding gap — a pre-condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — will be fulfilled, paving way for the revival of the lender's programme. The IMF

had set a condition that the cash-strapped nation needed to fulfil its \$4 billion financing gap for the loans to be disbursed under the combined seventh and eighth reviews.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail has confirmed that the IMF Executive Board is expected to meet on August 29 for taking up Pakistan's request to approve the seventh and eighth reviews and release a tranche of \$1.17 billion under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

On August 5, the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$7,830.3 million, down \$555 million compared with \$8,385.4 on July 29, data released by the SBP on Thursday showed, which can cover fewer than 1.12 months.

During this week's close, the Pakistani rupee maintained its uptrend for the ninth successive working day, as it further gained Rs3.38 to close at Rs215.50 against the US dollar in the interbank market.

Hiring US lobbyist firm

PTI's fake narrative exposed: Musadik

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Saturday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's fake narrative of regime change operation got exposed after its US chapter hired the services of a firm to maintain relations with the American administration. "On the one hand, Imran Khan claimed that his government was changed as a result of foreign conspiracy, while on the other side, he was hiring the services of a firm to improve relations with the same country," he said while addressing a news conference here.

The minister said Imran Khan was misleading the nation over the regime change conspiracy. He should tell truth to the nation about the firm named Feton Group hired by his party in the United States for lobbying there. Musadik Malik said the PTI chief made a mockery of the nation by spreading lies that coalition government was foreign sponsored to weaken Pakistan, while he hired the services of a

firm headed by David Fenton, who had been striving to denuclearize Pakistan and also written several books on it.

"Moreover, the PTI chief and other party leaders want that no institution should question their conduct, nor ask them about the amount of prohibited funding received from the different countries," he added. The minister said PTI used the donations to run the affairs of the party and received funds from over 350 foreign companies. The details in this regard were provided by the State Bank of Pakistan to the Election Commission when Imran Khan was in power.

He said PTI government had not deposited billion of rupees recovered from business tycoon Malik Riaz in the United Kingdom in the nation-

al exchequer, adding that the former SAPM on Accountability Dr Shahzad Akbar managed the entire process and "settled the whole matter." In exchange of the deal, the PTI chief got 458 canals under the garb of the Al-Qadir Trust, the minister added. Musadik Malik said Imran Khan took prohibited funding of billion of rupees from Arif Naqvi which was illegal as per the law as no political party could get funds from anyone other than Pakistani citizens.

He wondered if Nawaz Sharif could be removed from office and jailed for not withdrawing salary from his son, then why Imran Khan, who was declared guilty of crime in the foreign funding case, should not be held accountable. He said that PTI chief wanted midnight opening of the court and decisions in his favour like the decisions given in the past by Maulvi Tameez ud Din and Zafar Ali Shah. Musadik Malik said that Imran Khan wanted to control all the national institutions and if an institution did not decide in his favour, he would give mutiny calls against it.



Differences

NBP Governor, President slots remain vacant

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has delayed appointment of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) president after coalition parties failed to reach consensus. According to sources privy with the development, the interviews of candidates were scheduled for today, however, they have been postponed. Khurshid Zafar, Javed Qureshi, Sultan Naheed and others are being considered for the position. The sources in finance ministry said that the interviews will be rescheduled again soon.

It merits mention that coalition government has also failed to appoint new governor of State Bank of Pakistan.

After a delay in appointment of the State Bank of Pakistan governor, the federal government has delayed appointment of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) president following



differences among the unity government. According to sources privy to the matter, the interviews of as many as 10 candidates were scheduled however, they were delayed citing busy schedule of the finance minister. "Khurshid Zafar is likely to become the NBP President," they said, adding that the names of Javed Qureshi, Sultan Naheed, Tariq Hassan Qureshi, Hassan Raza, Tahir Yaqoob, Farrukh Iqbal Khan, Tariq Jawed, Muhammad Abdullah Ahmed and Imran Sarwar were also among the candidates to be interviewed.

The sources in finance ministry said that the inter-

views will be rescheduled again. It is pertinent to mention here that Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has previously announced multiple deadlines to appoint the governor SBP, however, none of them materialized yet. On July 21, Miftah Ismail said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor would be appointed by next week. Addressing the media, along with Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the finance minister said: "The new SBP governor appointment will be finalised by next week and the federal government will not artificially control the currency value."

Only

Empowered parliament can decide nation's future: Zardari

KARACHI: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Saturday that an empowered parliament can decide the future of the country and the nation and all democratic political parties should unite to empower the parliament. In his message to the nation on Independence Day, he said that the supremacy of the elected parliament of the people is essential for a free, independent and dignified Pakistan.

The former president said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation of Pakistan as an independent state. Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made Pakistan a strong and stable country by giving it the unanimous 1973 constitution which is still a symbol of trust and bond between all the units of the federation. APP

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Celebrations

Islamabad: An attractive view of fireworks light the sky at Parliament House during celebrations of 75th Independence Day in Federal Capital on Monday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

COAS participation in Sandhurst parade 'an honour': CM Elahi

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa's participation in the passing out parade of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, United Kingdom as a chief guest was a great honour for Pakistan as well as the nation. The CM in a statement issued here said that Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa's abilities were not only acknowledged at the international level but he has also become a symbol of peace.

He said that cadets of 26 countries participated in the passing out parade in which participation of Pakistani cadets was a matter of pride for the nation. CM said this strengthened the relations between Pakistan and Great Britain. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that attack on Salman Rushdie in America is the result of blasphemy.

Politics over re-recorded national anthem 'crime': Marriyum

Says journey of democracy to continue with zeal and zest

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said there was no need to politicize the re-recorded national anthem which truly reflected unity, brotherhood, minorities, and regional and cultural identities in the country. She said the journey of democracy would continue with same zeal and zest which had passed on numerous dividends to the nation under the leadership of previous democratic leaders.

"This is no one's credit as the national anthem is for all and re-recorded with joint efforts of the Information Ministry, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), 155 singers and brass bands of the armed forces," she said while announcing its launch by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday (tomorrow) at the national flag hoisting ceremony.

Addressing a news conference, she said the first national anthem was launched by the country's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan in 1954 and Shehbaz Sharif would be the second PM who would re-launch its updated version recorded

with modern technology and instruments after 68 years. Recalling the release of the first national anthem, she said after independence of Pakistan, the then government formed a committee, headed by Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, for the creation of the national anthem in 1948.

The musical composition of national anthem made by Ahmed Chagla was presented before the committee and PM Liaquat Ali Khan for approval. She said it was imperative for the young generation to know that the national anthem musical composition was approved on August 10, 1950 by the committee and released it in August, 1954. Divulging details about the re-recorded anthem, she said ads and letters of interest were floated in the newspapers for its re-recording during 2017 when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in the power.

Addressing the Flag Painting Ceremony in Islamabad at D-Chowk, she said the country became nuclear power during the democratic rule of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz

Sharif who connected all federating units by establishing network of the motorway across the country. She said it was Nawaz Sharif who completed the nuclear programme initiated by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1970s. He (Nawaz Sharif) made the country's defence impregnable despite the external pressure. Marriyum paid tribute to all scientists, engineers and others for their contribution in making the country an atomic power.

She said Nawaz Sharif eliminated terrorism from the country, brought economic growth to 6 per cent and ensured zero load-shedding during tenure of his previous government (2013-18). "Whether it was nuclear deterrence, constitution, youth programme, Benazir Income Support Programme or 4G internet, we got all these fruits during democratic rules," she said while eulogizing the all those who had rendered sacrifices in the struggle for democracy. "Whenever democracy was attacked, it returned with full force," she said while terming the political system panacea for all the problems

75 years economic journey of Pakistan unveiled

Per capita income rose to \$1,798 in 2022 from \$86 in 1950

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Finance ministry has launched '75 years Economic Journey of Pakistan' to commemorate 75th Independence Day of the country, highlighting how GDP, exports, per capita income and tax revenues increased during the period.

Sharing details of the economy during the period of 75 years since independence, the finance ministry shared that the nominal GDP rose from US\$3 billion to US\$383 billion from 1950-2022 while GDP growth boosted from 1.8 percent in

1950 to 5.97 percent in 2022.

It shared that per capita income rose from US\$86 in 1950 to US\$1,798 in 2022. "Exports rose from \$163.9 mn to \$32.5 bn from 1950-2022," it shared, adding that tax revenues rose from Rs0.31 billion to Rs6126.1 billion.

The finance ministry while highlighting the economic journey said that agriculture accounted for 59.9 percent of the total GDP in 1949-50 and green revolution started during the early 1960s.

"At the time of independence, Pakistan inherited only 34 industrial units out of 921 industrial units."

IG Punjab, Moonis meet Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Rao Shahkar and former federal minister Moonis Elahi called on Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan on Saturday, ARY News reported.

Sources privy to the development said that the meeting discussed the overall security and political situation of the province. Moonis Elahi informed the former prime minister about the prevailing political situation in detail, while IG Punjab took PTI chief into confidence regarding the overall security situation of the province.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is all set to stage 'grand' power show, being dubbed 'Haqeeqi Azadi Jalsa', (Saturday) at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore to celebrate the country's 75th Independence Day. The rally would be addressed by former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan and other senior leaders of the party. Meanwhile, all arrangements at the venue have been finalized while the roads leading to Lahore's National Hockey Stadium have been decorated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) flags.

FIA seeks PTI's funds, accounts record from Imran Khan

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has written a letter to Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and sought details of the party funds and accounts. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the letter has asked Imran Khan to submit the record of the party's national and internationally registered organizations since 1996. The investigation agency has also sought details of foreign currency accounts and funds received from foreign donors.

FIA has asked that the party should submit its audit reports of the party funds within two weeks and also submit the list of the names of the party's donors and the properties donated to the PTI. "The names of the all office holders and their nationality should also be submitted. All record of the party since 1996 till 2022 to be submitted," the FIA said in its letter. Earlier in the month, the ECP in its verdict said prohibited funding against PTI had been proved and ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and from 34 foreign nationals.

Pakistan condemns Jeddah terror attack

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the recent terrorist incident in Jeddah, resulting in injuries, including to a Pakistani national. In a statement Saturday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said we pray for the speediest recovery of those injured. The spokesperson said government and people of Pakistan reiterate their full support for and deep solidarity with the leadership, government and brotherly people of Saudi Arabia against any threats to the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Staff Reporter

IS Lahore power show

I want friendship with US but not slavery: Imran

Says Pakistani community is the most powerful in America

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has once again said that he was not anti-American and want friendship with Washington but doesn't want its slavery. Addressing a rally here on Saturday, he said that he was not against any country and Pakistani community is the most powerful in America.

Imran Khan said that there are four types of slavery, Muhammad Ali Jinnah freed us from one type of slavery. Slavery diminishes the self-respect of a nation, and injects an inferiority complex into the people, he

added. Prophet Muhammad made turned Muslims into the leaders of the world through an intellectual revolution. They gained that status by focusing on two things, education, and the PTI is staging a massive show to celebrate Pakistan's "haqeeqi (real) freedom", while screens have also been installed in many cities across the country to live telecast the speech of Imran Khan.

Last week, the PTI had shifted the venue of its scheduled public meeting on August 13 from Islamabad to Lahore. The decision was taken in the meeting of PTI's political committee chaired by chairman



Imran Khan. The political party will hold its power show in Lahore instead of Islamabad.

In the meeting, the party decided to change the venue and now the PTI's public meeting will be held at Hockey Stadium Lahore on the same day.

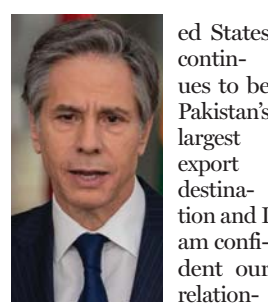
Khan directed the PTI leaders to make maximum steps to make the upcoming rally successful. The PTI chairman also gave the tasks to the Lahore organizations and asked them to start preparations for the Independence Day celebrations. Khan asked the Lahore leadership to run a door-to-door mass contact campaign ahead of the public gathering. PTI leaders Omar Ayub Khan and Ali Nawaz Awan told the media that Imran Khan decided to hold a public gathering in Lahore on August 13. A PTI delegation visited the Rawalpindi cricket stadium and Liaquat Bagh. Agencies

IS 75th Independence Day

US Secretary of state felicitates Pakistanis

WASHINGTON: The Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken stated that on behalf of the United States of America, I send warm wishes to the people of Pakistan as they celebrate their 75th Independence Day.

In addition to 75 years of independence, this year also marks 75 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Pakistan. We enjoy robust cooperation in many sectors, from the tens of thousands of Pakistani exchange students who have come to the United States to the 77 million COVID-19 vaccine doses we have committed to Pakistan through COVAX. The United



States continues to be Pakistan's largest export destination and I am confident our relationship will continue to grow. As we commemorate our 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, let us resolve to renew and strengthen our partnership for the next 75 years and beyond. We congratulate you on this important milestone and wish you a Happy Independence Day!

TTP's presence in Swat 'grossly misleading'

ISPR says presence of militants anywhere will not be tolerated

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The military Saturday strongly responded to the reports claiming that a large number of militants belonging to the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were present in Swat.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that during the past few days, a misperception about the presence of a large number of TTP's armed members in Swat Valley has been created on social media. "After confirmation on [the] ground, these reports have



been found as grossly exaggerated and misleading," the military's media wing said.

The ISPR, however, noted that there is the presence of a small number of armed men has been observed on a few mountain tops between Swat and Dir has been observed —

but it is located far away from the population. These individuals, the ISPR said, had apparently sneaked in from Afghanistan to resettle in their native areas.

The military said that a close watch is being maintained on their limited presence and movement in mountains and required measures are in place by all law enforcement agencies for the safety and security of people of adjoining areas. "The presence of militants anywhere will not be tolerated and they will be dealt with full use of force if required," the military warned.

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Flag hoisting ceremony at ICCI to celebrate Independence Day

Qamar Zaman Kaira says Pakistan was achieved after great sacrifices

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a flag hoisting and cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan.

Qamar Zaman Kaira, Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan was the chief guest. A large number of the business community was present at the occasion.

Addressing the business community

at the occasion, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan said that Pakistan was achieved after great sacrifices and we have to work hard to make it a welfare state, which should take care of every citizen of the country. He congratulated the Pakistani nation for celebrating the platinum jubilee of the country, which was a great milestone in the history of the country.

He said that the business community was playing an important role in the

economic development of the country and appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an All Parties Conference for Revival of Economy on Aug 16, 2022. He said that Pakistan has faced many ups and downs during the last 75 years, but we have to work on the agenda of the founders of the country to make it a strong nation of the world.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that promoting ease of doing business

and creating conducive environment was the key requirement to steer the economy out of current challenges. He said that the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan reminded us that we as a nation should work hard with honesty and dedication for the development of our beloved country.

He said that Pakistan was created by making untold sacrifices and every person of the nation should work with commitment for the betterment of Pakistan.

Celebrations

Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira and President ICCI, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Senior Vice President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President ICCI Muhammad Faheem Khan are cutting cake to celebrate 75th Independence Day of Pakistan at a Flag Hoisting ceremony organised at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

British Council partners with Koel Gallery

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The British Council and Koel Gallery have partnered to launch the 'Saahil Ki Kahaaniyan - Stories from the Coasts' project exhibition at the Koel Gallery in Karachi.

The exhibition which continues until 19 August features multidisciplinary works that aim to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on the coastal areas of Pakistan, particularly its fragile mangrove ecosystem, with a view to promoting sustainable coastal development.

The project is part of the British Council's Pakistan-UK Season: New Perspectives programme to mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan.

In February 2022, the project awarded grants to Pakistan-based artists exploring this theme through a variety of mediums, culminating in the curated exhibition close to Pakistan's Independence Day. The British Council arranged a diverse selection committee, including experts from the UK, to review applications – a process that was quite intensive, given the large number of high-quality applications that were received. After a detailed vetting exercise, four creative teams were selected to work on this project.

Visual Artist, Curator and Director KOEL Gallery, Noorjehan Bilgrami said: "I am sincerely hoping that these projects through the common platform of 'Saahil Ki Kahaaniyan', amal-



gamating at KOEL Gallery, will begin the process of collective research that records, investigates and disseminates the awareness of our legacy that needs to be owned, protected and treasured. It is a beginning for this exciting work to continue."

Artist Mahera Omar presented a silent cinematic journey through a delicate wetland ecosystem on the shores of an industrial city, documenting the precious biodiversity which is in grave danger of being lost under her project titled, 'Kabhi aisay bhi hota hai ke kinare doob jate hain...' Marvi Mazhar, Abuzar Madhu & Swalay Muhammad presented 'Milaap', an exploration of the sacred geography of the urban/

rural estuary where the river meets the coast, focusing on Khizr, the Darya Shah, whose coordinates are sometimes imaginary on liquid grounds in the form of astana, a promised space to protect the coast from climatic and human infrastructural ruptures.

Director Arts, British Council Pakistan Laila Jamil said: "Saahil Ki Kahaaniyan" has been a very exciting project for us – to have been a part of the selection of such wonderful artists and activists, to be able to see the variety of topics they have chosen, their sensitive approaches, deep research, and love of their respective areas of work – it has been a privilege to be part of their creative journey.

Maroof Int'l Hospital conducts awake brain tumor removal operation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital has become the first to conduct Awake Brain Tumor Removal Operation in the 75-years' History of Pakistan. Maroof International Hospital's Neurosurgeon, Prof. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan who has expertise in Minimally Invasive Brain and Spine Surgery has successfully performed the first Awake Brain Tumor removal operation on a brain cancer patient in Pakistan. The patient was discharged within 12 hours. After the US and Canada, this is the first operation of Awake Brain Surgery in the 75-years' history of Pakistan where the patient went home on the same day. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan said that Awake Brain Tumor Surgery is a complex Neurosurgical technique that he had been practicing for the past four years. Through this technique, the tumor is removed, saving the patient from brain damage and paralysis. He continued on saying, "I am delighted that after four years of my hard work, I successfully conducted the most difficult and complicated operation in Pakistan." The biggest advantage of the surgery was that the patient had control over his limbs and speech throughout.

Junaid Khan all set to star in Independence Day telefilm

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Junaid Khan all set to star in an Independence Day Tele film - Thori Sazish Thori Mudakhlat. Junaid Khan will be blessing our screens this 14th August with an Independence Day telefilm "Thori Sazish Thori Mudakhlat" alongside Hina Altaf and Qavi Khan. Directed by Mazhar Moin and penned down by Imran Nazir, "Thori Sazish Thori Mudakhlat" is a plot filled with romance and many twists and turns. "A story about a young man who is not being able to

follow his own dreams and ends up finding solace in someone he eventually falls in love with", stated Junaid Khan. From choosing versatile scripts to showcasing stellar performances, Junaid Khan is one of the most distinguished actors in the Pakistan entertainment industry. The actor was last seen in the critically acclaimed drama serial 'Hum Tum'. "Thori Sazish Thori Mudakhlat" is slated to go on-air on Hum Tv this Independence Day.

TCL, Daraz bring huge discounts

LAHORE: TCL Pakistan, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV brand, joined hands with Daraz, the leading online retailer, to deliver one of the biggest sales this Independence Day. The sale will commence on 14th August and end on 24th August. Each year TCL and Daraz aim to bring high-quality products at incredible prices. Witnessing the amazing response to the previous sales from the customers, TCL and Daraz decided to bring great offers for this Independence Day Sale. Also, TCL is offering Huge Discounts on their new C series Mini LED and Quantum Dot TVs, ACs, Soundbars, Smart Air Purifiers and Vacuum Cleaners. Also, there are amazing offers on the recently launched brand Ifalcon S52. Not only this TCL and Daraz are also offering Easy Monthly Installments, Free Shipping, and Discount Vouchers. Speaking about the Pakistan Day Sale, Majid Khan Niazi, Marketing Manager at TCL Pakistan said, "We are thrilled to work again with Daraz this Independence Day. We are giving customers premium products and aim to give them the best deals and offers like every year for Independence Day's celebrations." Ibrahim Khan – Head of Brands at Daraz Pakistan said, "The Independence Day Sale promises to give customers an entertaining experience. Customers are urged to tune into the Pakistan Day Sale as there will be something new for grabs each day". TCL has maintained its position of being the No. 1 in Pakistan and the 2nd Largest TV Brand in the Global Consumer Electronics industry, with a global presence in over 150 countries, and aims to further broaden its footprint across the country, by giving customers the best Smart CE solutions available globally.



PTC helps develop Miyawaki forest

Spokesman Report



ABBOTTABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company along with Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is playing a vital role in improving the environment through plantation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Tehamsab Khan, Chief Conservator Forests expressed this at inauguration of the plantation drive on Hazara Motorway. In the private sector, Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited has always played a significant and positive role regarding plantation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to details, Pakistan Tobacco Company is providing 110,000 free saplings to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Department this year. While in the first phase, a forest will be developed by planting 30,000 saplings on Hazara Motorway under Miyawaki technique. Kifayat Baloch Conservator of Forests, Tariq Ali Shah District Forest Officer, Muhammad Qasim, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager Pakistan Tobacco Company and Motorway Police officers and people from different sectors participated in the event.

CDC, CDNS sign MoU



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual collaboration to convert and issue National Savings Certificates (NSCs) in digital form to reduce physical process flows of different transactions and develop a systematic framework through which NSCs can be inducted into the Central Depository System (CDS).

While addressing the occasion, DG CDNS, Mr. Hamid Raza commented that "The initiative is in line with CDNS's ultimate objective of the digitization of National Savings Certificates. The recent circumstances with the shift to digitization make it all the more exigent for CDNS to undergo complete digital transformation. This platform will facilitate investors of National Savings Certificates, making it easier for them to invest in and maintain their NSCs in electronic format, thereby promoting and harvesting the savings culture in Pakistan at the grass root level."

He said the pivotal role of innovation in economic development is undeniable, with advancements in Fintech leading the change. Innovative tech-based processes can lead to higher productivity, reduced turnaround times, lower costs and wider outreach.

At the occasion, describing the objectives of the project, CEO-CDC Mr. Badiuddin Akber said that "The core objective of establishing a Depository in Pakistan was to dematerial-

ize all types of financial instruments in Pakistan.

Considering this as our ultimate vision, we have dematerialized almost all types of securities in Pakistan; however, National Savings Certificates are one major aspect yet to be dematerialized. As the Depository, we feel that it is our National duty to bring our processes at par with the international best practices, and it is indeed the need of the hour that a mechanism must be developed for investors to have NSCs in book-entry form."

Through this project, CDC will facilitate Investors, with investment in a diverse array of securities, to maintain their complete portfolio of dematerialized securities in a single account at CDC. This project will eliminate the risk of theft, loss, mutilation, etc. as well as the hassle of printing, dispatching, maintenance, etc. of physical certificates by maintaining the NSCs in electronic format in the CDS.

CDC will extend the same benefits to CDNS investors as it currently provides to investors of book-entry securities in the CDS, including easy, efficient and secure transfer process for certificates, online account access and pledging facilities. At present, CDC Account can be opened through CDC offices or through digital portal of CDC from anywhere in Pakistan; however, both organizations will also work on the possibility of opening of CDC accounts through the nationwide network of CDNS offices in order to make it more convenient for investors to open CDC Account and hold National Savings certificates in digital form.

Community livelihoods programme for Thar launched

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company launched the second phase of their partnership in Thar, focusing on improving community livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, at a ceremony organized in Karachi.

The launch ceremony was attended MPA Qasim Siraj Soomro, senior officials from the government, as well as by representatives of the development sector, academia, media and the private sector. The programme follows an earlier project on culture conservation and the first-ever ecological survey of Thar in Sindh.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Guest MPA Mr. Qasim Siraj Soomro appreciated the role the private sector is playing in the development of Thar, and said: "I am encouraged to note that IUCN and the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) are taking



forward their partnership into the next phase – and working towards improving the livelihoods of the communities and conservation in Thar."

He added that "the progress of the Thar coal energy is a clear reflection of our commitment to the people, and we hope we will together bring about betterment for the people of Thar in particular and the province in general."

"SECMC has created a wonderful

example by not only responding to the energy needs of the people but it has at the same time, created thousands of opportunities for both men and women of Thar," he noted.

CEO Amir Iqbal of SECMC said that the company while on the one hand was trying to meet the energy needs of the country, it was also responsibly doing so such that it maintains a balance between development and environment while also catering to the

basic needs of the communities under its sustainability approach.

Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative of IUCN, said in his welcome remarks, that "IUCN, which works on nature conservation, has joined hands with SECMC to work towards protecting the fauna and flora or Thar and also to create innovative techniques to improve livelihoods of Thari communities."

Umair Aslam Butt, Head of HSE, SECMC, said he hoped that this partnership would create the opportunity to work for the communities and help contribute to improving their livelihoods, create new sources of incomes and help towards bringing about prosperity in Thar.

Closing remarks were given by Danish Rashdi, Head of IUCN Karachi Programme Office, who said that the initiative is aimed at supporting communities in Thar and "the path to this goal is through conservation and sustainable development.



Happy Independence Day, Happy Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan Pakistan A Blessing of Allah

By Brigadier (ret) Muhammad Lateef

States are usually formed on the basis of geographical divisions, ethnicity, language or other commonalities or differences. Many states emerged on the political map of the world after WW-II. All emerged on other premises. But Pakistan has the privilege of coming into existence on the basis of ideology.

Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal presented the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims of India in 1930 at historic All India Muslim League Allahabad Convention. It was firstly taken as dream of a mad man but in short span of only 10 years, Muslims of subcontinent under the charismatic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, were able to muster support of majority of Muslims which was unanimously expressed in the form of Pakistan Resolution on 23 March 1940 at Minto Park Lahore. Pakistan came into being on 14 August 1947, 27 Ramadan ul Mubarak, perhaps by a coincidence, or by an elaborate Divine scheming. There are more than one reasons to believe that the creation of Pakistan is not less than a miracle and it is really a Blessing of Allah. Muslims got united under the slogan "Pakistan ka Matlib Kia La illah ha Illallah". This slogan forms the basis of Two-Nation Theory and Ideology of Pakistan. This slogan for Pakistan is a Blessing of Allah and no one can change the purpose of creation of Pakistan.

Disappointed by the internal conspiracies, Mohammad Ali Jinnah left India and started practicing law in England. Despite pursuance by Allama Iqbal and other Muslim leaders, Jinnah kept on refusing to accept the leadership of Muslim League. Until one night while asleep he was commanded in dream by the Prophet (PBUH) to return to India and lead the Muslims for creation of a separate homeland for themselves. This "Divine Guidance" reflects that the creation of Pakistan is a miracle and a Blessing of Allah.

Usually the name of a country depicts the ethnic composition of that very country like Germany for German people and Japan for Japanese people. Pakistan is a unique name that does not depict any single nationality. Instead, it means a place to live for the noble people. Amazingly, there is a similarity in the meanings of Madina Tayyaba and Pakistan. Is it by chance or a part of grand Divine design?

Numerology related to Pakistan is also quite interesting. For example, every year 14 August i.e. Independence Day of Pakistan, 25 December i.e. Birth anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam and 11 September i.e. death anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam fall on the same day of the week and this will keep on happening till the Dooms Day. Tactical number of Pakistan Army is 786 which depicts Bismillah

while access code for international direct dialing of Pakistan is 92 which is translated into numerology as Muhammad. Now all this is by chance or as part of Divine design.

Initially Karachi was the capital city of Pakistan. However, later on a small village in the footsteps of Margalla Hills i.e. Noorpur Shahan was selected to be the new capital with the name of Islamabad. Pakistan and Islamabad are synonymous to each other and seem to be planned by a supernatural power. The saint Bari Imam had centuries ago predicted development of such a capital that will be the centre of Islam and the strength of Pakistan.

Pakistan is the only Muslim country having declared nuclear capability, despite all odds and international sanctions. Pakistan possesses a credible nuclear deterrence and also the second strike capability. In pursuance of Divine guidance in the Holy Book of Qur'an "and make ready your strength to the utmost of your power including the sinews of war to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of Allah and your enemies and others besides them whom you may know not but Allah does know and whatever you shall expand in the cause of Allah shall be repaid unto you and you shall not be treated unjustly." This unconventional military power bestowed upon Pakistan is a miracle in itself and a Blessing of Allah.

Above events may sound unrealistic and a fantasy but this is a fact that despite all odds and difficulties Pakistan is making steady progress in all the fields. Despite economic turmoil and political upheavals, independent international experts are predicting Pakistan's rise as a major economic, political and military power in the near future.

Pakistan is definitely a miracle and a Blessing of Allah; anyone who will respect this Blessing will be rewarded in this life and the life hereafter and anyone who will try to harm this Blessing of Allah will be punished in this life and on the Day of Judgement. Let us all join hands to work for the purpose for Pakistan was created.

Two-Nation Theory Stands Validated
This is the 75th year of Pakistan – the Diamond Jubilee Year of Pakistan's Independence. Given the fact that the Muslims of India are greatly suffering at the hands of Hindu-led ideology under the fascist rule by Modi, now we know how timely was the Quaid's Pakistan Movement and how legitimate was our forefathers' struggle for Independence. "There is just no price for independence, no compensation for liberty. If today the dark clouds have gathered on our horizon, they cannot and should not frighten us into compromising on our independence." To maintain the sanctity and security of the

Motherland intact, the sons of soil, both in khaki and civvies, are rendering matchless services and offering supreme sacrifices, a fact the world has stunningly recognized. The country cannot be harmed if we forge unity amongst our ranks. Therefore, talking to the Taliban from a position of weakness is not acceptable, rather an insult to the blood of the thousands of innocent citizens who became target of terrorism.

It is now three years since August 5, 2019 when Indian government revoked Articles 35A and 370 of its Constitution, which gave a special status to the disputed territory of the Jammu & Kashmir. Thus, New Delhi unilaterally annexed the region with the Indian Federation to turn Muslim majority into minority. Acting upon the ideology of Hinduva, Indian biased rulers also issued domicile certificates to 40000 non-Kashmiris. The Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA) passed by the Indian Parliament further exposed the discriminatory policies of Modi regime. The CAA coupled with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is mainly against the Muslim immigrants particularly from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Since last year, daily mass protests continued across every state in India against the CAA and the NRC.

At this critical juncture, Pakistan is facing multiple crises and challenges like corruption, soaring prices, economic meltdown, energy-shortage, unemployment, crime, lack of health facilities, and dependence upon IMF and World Bank for financial aid. However, civil and army institutes are implementing comprehensive plans for tackling the issues like Rekodex, FATF and other problems. Pakistan's security forces under General Qamar Javed Bajwa have made tremendous gains while facing a different war. The enemies employ subversive activities of various kinds which include both internal and external challenges. In these terms, Pakistan is facing a different kind of difficult war.

As regards Independence Day, it was a watershed moment in the history of subcontinent. In fact, the British colonialists in connivance with majority Hindu population had manipulated and targeted Muslims through every possible way. In that background, Muslims started struggle for a separate state. Nevertheless, prior to the Lahore session of Muslim League, Mohammad Ali Jinnah had specified to this historical congregation of the Muslims, the watch-words of 'Faith, Unity and Discipline' which were not only necessary for waging the battle for an independent homeland, but also for present Pakistan. The essence of these watch-words is 'Unity' which is also the real spirit of the Independence Day.

Pakistan's Energy Mix: Importance of Nuclear Power Generation

By Hafiz Abdul Nasir

Energy mix is a combination of various energy generating sources like fossil fuels, solar, nuclear and wind that make up energy generation means of a country. No country on the planet

operating continuously at high capacity factors even more than other conventional energy sources.

in the betterment of lives of its people. Nuclear power generation is also important for Pakistan on the environmental front as well. In Pakistan these NPPs are being operated by Pakistan Atomic Energy



dependson a single fuel or single energy sourcefor power generation.

Electricity consumption has expanded remarkably in recent times, nearly all human activities have now become more reliant upon electric energy. There is an immediate need for sustainable, dependable, environment-friendly and cost-effective energy for all countries in general and developing countries in particular. As in these countries, the surge in energy demand is due to industrial growth, up-to-date agribusiness practices, population explosion and boom in transportation requirements. In the case of Pakistan, the country mainly relies on energy imports since there is lack of financing in native assets of hydro and natural gas. Nevertheless, economic viability is another challenge because of energy payments as major part of electricity generation depends on imported hydrocarbons.

Pakistan is progressing steadily in the field of nuclear power generation as number of NPPs in operation has reached to six, with a recent addition of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-3 (K-3) having generation capacity of 1100MW. Besides that there is another identical NPP named Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (K-2), this plant was connected to the national grid in March last year and started its commercial operation on 21st May, 2021. There are four other NPPs namely C-1, C-2, C-3 and C-4, located at Chashma near Mianwali, generating about 1330MW electricity in total. With the recent addition of K-3, nuclear power generation capacity of the country has reached more than 3,500MW. Moreover, all these NPPs are under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards According to Pakistan Economic Survey 2021-22, share of nuclear power in the country's energy mix is 12% which should be substantially increased in future to ensure reliable, environment friendly and cost-effective energy.



For a country like Pakistan, nuclear energy has various advantages; it would forestall further natural debasement, reduce import bill of hydrocarbons and

Commission (PAEC). Besides its contribution in nuclear power generation which is a Sustainable Development Goal of UN, it is learnt that PAEC is actively engaged in pursuing 11 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations



and adopted by IAEA programme, to be achieved by 2030. For instance, to achieve 'Zero Hunger' SDG, the organization has set up four agriculture centres which are involved in developing and practicing nuclear techniques in agriculture. These centres have produced 132 high-yield and pest-resistant varieties of different crops. While objective of 'Good Health and Well-being' is being achieved by providing diagnostic and treatment facilities to ailing cancer patients through a network of 19 cancer hospitals spread across length and breadth of the country. Furthermore, the goal of 'Quality Education' is being attained by its educational institutions like PIEAS, a high-ranking engineering university, and a number of schools and colleges. Other national institutions should also follow these footsteps and try to take lead for socioeconomic development of the country.

It is well-known that nuclear is amongst the most reliable, economical and environment-friendly sources of energy, as Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) are designed to operate throughout the year and have almost zero carbon emissions. Besides that an example of reliability of NPPs was witnessed when C-

help to sort balance of payment crisis, provide sustainable and steady power supply, decrease cost of electricity and resultantly permit the manufacture of low-cost and market-competitive products. Nuclear power being environmentally safe, economically viable and reliable has an important role to play in Pakistan's goal of energy security which is directly related to economic growth of the country and results

The writer is an IT graduate with a keen interest in issues of science and technology. He can be reached at abdulnasir1144@gmail.com.



Happy Independence Day, Happy Diamond Jubilee Year of Pakistan's Independence.
(The writer served Pakistan Army in various capacities and retired as Brigadier)



عزم عالی شان
شاد رہے پاکستان

Happy Independence Day

Happy Independence Day

Providing over 3500MW Electricity through
6 Nuclear Power Plants

Providing diagnosis & treatment of Cancer through
19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals

Developed **132** Crop Varieties through **4 Agriculture & Biotecynology Centres**

Developing **Human Resource** through Top Ranking Engineering University & Institutes
PIEAS, KINPOE & Chascent

Providing Indigenous **Engineering Support** through Multiple Centres Nation-wide

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Envisaging an African Green Economy

Raila Odinga

As the global economy undergoes a fundamental transformation to decarbonize by 2050, the question for Africa is whether it can industrialize and rapidly develop without fossil fuels. The answer to that question is a resounding "yes," provided that the international community can reach a new global compact on the emerging green economy. A new compact should include at least three core commitments. First, the international community should create a green-energy fund to promote an equitable energy transition in Africa. This would spur local entrepreneurship in the green-energy sector, including green manufacturing, supply chains, market access, and green-tech innovations. Second, a global consensus must acknowledge that raw-materials exports are the core reason why Africa remains poor despite its vast minerals and commodities wealth. The international community should reject this status quo and, as the third pillar of the global compact, develop a framework to invest in green

manufacturing in Africa. This can take the form of global joint ventures and strategic partnerships to build manufacturing plants in Africa, with priority given to green projects. It is through manufacturing and the development of a value-added economy that Africa can achieve rapid industrialization, knowledge and technology transfers, and substantial reductions in poverty. Kenya provides a template for reimagining the energy transition. We aspire to build a sustainable digital knowledge society that is diverse, open, inclusive, and democratic. It will be driven by research, innovation, and the prudent management of our natural resources within a well-managed, diversified economy. We intend to become a global leader in all facets of the green economy, including finance, information and communication technology (ICT), data science, research and development, and manufacturing.

Our ambition is matched by our history. When Fintech was still in its infancy, Kenya emerged as a global leader in the sector with the invention of the digital-payment system M-Pesa. Then, in 2009 alone, we attracted Greenfield investments in the software and IT sector from 63

countries. Today, we host global companies such as Microsoft, Alphabet (Google), Cisco, Oracle, IBM, Abbott Laboratories, and Meta (Facebook). As an emerging global ICT hub, Kenya today is considered one of the most innovative countries in Africa. In the environmental field, Kenya's favored daughter, the late Wangari Maathai, won the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for building the Green Belt Movement, a pioneering global campaign to protect ecosystems and address the links between poverty, clean water, food security, and climate change. And earlier, in October 1973, Kenya became the first country in the Global South to host a United Nations agency. The United Nations Environment Program has been headquartered in Kenya ever since, and 23 other UN agencies now operate here.

Kenya is also a leader in the renewable energy sector, with 75% of its electricity sourced from solar, geothermal, wind, and hydropower. With the use of decentralized smart grids and mini green grids, we can achieve 100% renewable power while also rapidly scaling up rural electrification to promote digital and financial inclusion. But Kenya is only getting started. Our natural

resources are vast. We have large deposits of rare earth elements and critical metals that are essential for electric vehicles (EVs) and other technologies needed to drive decarbonization. If used properly, these minerals can be the building blocks of sustainable green manufacturing, infrastructure, and supply chains.

By promoting green manufacturing, we can create large numbers of well-paying jobs and lift millions of people out of poverty. High-quality "green products" based on modern best practices command higher prices. By promoting high-value industries, we will unleash our greatest resource: the energies and talents of our youth. But this transition will require investing in green infrastructure and the human capital required to sustain green-business ecosystems. For this reason, I believe that Kenya, like many developing countries, must make green manufacture a national priority. We can make rapid progress toward this goal by decarbonizing and raising productivity in agro-processing sectors such as cotton, textiles, and apparel. We also must restructure the steel industry to produce high-quality "green steel," and we must manufacture more of the high-value

products that rely on the rare earth elements and critical metals that are abundant in Kenya.

The same is true across Africa. Imagine chocolate made entirely in Ghana or Côte d'Ivoire. Imagine EV batteries manufactured in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and green steel from Kenya. Imagine copper fully processed in Zambia, and diamonds exported as finished products from Botswana. Imagine Africa becoming the top global producer of green hydrogen and the leader in carbon-capture technology. Imagine a continent that can leapfrog ahead of the rest of the world in green technology, R&D, manufacturing, and finance. It's a realistic vision. But it will require a new global compact. With the full support of the international community through appropriate financial facilities and a framework to promote green manufacturing and discourage raw-materials exports from Africa, countries like Kenya can set the pace in creating twenty-first-century sustainable economies, lift millions of people out of poverty, and secure the future of our planet.

The writer is former prime minister of Kenya. Courtesy Arab News

Anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat

On 10th April, communal riots broke out in different parts of India including West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat on the occasion of Ram Navami. The occasion saw Hindu right wing organizations organize processions in these states. In the state of Gujarat, organizations including Ram Sena, Antar Rashtriya Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad organized Shobha Yatra processions in Khambhat situated in Anand district in Central Gujarat and Himmatnagar situated in Sabarkantha district in North Gujarat on 10th April, 2022.

The Hindu and Muslim communities clashed during the processions and Muslims indulged in stone pelting. Shops and vehicles were set ablaze during the riots and stones were thrown. The police had to resort to lathi charge and lobbying of tear gas shells for bringing the situation under control. In Khambhat, the local administration ordered bulldozers to raze down the properties of those accused of stone pelting during the communal riots which took place in the minority dominated area of Shakarpur.

In Himmatnagar, the fact-finding team interacted with Muslim residents of Ashrafnagar locality. They told the team that Ram Navami is celebrated every year for the past for nearly 28 years. However, procession was always scheduled at 4pm in the previous years. The organizers were always the local Hindu residents. But this time, there were two processions. The first one was organized by the Antar Rashtriya Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal and the second one was organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. None of the processions saw participation of local Hindus in large numbers unlike previous years.

The first one started at around 1pm from the Ram temple near Ashrafnagar. The procession had around 1200 to 1500 participants. Since it was approaching namaz time, some Muslim youth were standing near the mosque. The tractors had DJ sets on them with blaring music. When the procession came near the mosque, the participants in the procession started shouting slogans- Hindustan mein rehana hoga toh jai shri ram Kehana hoga. Thus, scuffle broke out between some of the Muslim youth and participants of the rally.

According to some of the witnesses who requested to be anonymous, the tractors in the procession were full of stones and arms. Stone pelting ensued. The participants of the procession were armed with swords according to Kanak Jhala himself who is the leader of the Antar Rashtriya Hindu Parishad. The participants of the procession burnt 18 stalls and two houses belonging to Muslims. Police were present and accompanying the procession. They didn't do anything to stop the violence. In fact the police didn't let the fire brigade come to douse the fire where Muslim properties were burnt.

One Muslim boy was injured in this violence outside his house in Ashrafnagar when a stone hit his head leading to severe injury to his head which couldn't be treated in a local hospital. He was taken to the Ahmedabad Civil hospital and treated by a neurosurgeon. He was unconscious for a couple of weeks. He hadn't participated in violence but had stepped out of his house to check why there was commotion.



Emergence of Sixth Island Chain in Contemporary Blue Diplomacy

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik
Ph.D.; IR

Island Chain Strategy is a strategic maritime containment plan conceived by an American foreign policy statesman John Foster in 1951, during the Korean War. It proposed of surrounding the Soviet Union and the China with naval bases in the Western Pacific to restrict sea access. Later, due to Soviet Union dissolution, it has remained a major focus for Beijing and Washington's geopolitical and military analysts. For U.S., this strategy continues as substantial tool of projection in Far East. For China, the concept is integral to its maritime security and to expand its influence against U.S. Defence Strategy Western Pacific. Presently, strategy emphasises on geo-political value of Taiwan.

Portugal is welcoming non-military Chinese engagement even against the wishes of US and its NATO allies. A Chinese foothold will allow Beijing to leverage the islands for immediate diplo-economic gain by utilising logistics centers and fostering lucrative business ventures in Caribbean under its pragmatic Belt Road Initiative. Increased Chinese ingress in North Atlantic will not only enhance its influence to exploit regional politico-military interests but will also reduce the US leverage in South China Sea. China is eager to diversify its export markets and find new sources of energy and natural resources to fuel its growing economy. Portugal is one of the first countries in Western Europe to cooperate with Beijing's strategic vision of Belt Road Initiative.

Reduction of U.S. troops from Lajes dueto budget has created a strategic vacuum which China is eager to fill. Apart from Lajes air base,

port of Praia da Victoria being strategically located on Terceira Island can support Chinese transportation of its larger volumes over longer distances.

Portugal's "golden visa" program that grants residency to those purchasing property valued at more than 500,000 euros provides a legal option for Chinese to own and exert a greater regional influence. Beijing is also seeking scientific partnerships with Portugal to study paleontology, volcanology, and climate change to enhance its influence in Atlantic. Chinese investments will help Portugal to overcome 30 percent of its economic suffering caused due to reduction of U.S. troops from Azores. U.S.



resisting to the idea of Chinese logistics and research centers in proximity of U.S. military base in the Azores, however Beijing's assistance to Portugal during its debt crisis in 2008 has led to an agreement to construct micro-satellites with an amount worth 57 million USD will be launched from a spaceport on the Azores, providing agricultural and oceanographic data. U.S. NATO allies also continue to denounce a Beijing foothold in the strategic Azores archipelago as allowing Beijing dual-use of aircraft and shipping vessels would likely hinder any operation and provide China with valuable intelligence. Azores ultimately

is likely to emerge as another base including Gwadar and Djibouti.

Beijing's involvement in Latin America has increased since 2000. Chinese companies are investing in infrastructure, space, ports, shipping and industries, surpassing even the U.S. trade. U.S. is apprehensive that Beijing is using these reports to pursue its maritime objectives in Atlantic in response to U.S. provocations against it in Indo-Pacific Region, especially South China Sea. For more than half a century, Trinidad and Tobago has been a center of Chinese attention in the Caribbean. Chinese investments in Trinidad include \$500 million Chinese-built dry dock. In 2011, China invested \$850 million to acquire a 10 percent shares in Atlantic LNG. COSCO has expanded its service like in Azores islands. Huawei and ZTE have also established a strong position market. In the defense and security sector, Trinidad was the first in Western Hemisphere to purchase a Chinese-made military ship, an Offshore Patrol Vessel. It is predicted that by 2035, Chinese market access in Latin American and Caribbean will be 700 billion USD. As per 2015 Defense Strategy White Paper, China is vying to strengthen military ties with Trinidad. However U.S. concerns are deepening about Chinese growing presence in Latin America as Washington has shifted its focus toward the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. U.S. being frustrated is imposing sanctions on several Latin American countries to keep its dominance however is failing against China with time at its end to establish 4500 km Sixth Island Chain from Azores to Trinidad to fix U.S. which is already trapped in Oceans.

The writer is Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK)

AI or human brain

Barhdadi Hassan

In the 19th century, Andrew Ure (Scottish economist, doctor and founder of the Andersonian Institution) asserted that perfect factories would be without workers. More recently, Jeremy Rifkin (American essayist, specialist in economic and scientific forecasting) prophesied "The end of work". First, what exactly is AI and what's the process based on? Conceptualised in 1955 in the US under the leadership of young researchers, wishing to have computers perform what the human brain does, especially tasks deemed to require intelligence. These researchers had backgrounds in psychology, mathematics, logic and electronics. The idea was to create a form of intelligence that comes from machines. It is therefore a process of imitation of human intelligence, which is based on the creation and application of algorithms executed in a dynamic computing environment, and whose purpose is to allow computers to think and act like human beings.

Currently in accordance with ISO 2382-98, Artificial Intelligence is the "ability of a functional unit to perform functions usually associated with human intelligence, such as reasoning and learning". With Artificial Intelligence, we are entering a brave new world. Currently scientists have a phenomenal amount of data and the computational power required to operate them, without forgetting the recent advances in neuroscience which have perfected the algorithms on which Artificial Intelligence is based. Work, media, health, finance, economy, weapons systems, computers, transport, communications, human services... you name it. AI is already disrupting our daily lives. And it won't stop there. Artificial neural networks are making significant progress in image recognition, text analysis. It can identify skin cancers, prostate or respiratory diseases with a high hit rate.

The brain is a network of nearly a hundred kilometers of blood vessels. It is also two hundred billion cells, the whole weighing about a kilo and a half. In the brain, everything always starts with

two cells communicating with each other at a given point and which then diffuse in a circuit. A single cell can make five thousand contacts. Multiply this number by the two hundred billion cells and you will have what generates brain intelligence. Or about a million billion interactions, in three words: very nice machine. But the brain is also, feelings, emotions, and the memorisation of the complex interactions of social, family, spatial and cultural life. A mind that is not only mathematical, but also polymath and critical.

On the other hand, the brain spends its time anticipating possible situations from the information it perceives from our senses. It puts them into perspective with what it already has in memory.

Thanks to this, brain constantly tries to predict and anticipate what is going to happen. The brain is also busy 24 hours a day as it analyses sugar levels, need to sleep, eat, drink and exchange emotions. The brain is a consciousness correlated to the choices it must make between the possibilities that may arise. According to the Salk Institute, our brain could store one petabyte (memory or data storage capacity that is equal to 2 to the 50th power of byte) of data.

The Artificial Intelligence of each GAFA would store a thousand times more data. Certainly, AI systems are capable, in their areas of specialisation, to surpass us. They reason faster, from more information, and more reliably than humans. But in reality, algorithms are content to respond to extremely precise tasks and are unable to have reasoning outside their domain, encouraging researchers to work actively for the development and improvement of intelligent machines.

AI has a much wider spectrum of interests and the reason is simple: the human brain has multiple capacities, which range from reflex activities to "reflective" activities. It is difficult to imagine the coding and algorithms reproducing an Artificial Intelligence equipped with analytical and critical consciousness that can substitute human brain. A robot reasons, but it has no soul. A neurone is alive, a silicon component is not.

Dr. Barhdadi Hassan is a noted neurosurgeon with the Ministry of Health, Morocco. Courtesy Gulf News

China sending fighter jets to Thailand for joint exercises

U.S. says would take resolute steps to support Taiwan

BANGKOK/TAIPEI: The Chinese air force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military on Sunday.

The training will include air support, strikes on ground targets and small- and large-scale troop deployment, the Chinese Defense Ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the United States and its allies and form part of a growing strategic and economic competition that has inflamed tensions between the world's two largest economies.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Thailand in June as part of an effort to strengthen what he called America's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region.

The Falcon Strike exercise will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.

It also follows China's sending warships, missiles and aircraft into



the waters and air around Taiwan in a threatening response to a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled island, which China claims as its territory.

Kurt Campbell, a top advisor to President Joe Biden on the Indo-Pacific, said Friday that the U.S. would take resolute steps to support Taiwan, including sending warships and aircraft through the 160-kilometer (100-mile) wide waterway that separates Taiwan and China.

"We'll continue to fly, sail and operate where international law allows, consistent with our longstanding commitment to freedom of navigation," he said in a call with reporters. "And that includes conducting standard air and maritime transits through the Taiwan Strait in the next few weeks."

On the other hand, Taiwan's foreign ministry on Saturday expressed "sincere gratitude" towards the United States for taking "concrete actions" to maintain

security and peace in the Taiwan Strait and the region.

Taiwan's foreign ministry said in a statement on Saturday that China's "unprovoked military and economy intimidation" had "further strengthened the unity and resilience of the global democratic camp."

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said on Thursday that China's threat of force is undiminished, even though Beijing's largest-ever military drills around the island, following Pelosi's visit last week, seemed to be scaling down.

At a rally on Saturday in southern Taiwan for local elections scheduled for late November, Tsai said they were not just facing rival candidates, "but also pressure from China."

"Taiwanese are very enthusiastic and love freedom and democracy, so many good international friends have come to Taiwan to support us. This is a normal and good thing, but China threatens and intimidates Taiwan," she said.

"However, I would like to reassure everyone that both our government and the military are prepared, and I will definitely take care of Taiwan."

Independence Day

Pak Embassy Beijing organizes Food and Cultural Festival

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan Embassy, Beijing organized a Food and Cultural Festival at the state-of-the-art Silk Road Art and Cultural Centre in the city of Langfang, an hour drive from Beijing, to celebrate the 75th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan.

The two-day festival is aimed to showcase Pakistan's rich history, beautiful landscapes, cultural heritage, products, arts & crafts, literature, and traditional food. The opening ceremony was attended by over 300 people including Chinese dignitaries, government officials, business executives, members of the diplomatic corps, media representatives and Pakistani community.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mo'in ul Haque stated that 75th Anniversary of Independence was a historic milestone for Pakistan which is today the 5th largest nation of 220 million hard working, talented and enterprising people. He highlighted the strengths of Pakistan as an investment and tourist destination and invited



people of China to visit Pakistan next year being celebrated as Year of Tourism Exchanges.

The Ambassador also spoke in length about the special friendship and iron brotherhood between China and Pakistan which is time tested and timeless. He hoped this festival would help in promoting cultural cooperation and people to people exchanges between the two countries.

A number of activities are being organized as a part of this festival,

including cultural performances, display of Pakistani products and handicrafts, photo exhibition, children games, and famous Pakistani dishes. A special children art activity to make a large painting symbolizing China-Pakistan friendship was held on the occasion. A Virtual Reality Booth offered virtual tours of Lahore Fort and Lake Saif ul Malooh. Two famous movies 'Parvez hai Janoon' and animated movie 'Allahyar and legends of Markhor' are also being shown at the Festival.

Saudi Arabia allows all visa holders to perform Umrah

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia announced on Saturday that it has allowed all types of visitors, including those holding tourist visas, to perform Umrah in the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The decision, which is valid for the new Umrah season that began on July 30, aims to enrich Umrah performers' cultural and religious experience, said the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. Visitors eligible for on-arrival visas or e-visas and holders of U.S., British or Schengen visa are also included.

Holders of visas for family and other visits can also perform Umrah by making an appointment through the Eatmarna application or sending applications to the Unified National Visa Platform.

Visitors are also required to have health insurance that covers treatment for COVID-19 infections, accidents, flight delays or cancellations, and other issues in order to perform Umrah. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced on July 31 that 20,000 Umrah visas had been issued.

Pro-Pakistan posters, banners come up in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, pro-Pakistan posters and banners have come up in the Kashmir Valley on the eve of Independence Day of Pakistan.

Despite the heavy deployment of Indian troops, police personnel and surveillance cameras, posters have appeared in Srinagar, Sopore, Budgam, Islamabad and other areas of the territory reading "14th August - happy Independence Day", "We are Pakistanis - Pakistan is ours."

The posters with Pakistani flag have been pasted on pillars, electricity poles and walls containing pictures of top Kashmiri resistance leaders, APHC Chairman, Masarat Aalam Butt, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasi-



ya Andrabi, Mushtaq-ul-Islam and other detained leaders.

The posters prayed for the early liberation of Jammu and Kashmir and becoming a part of Pakistan. On the other hand, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders have urged the people of the occupied territory to observe India's Independence

Day on Monday (15 August) as a Black Day to send a strong message to India that they reject its illegal occupation of their motherland.

Illegally detained APHC Vice Chairman, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, in a message sent from New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail and released in Srina-

gar said India is an oppressor that has deprived millions of Kashmiris of their fundamental rights and snatched away all their freedoms by illegally occupying their homeland.

Shabbir Shah said, "India has no legal or moral right to celebrate its Independence Day as it has forcibly occupied our land." He maintained that India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir was a brazen violation of the international law and the UN resolutions.

Incarcerated senior APHC leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, in a statement issued in Srinagar asked the people of IIOJK to register their strong protest by observing the 15th August as a Black Day against Indi-

an government's policy of not resolving the Kashmir dispute and the subsequent severe repression unleashed on them.

He said for the past 75 years the Kashmiri people are demanding the right to self-determination that Indian leadership promised to them not only in the United Nations or the Indian Parliament, but reiterated at Lal Chowk in Srinagar by none other than the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. However, till this day not only has that commitment remains unfulfilled but those that remind them of it are rewarded with arrests and incarceration, he said.

The Mirwaiz said that a country that presents itself as a representative democracy chosen by the free will of its people, a republic, is executing tyranny and suppression to forcibly exert its will over the people of Kashmir.

Russian shelling heavy in east; Ukraine strikes key bridge

Ukrainian minister says Russia blocking access to medicines

KYIV: Russia's military pounded residential areas across Ukraine overnight, claiming gains, as Ukrainian forces pressed a counter-offensive to try to take back an occupied southern region, striking the last working bridge over a river in the Russian-occupied Kherson region, Ukrainian authorities said Saturday.

A Russian rocket attack on the city of Kramatorsk killed three people and wounded 13 others Friday night, according to the mayor. Kramatorsk is the headquarters for Ukrainian forces in the country's war-torn east.

The attack came less than a day after 11 other rockets were fired at the city, one of the two main Ukrainian-held ones in Donetsk province, the focus of an ongoing Russian offensive to capture

eastern Ukraine's Donbas region.

The Russian Defense Ministry claimed Saturday its forces had taken control of Pisky, a village on the outskirts of the city of Donetsk, the provincial capital that pro-Moscow separatists have claimed since 2014.

Russian troops and the Kremlin-backed rebels are seeking to seize Ukrainian-held areas north and west of the city of Donetsk to expand the separatists' self-proclaimed republic. But the Ukrainian military said Saturday that its forces had prevented an overnight advance toward the smaller cities of Avdiivka and Bakhmut.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov also claimed that Russian strikes near Kramatorsk, 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Donetsk city,

destroyed a U.S.-supplied multiple rocket launcher and ammunition. Ukrainian authorities did not acknowledge any military losses but said that Russian missile strikes Friday on Kramatorsk had destroyed 20 residential buildings.

Neither claim could be independently verified. The Ukrainian governor of neighboring Luhansk province, which is part of the fight over the Donbas region and was overrun by Russian forces last month, claimed that Ukrainian troops still held a small area. Writing on Telegram, Luhansk Gov. Serhii Haidai said the defending troops remained holed up inside an oil refinery on the edge of Lysychansk, a city that Moscow claimed to have captured, and also control areas near a village.

"The enemy is burning the ground at the entrances to the Luhansk region because it cannot overcome (Ukrainian resistance along) these few kilometers," Haidai said. "It is difficult to count how many thousands of shells this territory of the free Luhansk region has withstood over the past month and a half."

Further west, the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region reported more Russian shelling of the city of Nikopol, which lies across the Dnieper River from Europe's largest nuclear power plant.

Gov. Yevhen Yevtushenko did not specify whether Russian troops had fired at Nikopol from the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Writing on Telegram, he said Saturday that there were no casualties but residential



buildings, a power line and a gas pipeline were damaged.

Nikopol has undergone daily bombardment for most of the past week, and a volley of shells killed three people and damaged 40

India's ties with China not normal: S Jaishankar

BENGALURU: Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has admitted that India-China relations are not normal.

S Jaishankar talking to reporters in Bengaluru while commenting on the India-China issue said, "Our relationship is not normal, it cannot be normal as the border situation is not normal." He also said that the big problem is the border situation.

Two more ships depart from Ukraine

ANKARA: Two more ships left from Ukraine's Black Sea ports on Saturday, Turkey's defense ministry said, bringing the total number of ships to depart the country under a UN-brokered deal to 16.

Barbados-flagged Fulmar S left Ukraine's Chornomorsk port, carrying 12,000 tons of corn to Turkey's southern Iskenderun province, it said. The Marshall Island-flagged Thoe departed from the same port and headed to Turkey's Tekirdag, carrying 3,000 tons of sunflower seeds.

The statement added that another ship would depart from Turkey on Saturday to Ukraine to buy grains.

Egypt appoints 13 new ministers in Cabinet reshuffle

CAIRO: President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt announced a Cabinet reshuffle Saturday to improve his administration's performance as it faces towering economic challenges stemming largely from Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Cabinet shake-up, which was approved by parliament in an emergency session, affected 13 portfolios, including health, education, culture, local development and irrigation ministries.

Also included in the reshuffle was the tourism portfolio, a key job at a time when Egypt is struggling to revive the lucrative sector decimated by years of turmoil, the pandemic and most recently the war in Europe.

El-Sissi said the shake-up came in consultation with Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly. It was the third cabinet shake-up since Madbouly named prime minister June 2018.

The president said in a Facebook post that the changes aimed at "developing the governmental performance in some important files ... which contribute to protecting the state's interests and capabilities."

Banker Ahmed Issa took over the Tourism and Antiquities Ministry, replacing Khaled al-Anani who led Egypt's efforts in recent years to revive the tourism industry, a pillar of the economy. Such efforts included displaying ancient discoveries, opening new museums to attract international tourists.

Hani Sweilam, professor of water resources management at Germany's RWTH Aachen University, was named as Irrigation Minister. He replaced Mohammed Abdel-Aty who oversaw years of technical negotiations with Ethiopia over its controversial dam on the Nile River's main tributary. The new ministers are expected to be sworn in by el-Sissi later Saturday or early Sunday.

The changes, however, didn't affect key ministries including foreign, finance, defense and the interior, which is responsible for the police force. Lawmaker Abdel-Monem Emam of the opposition Justice Party criticized the reshuffle as "disappointing." He said he hoped that the government's economic team included in the changes.

"What we—and the Egyptian street—were waiting for was changes in policies not persons," he wrote on Facebook. Egypt's economy has been hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine, which rattled global markets and hiked oil and food prices across the world.

Paraguay's vice president resigns

LONDON: Paraguayan Vice President Hugo Velazquez announced that he will resign following corruption allegations made by the U.S. Velazquez had been hoping to stand for elections during next year's presidential election for the ruling Colorado Party until he was sanctioned.



"The decision to step aside is to avoid affecting the environment of the President of the Republic (Mario Abdo Benitez) or the Colorado Party," Velazquez told a local radio station. "I'm going to retire from politics. It was the last stage of my career," he added.

US Ambassador to Paraguay Marc Ostfeld said at a news conference Friday that Velazquez was placed on a corruption list for allegedly offering bribes to a public official and intervening in public processes. He has refuted the allegations, insisting he was innocent and did not know what Ostfeld was talking about.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the move bars Velazquez from entering that country following his alleged "involvement in significant corruption, including bribery of a public official and interference in public processes." Several of Velazquez's family members also received sanctions, as well as Juan Carlos Duarte, a friend and legal adviser to the company operating the Yacreta Dam.

Blinken said the sanctions on Duarte were for allegedly offering a bribe to a "Paraguayan public official in order to obstruct an investigation that threatened the vice president and his financial interests."

Blinken wrote on Twitter that "today the @StateDept designated Paraguayan Vice President Hugo Velazquez and associate Juan Carlos Duarte ineligible for entry to the U.S. for involvement in significant corruption. We stand committed to supporting democracy and promoting accountability for corrupt officials."

Velazquez pledged to resign next week to defend against the allegations.

rules. Russian troops have occupied the plant since the early days of Moscow's invasion, although the facility's pre-war Ukrainian nuclear workers continue to run it.

Ukrainian military intelligence alleged Saturday that Russian troops were shelling the plant from a village just kilometers away, damaging a plant pumping station and a fire station. The intelligence directorate said the Russians had bused people into the power plant and mounted a Ukrainian flag on a self-propelled gun on the outskirts of Enerhodar, the city where the plant is located.

"Obviously, it will be used for yet another provocation to accuse the armed forces of Ukraine," the directorate said, without elaborating.

Right person for right job key to progress: Chairman PHMA

Issues confronted by business community should be resolved immediately: Chaudhary Sultan Mehmood

Tahir Amin Malik

On the Occasion of 14th August Independence Day, Chaudhry Sultan Mehmood Central Chairman Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association has said that our politicians should play positive role our nation, particularly powerful department which has bio data of the politicians should bring the reputed politicians into power with an opportunity to complete full five years' term. He further said that we should be proud of our army which is protecting our country; we should think of Pakistan as Pakistan. Dissolving the assemblies before the time makes the chain of the country weaker. Army is playing a vital role for our nation therefore



An exclusive interview with the Central chairman Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association PHMA Chaudhary Sultan Mehmood

people should not criticize army.

He said that establishment should bring the right people into power on the basis of merit because it has a lot of power. He said that Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif is an experienced politician, business man, great administrator and very senior politician. I would like to request as a chairman of PHMA to search for new partners and business partners from private sector. The government should give loans at low inter-

est rate to cottage industry which is at brink of destruction. This step can give a rise to cottage industry again because cottage industry has been playing a vital role in the past and if government raises it again then it will play its best role.

He said that we as members of other business bodies of the country are shareholders in national building; our major problem is in Custom Import Evaluation and this problem should be solved immediately. He said that tax affairs should be solved in a transparent manner; income tax authority should less the burden on importer so that smuggling could be stopped; for this I held a meeting with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman FBR in which we talked about POS and I said if you impose tax and POS.

This tax should not be levied over commercial importer because by doing this you are promoting smuggling. I think importer does not need to be registered as he is already registered in sales tax, income tax and in custom departments and his every transaction available. I think more and more tax should be imposed on those people who are not paying taxes or out of tax net. In State of Madinah, Zakat affairs were solved by the state while the taxes with reduced rates are still contributing to run the state. Paying taxes is religious duty. State bank of Pakistan should play positive role in a befitting manner of business community. PM Shahbaz sharif should monitor these things.

Describing about his association PHMA which was established in 1958 he said that we are solving the problem of hardware business man and hardware market which is working with other markets as a backbone of hardware. We will extend it to other sectors too. Local industry should play its very vital role in quality products and they are linked with

PHMA transactions should be strong for increasing customer evaluation with a correct and right check and balance system. Give and take matters should be resolved within a short time. Business community should be respected if it plays a very important role.

MNAs involved in wasting the money and corruption should be expelled. Judges, police stations, transfers and postings in the state institutions should made transparently and on merit basis. For 20 years ago government tenure remained from three to three and half years. According to my point of view this tenure should be fixed for three years and opposition party should play a positive role in this regard.

About tourism industry he said that travel and tourism can play the very vital role to boost national economy; local and international tourism should be encouraged which will be helpful in bringing prosperity in northern areas. The government should prepare roads and RV camper van should be used which is also known as motor home. Companies should be allowed to import these vans and other things to promote tourism sector. Tourists should also use campervan and also rent them, spots for camping should be specified along with available busses and washrooms and other facilities. The government should encourage camping to promote tourism sector. I would like to request government to give permission to campervan for tourism as room rents at hotels are very high but standard of cleanliness is very low. On the occasion of Independence Day he said that he wanted to give a message to the nation that we should be proud ourselves that we live in freedom country; our ancestors gave a lot sacrifices for our country we should respect our country and should respect our army.

Pakistan — A Journey of 75 Years & On



Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Today the nation is celebrating 75th Independence Day with national spirit and enthusiasm. This marks the platinum jubilee of Pakistan. Our journey started 75 years ago as a proud nation. Our beloved and God-gifted country was given to us with the motto of Kalma-e-Tuyiba in which we promised that we will build this country as a prodigious Islamic democratic country of the Muslim world. In the last 75 years, the country has faced serious economic and socioeconomic problems that questioned our progress as a nation and fulfillment of our duties as compatriots.

For the previous seven decades, we have not only defended our homeland by fighting three wars with India but also made the country eminent throughout the world with our successful missile and nuclear programs. The nation will never forget its heroes like Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan (Mohsin-e- Pakistan) and fearless martyred commanders like Major Aziz Bhatti (Shaheed). On this special occasion, since we are celebrating the platinum jubilee of Pakistan, we should not forget our real heroes who sacrificed their lives and those who have worked hard to build Pakistan as a global force.

They deserve respect and the whole nation salutes their relentless efforts, and we pay great tribute to them. Apart from that, we have proven to be a peaceful, sports, and culture-loving nation by winning more than thirty-five international titles in various sports including hockey, cricket, snooker, squash, and kabaddi. We celebrate Independence Day every year on August 14 with the pride that our ancestors crossed the river of blood and gained this homeland, and we will do everything for its protection, rising, and development. The overwhelming successes and failures of the country have put us at an avenue where we need to revive our commitment again. If we look at our post-independence journey, there was no shortage of resources in our country, apart from petrol, natural gas, and precious metals.

Pakistan has a rich history of natural resources which includes reserves of salt, coal, iron, gold, and silver in which mines like Reko Diq and Saindak are also included. If these natural resources are extracted and utilized properly, the destiny of this country can turn around. Geographically Pakistan is situated in a very vital position. And Neighbors like China and Iran can play a dynamic role in the progress of our country through trade and investment. China has already started its investment in Pakistan through the ambitious project Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project needs to be utilized and implement in a very proper manner. Similarly, if the way is paved for an open trade agreement with Iran its oil and gas resources can also assist in the progress of our economy.

The country is also producing a large amount of gold. Since its independence, Pakistan has progressed in many areas like sports, information technology, artificial intelligence, science, technology, etc. There has never been a lack of talent in Pakistan and the only thing that needs to be addressed is the arduous work, dedication, and honesty.

The biggest example for us in that regard is China which gained independence from the British Empire a year after us and when it began its journey toward development, its condition was bad, more than half of its people were opium addicted. China's determination toward prosperity and progress has ended those evils forever which were a hindrance in their way. Today China became an economically developed country while it has the world's highest resources. China has made this development by following the simple quote of our father of nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah that work, work, and only work.

As a nation, we too can progress to follow the same way. Therefore, it is necessary to commit to the government and public level that we will work hard and dedicatedly in every sector. If we look at the modern world, we still have a place in it. The world knows us because of having a strong army, we have importance in other fields, and we need to follow the way which leads towards prosper-

Until and unless we make a comprehensive plan for the development of the country we cannot stand in the ranks of a developed nation. Therefore, on the 75th Independence Day of the country, it is necessary to commit that we would work together for the betterment of our beloved country

perity and development. If we want to be economically stable, we must make tough decisions keeping in mind the national interests. The effortless way for that is to familiarize a corruption-free economic system. For introducing a corruption-free economic system, we must not adopt other country systems, but it should be modeled keeping in view the objective conditions of the country and it should be implemented with enthusiasm.

Until and unless we make a comprehensive plan for the development of the country we cannot stand in the ranks of a developed nation. Therefore, on the 75th Independence Day of the country, it is necessary to commit that we would work together for the betterment of our beloved country. This can be possible when the government officials, the rulers, and the peoples of the country are ready to create a society free from corruption. The nation that has worked with honesty day and night like China has kissed its feet.

Therefore, as a nation, we must repeat the same lesson. In the past, we were the fastest growing nation in Asia. Scholars know that in the 1960s and 1970s Pakistan was one of the fastest growing countries. Our downfall began in the 1980s and 1990s when we started taking loans from International financial institutions and pledged ourselves to these institutions. Now the situation is quite tense in terms of finance. Even now we can improve our situation if we work diligently and set a clear path. On the 14th, August 1947 Allah gave us freedom from the British Empire; let the nation pledge to revive efforts for the development, prosperity, and progress of the country with dedication and honesty.

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75th Anniversary-Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee

Naveed Ahmad Khan

The Pakistani nation will mark the 75th Independence Day today with traditional zeal and fervour to recall the struggle of our forefathers and national heroes in creation of an independent country. The day will dawn with special prayers in mosques, churches, temples, and other sacred places for peace, solidarity, and prosperity of the country. Gun salutes and sirens would also be held in the federal capital and all provincial capitals to hoist the national flag in all parts of the country.

Different public and private departments would hold special functions and activities, including seminars, discussion programmes, photographic exhibitions, painting, poetry, national songs, and debate competitions with the focus on acknowledging the contribution of leaders of the Pakistan Movement and sacrifices of national heroes. All the major roads and avenues of the federal capital, like other cities, were decorated with flags, banners, and bunting to present a festive look. The major public and private buildings in the city were also illuminated to mark the Jubilee celebrations of the big day.

The televisions would highlight the services of Pakistan Movement heroes on the day and pay tribute to their extraordinary contributions to making Pakistan come into being. In this regard, the Islamabad Capital Territory Police as well as provincial governments have finalised traffic management plans for the convenience and safety of the general public. Literary and cultural organizations have chalked out a number of programmes to mark the day. Various shows including national songs, folk tales, skits, and folk dances would be held to provide infotainment and highlight Pakistan's independence journey and its historical background.

Special online cultural programmes on August 14 would also be organised to pay tribute to national heroes and forefathers for their great struggle for the Independence of Pakistan.

Similarly, educational institutions both private and the government would also hold different activities including competitions, functions, and sessions to educate the students about the historical struggle behind the creation of Pakistan.

The capital city has been turned green and white with a large number of Jashan-i-Azadi stalls carrying dresses, flags, bunting, pin badges, toys, and other decorative accessories to attract the youngsters and children. Since Independence Day has assumed the shape of a festival in the country, different brands, online retailers, eateries, cab-hailing services, and even electronics companies were offering exciting discount offers,



adding more charm to the festivity.

A day earlier, the D-Chowk, Islamabad, which was mostly in the highlights for hosting protests of different political parties, Saturday, saw stunning pictures of Pakistani flag and Minar-e-Pakistan painted by children of different schools, to express solidarity with their homeland and marking the Diamond Jubilee (75th anniversary) of Pakistan. In the national flag painting ceremony, children from different schools of the federal capital Islamabad painted the Pakistani flag and Minar-e-Pakistan with their own hands showing love and enthusiasm for their homeland. On the occasion, troops of Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir police, and Frontier Corps paraded on the D-Chowk to celebrate Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Besides, singing the national anthem, children sang national songs including 'Sohni Dharti Allah Rakhe', 'Ae Watan Pyare Watan' and 'Dil Dil Pakistan'. Anchors Nadeem Jaffer and Asma Iqbal also cheered children by asking them questions on what the

Pakistani flag colours stands for, to which they replied, 'The white and dark green field represents Minorities and Muslim majority, respectively. While the crescent on the Flag represents progress and the five-rayed star represents light and knowledge.'

The troops of Police force, Frontier Corps, Special Security Unit Sindh Police and Counter-Terrorism Department saluted the distinguished guests while raising slogans of 'Allah Ho Akbar (Allah is great)'. After the parade, traffic transport fleets of different divisions of Islamabad Police passed in front of stage while marching with flags.

The flag painting ceremony was organized by the Ministry of Information, Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Federal Directorate of Education which was participated by a large number of people participated in the event. Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Saira Afzal Tarar, Secretary Information Shahera Shahid, Principal Information Officer Mubashir Hasan and senior officials of Islamabad Police were also present in the ceremony.

Bangladesh name Asia Cup squad; announce new captain

Shakib Al Hasan returns as the captain of the Bangladesh T20 side

DHAKA: Bangladesh named a 17-member squad for the Asia Cup starting later this month while also announcing their captain for the tournament as well as the T20 World Cup later this year. Shakib Al Hasan returns as the captain of the Bangladesh T20 side and has been named the skipper at least until the T20 World Cup later this year. His first assignment in his fresh stint as captain begins with the Asia Cup, starting on 27 August. Nurul Hasan was named the captain for the recent tour of Zimbabwe after Mahmud Ullah was removed as captain due to lack of results. However, Shakib Al Hasan – who was already named the Test skipper after Mominul Haque stepped down – is set to take the reins of the team for the upcoming Asia Cup, the tri-series in New Zealand that also involves Pakistan and the T20 World Cup. Bangladesh also named the squad



for the T20 Asia Cup. Litton Das was the most notable omission with injury ruling him out of the tournament. But the squad will be boosted with the return of several key players including captain Shakib, Mushfiqur Rahim, Sabbir Rahman, Ebadot Hossain and Mohammad Saifuddin. Squad: Shakib Al Hasan (c), Anamul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain,

Mosaddek Hossain, Mahmudullah, Mahedi Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Hasan Mahmud, Mustafizur Rahman, Nasum Ahmed, Sabbir Rahman, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Ebadot Hossain, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Taskin Ahmed. Saifuddin returns to the Bangladesh squad after an absence of close to 10 months. He last featured for the Tigers in the T20 World Cup last year where his tournament was cut short after being ruled out due to a back injury. Out-of-favour Rahman too finds a place in the squad having last appeared for Bangladesh in the shortest format in 2019. Bangladesh find themselves in Group B in the Asia Cup pitted against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Their campaign begins on 30 August with the game against Afghanistan before they take on the Islanders on 1 September.

Daraz becomes digital streaming partner for Asia Cup in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: As the Cricketing season is approaching quickly, the whole nation is eagerly anticipating the clash of the year, Pakistan v India on 28th August 2022, as the two teams go head to head in the group stages of Asia Cup 2022. Daraz App, historically, has been the favourite destination for all Pakistani cricket lovers to stream cricket. ICC WC T20 fixture of India v Pakistan saw the highest concurrent viewers of 2.7 million, ever recorded on a Pakistani streaming platform, and the World Cup as a whole saw a total of 346 million viewers. Cricket viewers and viewership, in general, have seen



a major change in behaviour with most of the audience preferring to watch cricket online and giving the traditional mass-marketing TV Channels major competition. This new trend was due to the scheduling of matches at times when most people are commuting from

work and have easy access to mobile phones rather than TV as well as power outages and load-shedding, in Pakistan, which stops them from viewing their favourite sport on TV via cable or satellite. As a result of this, we see an uplift in viewers logging in on Daraz to watch the men in green battle it out on the field. Chief Marketing Officer of Daraz Pakistan, Muhammad Ammar Hassan, said "With more than 10 million monthly active users, Daraz is the 4th biggest platform for internet users, hence we thought to reignite the passion of cricket and bring the live action to the entire cricket loving Pakistani audience." Asia Cup 2022 will commence on the 27th of August, featuring 13 matches. Super 4 round will begin on 3rd September 2022, while the Final will take place on 11th September. Users can watch all the matches of the tournament through the Daraz App from anywhere in Pakistan without missing any moment of the tournament.

Sports Minister, DG SBP greet Arshad Nadeem

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood congratulated Pakistan's ace javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem on Saturday on winning a gold medal at the 2022 Islamic Solidarity Games at Konya, Turkey, with a record throw of 88.55m. It was Arshad's second gold medal in less than a week and his 88.55m throw was a new record for the Islamic Solidarity Games. In a felicitation message here, Malik Taimoor said that Arshad had once again won the hearts of the nation through his exceptional gold medal winning performance at Islamic Solidarity Games. "Literally, all Pakistanis are proud of Arshad's amazing performance and he had turned out to be a true hero of young generation," he said. Meanwhile, Director General Sports Board Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi also greeted Arshad Nadeem on winning another gold medal. He said Arshad Nadeem's two back-to-back gold medals are a perfect gift for the Pakistani nation on the Independence Day. "We hope that Arshad will maintain his gold medal winning performance in future international javelin throw competitions," he added.

New Zealand's leading pacer Boult may miss Pakistan tour

WELLINGTON: In the historic tour of Pakistan, New Zealand may take the field without their premier pacer Trent Boult.



This is because, the pacer has asked the New Zealand Cricket to release him from the central contract as he wants to spend more time with his family and make himself available to play in the domestic leagues. This means, the pacer may not be boarding on the plane, instead, he might be featuring in the UAE's upcoming T20 league. The International T20 League will be played around the same time, when the Blackcaps will be touring Pakistan. They will feature in three ODIs and two Tests in Pakistan, however, Boult will be in action for MI Emirates in UAE International T20 League (ILT20) during the same time. MI Emirates confirmed their squad ahead of the inaugural edition. The squad based in Abu Dhabi includes a bunch of star players, including the likes of renowned West Indies players Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo, Nicholas Pooran, and Trent Boult. ILT20 is scheduled to take place from January 6 to February 12, 2023.

Kits, cash prizes distributed among players in Wana



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Sports department with the support of district administration arranged a grand ceremony at AC Wana Jirga Hall regarding the awarding of kits and cash prizes to 24 players playing in the training camps. In which Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali, Tehsil Wana Chairman Maulana Saleh Wazir, District Sports Officer Noor ullah Wazir, District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir, DFA President Akbar Wazir, tribal elders and sportsmen participated in large numbers. Addressing the ceremony on this occasion, Tehsil Chairman Maulana Saleh Wazir said that exercise is very important for a lively society, whatever kind of service the sports persons and players belonging to Wana have, So I am always ready for them, and my doors will always be open to serve the players. In this regard, Additional AC Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali said that there is no shortage of talent in the sportsmen and players of Waziristan, there are good players here but they only need to be supported. He further said that the doors of the district administration will be open all the time to solve the problems faced by the players, the administration is aware of the difficulties of the young players. Sports are very important for a good society. Will try to solve the legitimate problems of the players on priority basis. At the end of the ceremony, Additional AC Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali, Tehsil Chairman Maulana Saleh Wazir and District Sports Officer Noorullah Wazir distributed kits and RS three, three thousand cash prize. Later, District Youth Officer South Waziristan Sardar Ali Wazir welcomed the guests and thanked them for participating in the program.

Hard work for Halep in Toronto win over Gauff

TORONTO: Simona Halep served twice for her match against Coco Gauff without success on Friday before finally securing a 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) quarter-final victory at the WTA Toronto Masters. The former number one, a two-time winner in Canada, made hard work of her triumph over the rising American teenager who just missed a chance at cracking the world ranking top-10 for the first time. Halep needed a second-set tiebreaker to advance into the semi-finals in just under two hours, lining up a meeting with seventh-seeded American Jessica Pegula.



Double Grand Slam champion Halep earned her 183rd match win at the Masters 1000 level. In other quarter-final action, Brazil's giant-killer Beatriz Haddad Maia claimed another victim as she upset Olympic champion Belinda Bencic with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 comeback win. The South American, who stunned world number one Iga Swiatek in the third round, won her 16th match since June, the month in which she claimed back-to-back grass titles in Nottingham and Birmingham. Bencic, the 2015 Toronto champion who beat soon-to-retire Serena Williams in an emotional second-round clash, was broken four times and coughed up five double-faults. "I'm feeling happy, for sure, it's a special moment," Haddad Maia said. "I've worked a lot every day for a few

years to live this moment. "I didn't start the match playing as I wanted. I was missing more than normal in the first set. "But I pushed myself to stay positive, to stay in the game—a tennis match can change very fast." The Brazilian will aim for the final against 2021 finalist Karolina Pliskova, a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 winner over Chinese teenager Zheng Qinwen. Double Grand Slam champion Halep earned her leading 183rd match win at the Masters 1000 level. She now owns 36 match victories in 2022. Gauff fired a backhand into the net on Halep's first match point to end the encounter and lose her eighth straight set against the 30-year-old Romanian.

Pak players move in next round of WSF World Jr Squash C'ship

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani players move into the next round of the WSF Mens' World Junior Individual Squash Championship at Nancy (France). In the 3rd round of Individual event, Noor Zaman from Pakistan beat David Bernet of Switzerland by 8-11, 11-9, 12-10, 4-11, 11-4. In the 4th round, Muhammad Hamza Khan (Pak) defeated Ameeshraj Chandran of Malaysia by 11-8, 11-6, 11-6. Noor Zaman (Pakistan) would play against Brice Nicolas of France. The Senior Vice President, Pakistan Squash Federation Air Marshal Aamir Masood who also visited Nancy had a couple of meetings with William Louis Marie, CEO World Squash Federation and Julian Muller, President of French Squash Federation. During his meetings, detailed discussion was held on progression of squash in Pakistan. Aamir Masood also conveyed a message to the world squash bodies that Pakistan was one of safest countries for all sports activities and the game of squash in particular.

Arif Hafeez elected as South Asian Sepaktakraw Federation VP

Spokesman Report

BANGKOK: The meeting of South Asian Sepaktakraw Federation was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in which Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal participated.



The meeting was presided over by SR Prem Raj, President of Sepaktakraw Federation of India. The meeting deliberated on the election of the new executive committee and the South Asian Sepaktakraw Championship to be held in Bangladesh in December this year. In the new executive committee, India's Dr. S.R. Prem Raj was elected as the president, while Pakistan's Dr. Arif Hafeez was elected as the vice president, Noushad Ahmed Khan as the secretary general and Shabbir Ahmed as the deputy secretary. It was decided in the meeting that the South Asian Sepaktakraw Championship will be held in Bangladesh at the end of this year, while the Junior South Asian Sepaktakraw Championship will be held in Pakistan in early 2023.

Spaun leads playoff opener; Scheffler, McIlroy miss cut

MEMPHIS: J.J. Spaun hopes he's only getting started on the road to the FedEx Cup finale. Scottie Scheffler, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth will have to wait another week. Spaun made a late birdie for a 3-under 67 to take a one-shot lead Friday in the FedEx St. Jude Championship, the opening event in the PGA Tour post-season that no longer has three of its biggest stars for the weekend at the TPC Southwind. Scheffler, the Masters champion and No. 1 player for the last five months, never quite recovered from what he could only describe as an "out-of-body experience" with his putting in the first round. He had birdie chances on two of the last three holes he couldn't convert and his

68 was one shot short of making the weekend. "Obviously, it's really frustrating coming into the playoffs," Scheffler said. "I was practicing really hard at home, actually playing really good, and I showed up and had the worst putting day ever. Golf smacks you in the face sometimes." McIlroy went from rough to tough to fringe to bogey on his last hole for a 69 for only his second missed cut of the year. Spieth's hopes of playing the weekend ended with a tee shot into the water on the par-3 14th that led to a 74. At least they get to play next week in the BMW Championship, being high enough in the standings not to lose too much sleep over it. Day opened with a 65 and was

hopeful of a big finish to advance into the top 70 who made it to the next playoff event. Instead, the former world No. 1 dropped five shots over the last eight holes, shot 74 and missed the cut by one shot. Day was among 31 players who started outside the top 70 in the FedEx Cup and missed the cut, meaning their season is over. Rickie Fowler, who came in at No. 125, ended the back nine (double bogey) and front nine (bogey) poorly and shot 71. He was tied for 33rd, around for two more days but needing to contend to advance. He was one shot ahead of Sepp Straka, who birdied his last three holes for a 66, and Troy Merritt, who had a 65. Merritt started at No. 64 in the stand-

ings, so this was just what he needed to make sure he would be moving on. With a clear sky, hot sun and a little more wind, Spaun was as proud of his 67 on Friday as his 64 the day before. Mostly, he feels his game his coming around after going into a lull following his first PGA Tour title at the Valero Texas Open in early April. "It's so hard to be consistently good at the highest level. Some guys that do it like that, like Tiger and McIlroy and all those guys. It's just insane how good they are for so long," Spaun said. "I did it for a few months and then kind of fell off, but here I am kind of making my way back." Straka knows the feeling. He



had not made it to the weekend since the Memorial in early June. And then he opened with rounds of 64-66. "Hadn't played great coming into this week. Missed a bunch of cuts coming in," Straka said (in his case, "a bunch" would be six in a row). "But that's golf.

You're going to have the ebbs and flows and just kind go with it." And off he went, especially at the end, when he finished with three straight birdies to get to 10 under. Tony Finau, coming off two straight victories, had his 11th consecutive round at 68 or

lower dating to the final round of the British Open. His 68 on Friday left him three behind. Spaun didn't feel as though he had much of a lead — one shot, not to mention 15 players within four shots of the lead and 36 holes still to play. "It's anyone's weekend, and it's going to mine," he said playfully. The first part for so many players was getting to the weekend, and two players who rezed on the opportunity were Ryan Palmer and Lucas Glover. Palmer is at No. 110 in the FedEx Cup, shot 67 and joined Finau, British Open champion Cam Smith (65) and others at 8-under 132. Glover is No. 121. Even with a bogey on his final hole, his 68 put him four shots out of the lead.