



Pakistan is heading towards the right direction: President AJK

President AJK Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said "There are some powers who cannot digest Pakistan's progress but by the grace of Almighty Allah Pakistan is heading towards the right direction." The AJK President said that a strong and stable Pakistan had been the dream of Kashmiris living on both sides of the line of control.

A Leading National Daily



Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ تم لوگوں میں
جاننے سے بچتے رہو اس پر قبیلہ انصاری کے
ایک صحابی نے عرض کیا: یا رسول اللہ!
دیور کے متعلق آپ کی کیا رائے ہے؟ (دوم)
بہنیں بھانج کے ساتھ جاسکتے ہیں یا نہیں؟
نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ دیور (میٹھ)
کا ہاتھ توڑا کرتا ہے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5232)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited



Annual ICT Awards playing strong role in driving innovation, growth: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Syed Amin Ul Haque, Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, has acknowledged the fact that Annual ICT Awards have been playing a strong, catalytic role in driving innovation and growth for the past 17 years by recognizing the leaders in the industry. He further added that the IT industry, spearheaded by P@SHA, is in a unique position to uplift the entire country out of the economic challenges. News on Page 6

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharram 16, Monday, August 15, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 136 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Diamond jubilee celebrations

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the flag hoisting ceremony at convention center Islamabad on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Imran fears 'crackdown' against media houses

PTI chief says Haqeeqi Azadi cannot be achieved without free media

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI Chief Imran Khan has warned that the government is about to launch "an unprecedented crackdown campaign" against media houses and journalists supporting him.

In a series of tweets on Sunday — a day after he addressed a public rally in Lahore — Imran Khan expressed fears that if the government succeeded in suppressing journalists who have supported his narrative the country may "be returning to the dark days of dictatorship when there was no independent media & no room for freedom of expression."

Imran Khan named about five anchors and columnist Ayaz Amir who, he said,

suffered "threats, violent attacks and arrests" for supporting him.

"In my mass public campaign across Pak from next week, I will take up issue of media freedom & freedom of expression," he said.

"If we allow these terror tactics, designed simply to target PTI & myself, to succeed, then we will be returning to the dark days of dictatorship when there was no independent media & no room for freedom of expression," Imran Khan said.

"Haqeeqi Azadi cannot be achieved without a free media & freedom of speech as guaranteed in our Constitution," said the former prime minister, whose government saw Pakistan sink on the press freedom index in the three and a half years he was in power.

Charter of economy a 'foolish idea', says Fawad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhary on Sunday while reacting to PM Shehbaz Sharif's proposal for a charter of the economy said that it is a foolish idea. Taking to Twitter, Fawad penned that "This charter economy is a silly idea. Political parties only join heads to develop a political framework. Having a unanimous economic framework is only found in communist systems."

"The refusal of the head of the imported government Shehbaz Sharif to hold elections is a reflection of his desire to cling to power in any case," he added. In another of his Tweet, the PTI leader said that no sane person could support the disastrous economic policies of the "Crime Minister's government."

Pakistan Zindabad

PM stresses consensus on charter of economy

Pakistan's diamond jubilee celebrations: Shehbaz pledges to take country to new heights of glory

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday stressed for holding of a national dialogue and developing a consensus on charter of economy by all the stakeholders to transform Pakistan into an economic power.

Addressing a national flag-hoisting and unveiling of the national anthem here at the Jinnah Convention center, the prime minister said that like their forefathers, on this 75th Independence Day, they vowed to transform Pakistan into an economic power.

"If we can become a nucle-

Time to realize dream of Pakistan's founding fathers

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for fully realizing the dream of our founding fathers of establishing socio-economic justice, rule of law and an egalitarian society in Pakistan. In a series of tweets on Sunday, he said as we celebrate our hard-earned independence, our country at this stage demands deep reflection to understand that true freedom is the one from want, hunger and poverty and without economic sovereignty it is incomplete.

power, we can also become an economic power but for it we have to strive day and night and prove to the world that we are no less than anyone in the world," the prime minister added.

"Pakistan Movement is a lesson for everyone which tells when a

nation devised the course of its path, the mountain-like hurdles and seas like distances could not hamper them from achieving their goal," the prime minister added.

The prime minister recalled that when Allama Iqbal dreamt about a separate motherland, a sense of

pessimism was created that it was not feasible. "We salute the founding fathers of Pakistan who had smashed such sense of pessimism and due to their historic struggle, they are now breathing in an independence and sovereign country," he added.

The prime minister said for decades, the Muslims in the sub-continent faced the foreign subjugation, they laid down their lives, gave immense sacrifices and made a historic migration and lost their near and dear ones in that perilous journey to achieve a separate country.

They handed over an ideological country, he said and paid tribute to all those that lost their lives in the Independence Movement.

Martyrs are pride of our nation: Marriyum

Says nation united with colours of love

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said martyrs were pride of the nation and their sacrifices would never go in vain.

"Our martyrs have sacrificed their lives for the right path," she said while offering her condolence to the family of Shaheed Major Talha Mannan, who embraced martyrdom in Balochistan during the helicopter crash.

Marriyum, accompanying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to the residence of Shaheed Major Talha Mannan, met his (Talha) mother and offered "Fateha" to the departed soul. She sympathized with Major Talha mother and paid tribute to him for rendering great sacrifice for the country.

The entire nation was proud of the mothers who gave birth to the sons like Talha Mannan, she said, adding his sacrifice for the country would never be forgotten. The minis-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb visited & condoled the bereaved family of Major Talha Mannan Shaheed, who was martyred in the helicopter accident here on Sunday. Photo: PID

ter said every officer and soldier of Pakistan Army was completely devoted to the service of the country.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said that government had united the nation on the occasion of August 14 with colours of love and harmony.

Using the hashtag #PakistanAt75, she shared a video of a special event held

in front of the Parliament as part of the Independence Day celebrations on her official twitter handle. The minister further said in her tweet that the Parliament on Constitution Avenue was the center of aspirations, desires and wishes of the people. She said a magnificent display of fireworks in front of the Parliament was proof that "we are a living nation. 'Azm-e- Aali Shan, Shad Rahey Pakistan."

The Ambassador said Nation-building has not been an easy task for us. We rode through many storms. Many challenges lie ahead. But as individuals, communities and a nation, we are confident that we will succeed. God is with us.

Today we also celebrate 75 years of our diplomatic relations and friendship with our ally and partner, the United States of America. Agencies

Masood vows to further strengthen Pak-US ties

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan in his message on 75th Independence Day of Pakistan has said today is a special day for us - in Pakistan and in the United States.

He said we have completed 75 years of our national independence.

He said Pakistan was a dream in 1940s. Our forefathers and people of Pakistan, through their steely determination and sacrifices opened the way for this miracle.

The Ambassador said Nation-building has not been an easy task for us. We rode through many storms. Many challenges lie ahead. But as individuals, communities and a nation, we are confident that we will succeed. God is with us.

Today we also celebrate 75 years of our diplomatic relations and friendship with our ally and partner, the United States of America. Agencies

Pakistan vows to keep pushing UN to free Kashmir from India's yoke

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting India's "brutal" military siege of Jammu and Kashmir, now in its 3rd year, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram has said that Islamabad will continue to raise Kashmir's call for liberation at the United Nations and in all forums.

"We stand firmly with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their struggle for right to self-determination and freedom," he said in a video message to the Pakistani community released Sunday to mark Pakistan's Independence Day.

At the same time, the Pakistani envoy said, "The foresight of Quaid-e-Azam in advancing the rationale for the creation of Pakistan is being emphatically validated today in the repression of the Muslims who live in India.

"They face organized state repression, shrinking social space and usurpation of their fundamental rights as the BJP-RSS government seeks to eliminate the Islamic legacy in India and re-write history to elaborate the great contributions of its Muslim rulers and dynasties."

"Our founding fathers," he said, "faced vigorous opposition and secured Pakistan through determination, resolve, wisdom and democratic struggle. Hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters sacrificed their lives just to reach their promised homeland; to fulfill their dream of nationhood and liberty.



"We must never forget their hero-

ism; their ideals; and their sacrifice," Ambassador Akram said, adding to honour them, "We must preserve and build Pakistan into a strong, modern, democratic Islamic State where all can prosper and no one is left behind. "We must reaffirm the pledge to pursue and realize the vision of the Quaid."

As regards the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said that they are part of Pakistan's body and soul who have been denied the right to self-determination and freedom by Indian occupation and oppression.

"They have been under a brutal military siege for the past three years. 900,000 Indian troops have unleashed a reign of terror in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, resorting to extra-judicial killings; abduction and torture of young Kashmiri boys; and destruction of entire villages and neighborhoods and the illegal incarceration of Kash-

miri leaders." Despite many challenges, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan proved itself to be a resilient nation. "We are a strong nation - militarily, we possess vast potential for growth and prosperity. We are an influential and important country on the world stage."

Pakistan at 75 years

President Dr. Arif Alvi, First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi and an orphan girl of Kashana Orphanage cutting the commemorative cake of 75th Independence Anniversary Celebrations, in Rawalpindi on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Tragic fire accident

Pakistan expresses solidarity with Egypt



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Government and people of Pakistan have extended heartfelt condolences over the loss of precious lives as well as injuries to many, as a result of a tragic fire incident in Abo Sefein Church in Giza Governorate of Egypt.

In a statement, the Foreign Office, said we express deepest sympathies for the families of the deceased and pray for the speediest recovery of those injured.

It said Pakistan stands in solidarity with the brotherly people and Government of Egypt in this moment of grief.

Historic Day

‘Jinnah emphasized role of women in country’s dev’

Dr Arif Alvi addresses ceremony, in connection with Independence Day Celebrations

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: President Dr. Arif Alvi says Pakistan is an independent nation and we achieved our freedom after intense struggle and our people won't submit to anyone in future. Addressing a ceremony, in connection with Independence Day Celebrations,

Inclusion of girls in national mainstream imperative for development of country

along with First Lady Samina Arif Alvi at a shelter home for the destitute and orphaned girls, Kashana in Rawalpindi on Sunday, he said that our children are the future of Pakistan.

He said our leader Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah always empha-

sized the role of women in the country's development. The President also underlined that inclusion of girls in the national mainstream was imperative for development of the country.

Highlighting the significance of taking care of orphans in Islam, the president appreciated the institute for providing facilities of food, residence and education. He said Muslim society always stressed on taking good care of deserving children and orphans.

Dr Arif Alvi said it was the responsibility of the state to provide adequate opportunities to children for education, moral training and employment. He advised girls to work hard to acquire education. Emphasizing on character building, he asked girls to speak truth, respect teachers and elders. Recalling sacrifices of our forefathers in the Pakistan movement, the President said that millions of people died during independence movement.

Dr Arif Alvi also participated in a cake cutting ceremony and posed for a

President confers Pakistan civil awards on 253 personalities

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi conferred Pakistan civil awards on 253 Pakistani citizens as well as foreign nationals on the occasion of 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the country. The citizens were bestowed with awards for showing excellence and courage in different fields. The investiture ceremony of these awards will take place on Pakistan Day, March 23 2023. Prominent among those who received the awards included Sartaj Aziz, late Hasil Bizenjo, late Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, late Justice (r) Bhagwandas, late Ghulam Ali Chagla and late Sufi Ghulam Tabassum for their services to Pakistan.

group photo with children and teachers of the institute.

Flour prices in Sindh highest

ISLAMABAD: People of Sindh are forced to purchase the most expensive flour as compared to other provinces, a private TV channel reported on Sunday, quoting Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

According to statistics issued by PBS, open markets in Sindh have witnessed a sharp increase in flour price, particularly in Karachi and Hyderabad where the highest recorded price for a 20kg bag was Rs1,960 and Rs1,940, respectively.

In other cities of Sindh, such as Sukkur and Larkana, a 20kg wheat flour bag was Rs1,720 and Rs1,800, respectively.

Meanwhile, the PBS recorded the price of a 20kg wheat flour bag

in Quetta at Rs1,800 and in Khuzdar at Rs1,850. Price in the Islamabad and Rawalpindi was recorded at Rs980/20kg bag.

Across Gujranwala, Multan, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, and Faisalabad in the province of Punjab, the price of a 20kg wheat flour bag was registered at Rs980.

Earlier in August, the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) jacked up the prices of pulses at its stores following a hike in other markets of the country.

According to the notification, the prices of various pulses have increased up to Rs48 per kg. The price of black gram has been increased by Rs 48 per kg, taking up the price from Rs172 to Rs220 per kg. Agencies

After 68 years

Re-recorded of national anthem unveiled

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif officially unveiled the newly re-recorded national anthem of Pakistan composed with modern technology on the nation's 75th Independence Day. The national anthem has been re-recorded after 68 years, with the participation of 155 singers, 48 musicians and 6 bandmasters. PM Shehbaz has become the second elected prime minister after Liaquat Ali Khan to have the unique honour of unveiling the anthem. The project has been completed in collaboration with various departments, including the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and ISPR.

Free education up to graduation in Punjab announced

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday announced free education up to graduation will be free in the province.

Punjab Chief Minister Elahi has announced Rs300,000 for disabled girls who sing the national anthem. He also announced Rs50,000 for the lead singer, while Rs 100,000 will be given to the police band and Rs200,000 to the scouts.

On this occasion, CM Elahi said, "Earlier we made education free up to matriculation, now it is time to make education free up to graduation."

He further said that Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has made the country's defence impregnable. He said that the services of Pak Army under the leadership of COAS Bajwa for eradicating terrorism from the country and establishing peace are commendable. Agencies

SBP unveils Rs75 commemorative banknote

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan on Sunday unveiled the design of commemorative banknote worth 75 rupees being issued on the 75th anniversary of the Pakistan's independence. The SBP, in a tweet, said that the note will be available for public issuance from 30th the next month. The note has portraits of Quaid-i-Azam, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Allama Iqbal and Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah to recognize and acknowledge their contribution in Pakistan movement. The picture of Markhor on the note's reverse highlights our focus on environmental sustainability. Agencies



Presence of militants anywhere will not be tolerated: ISPR

'Grossly exaggerated, misleading,' ISPR says on reported presence of TTP militants in Swat

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]



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.

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

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. Agencies

Best health facilities being provided to Balochistan's flood-hit people

QUETTA: Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Sunday said his ministry was determined to provide optimum health facilities in flood-hit areas of Balochistan.

The minister said this during his visit to district Lasbela to review current flood situation.

Talking to director general Health, Balochistan, he said his ministry has ensured the supply of required medicine to people of flood hit areas.

A 12-member doctors team of Pakistan Institute of Medical Science (PIMS) has organised free medical camps at Lasbela to provide best treatment to the local people in flood affect-



ed areas.

The needy people were being provided free medical advice and medicines in collaboration with provincial government.

The health minister also interacted with doctor's team of PIMS and lauded their services to flood hit people.

He said the Ministry of Health along with the provincial government was making concrete measures for the rehabilitation of the flood victims.

The minister vowed providing all possible help to flood hit people and said Sindh and federal governments would not leave the people of Balochistan alone.

He also said that effective measures were being taken to prevent outbreak of epidemics.

Moreover, he added that vaccines were also being provided to prevent infectious diseases. "All possible resources were being utilised for the rehabilitation of flood victims," the minister said. APP

On IMF optimism

Rupee likely to continue winning streak

Fall in global oil prices and stability in country's political outlook support rupee

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee is expected to continue its upward trajectory on renewed optimism that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package will resume by the end of this month and improved economic indicators, say traders.

According to media reports, the local unit appreciated around 3% against the US dollar in three trading sessions this week. It concluded at 221.91 per dollar on Wednesday and finished at 2015.49 on Friday. The local unit maintained its rising trend, tracking gains in the local equity market.

Improvement in the supply of the greenback due to export-related proceeds, fall in global oil prices

and stability in the country's political outlook, and easing US inflationary pressures supported the rupee.

The prices of Pakistan's dollar-denominated sovereign bonds also started to recover helped by the ease in default fears. The country's five-year currency default swap declined to 17.44% on August 10 from its peak of 34.86% on July 20.

However, the foreign exchange reserves have been draining constantly. The foreign reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan fell by \$555 million to \$7.83 billion as of August 5 on the back of increased external debt payments.

"We expect the rupee to gain further in the coming sessions as sentiment

is positive on hopes of receiving IMF funds by the end of August. The IMF money will help stabilise the economy, shore up reserves and lend support to the rupee," said a currency trader, a private TV channel quoting The News reported on Sunday.

To approve a rescue package for Pakistan, including the disbursement of approximately \$1.18 billion before the end of the current month, the IMF called a meeting of its executive board on August 29.

The action follows the completion of the \$4 billion in bilateral financing from four friendly nations and would open the door for an immediate transfer from the IMF, which is anticipated to be in Pakistan's account by the close



of business on August 31.

A letter of intent (LOI) was received early on Friday from the lender for the

resumption of the programme under the staff level agreement (SLA) and memorandum of economic and fiscal

policies (MEFP) inked last month, according to Finance Minister Miftah Ismail. Agencies

Nation celebrates Independence Day with patriotic zeal, fervor

Day dawned with 31 gun salute in Capital and 21 gun salute in provincial headquarters

KARACHI/LAHORE/QUETTA: Nation celebrated Diamond Jubilee, the 75th Independence Day of the motherland on Sunday with a renewed pledge to work with the spirit of Pakistan Movement to make the country a true Islamic welfare state. The day dawned with thirty-one gun salute in the Federal Capital and twenty-one gun salute in the provincial headquarters. Prayers were offered for security and progress of Pakistan and well-being of the people. National flag has been hoisting at all important public and private buildings. Public and private buildings as well as streets, bazaars and markets have been profusely illuminated.

National flags, bunting, portraits of founding fathers, posters and banners were seen everywhere as part of the celebration of Independence Day. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi hoisted the national flag at Lahore fort. Addressing the ceremony, he paid glowing tributes to the leaders of Pakistan Movement. The Chief Minister also laid a floral wreath at the Mazar-i-Iqbal and offered feteah. The change of guards ceremony was held at Mazaar-e-Quaid in Karachi this morning. The cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy assumed the guards duties. In Quetta, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo hoisted

the national flag in the lawn of provincial assembly. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan is being celebrated with national enthusiasm and fervor on Sunday. The day dawned with 21 gun salutes in the state capital Muzaffarabad. Special prayers were offered after Fajar Prayer for peace, solidarity and prosperity of Pakistan. The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at President House in Muzaffarabad where AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Ch and Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas hoisted the national flag. Addressing the ceremony, the AJK president said time is not too far when the oppressed people of

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir would be freed from Indian clutches and people from both sides of Line of Control would celebrate Independence Day together. In Mirpur, a flag hoisting ceremony was held to mark the Independence Day of Pakistan with a renewal of the pledge to continue the ongoing struggle for the right of self-determination and accession to Pakistan. The Divisional Commissioner and other high ranking officers along with important personalities attended the ceremony. A smartly turned out contingent of AJK Police presented guard of honor on the occasion while the national anthems of Pakistan and AJK were also played.

Flag hoisting ceremony held at PAC

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan, a flag hoisting and cake cutting ceremony was held at the Punjab Arts Council. Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmad unfurled the flag and cut the cake of Pakistan's 75th birthday. Speaking at the event, Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Pakistan is one of the blessings of Allah. Our forefathers made numerous sacrifices for Pakistan. Allama Iqbal's dream was made a reality by Quaid-e-Azam. We have to follow the guid-



ing principles of Quaid-e-Azam to make Pakistan one of the developed nations of the world, he added. Waqar Ahmed paid tributes to the martyrs of the Pakistan movement and said "Pakistan was achieved after sacrificing lives of millions of people. Assistant Direc-

tor Muhammad Sulaiman said that the Muslims of the subcontinent made it possible to achieve a separate homeland under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, who gave us an ideology and made us a nation. We need to make unity and conviction the goal of

our lives in the words of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. We should not spare any sacrifice to make the country strong, progressive and prosperous. At the end of the ceremony, a special prayer was offered for the protection and development of Pakistan.

Markings Publishing commemorates Independence Day

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Markings Publishing launches its new title, For Faith, State, and the Soul: A History of Popular Culture in Pakistan, authored by acclaimed Pakistani historian Nadeem Farooq Paracha, popularly known as NFP. The book is now available in bookstores across Pakistan and online for audiences across the world.

For Faith, State and the Soul chronicles 75 years of the country's cultural traditions, initiatives and victories. Divided into pre partition and post partition, it chronicles decades leading up to 2020s, the book creatively illustrates the evolution of popular culture within Pakistan over the decades, while authoring the socio-political events which have navigated this culture over the years.

"Popular culture emerges from the people for the people. It is organic. Unfortunately, its history and evolution hasn't been very well documented in Pakistan."

NTDC celebrates Independence Day

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Pakistan's independence at NTDC offices and grid stations across the country.

A graceful ceremony was held at TSG Training Center New Kot Lakhpat Lahore to celebrate the Independence Day with national zeal and fervour. Chief Guest of the ceremony, Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, hoisted the National Flag followed by the National Anthem.

General Managers, C-Suits, Chief Engineers and other Senior officers, employees and their children were also



present during the ceremony. A group of kids donned in national dresses lead a chorus singing national songs and a march past by NTDC security staff fascinated the audience.

Addressing the ceremony, Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, expressed the value and importance of freedom as well as responsibilities of denizens of the nation to safeguard them. He appreciated the arrangements made for Independence Day Celebrations by the TSG North team.

He urged the NTDC officers and staff to serve the organization with integrity, honesty and dedication to sustain and aggrandize development of the country.

The Independence Day celebrations were held at Lahore, NPCC Islamabad, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Karachi and other cities.

75th Independence Day anniversary celebrated at SNGPL head office

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) organized a flag hoisting ceremony at Head Office in Lahore to celebrate 75th Independence Day Anniversary of Pakistan.

Managing Director SNGPL Ali J. Hamdani was chief guest of the ceremony. While addressing the event, Managing Director Ali J. Hamdani praised the role of Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Iqbal, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and other leaders of Pakistan Movement for their contributions for independence. He said that Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah believed in peaceful political struggle for freedom.

MD SNGPL said that as a utility Company, it is



our responsibility to serve millions of people. He added that SNGPL needs to further improve its customer services in order to serve the consumers more effectively. Sharing various measures taken to tackle the depleting gas reserves in the country, MD SNGPL said that the company is laying network from the recent-

ly explored gas reserves in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He further said that SNGPL is moving towards digitization of its internal business processes and customer services. He expressed hope that it will improve the work flow and ensure the transparency of operations. MD also said that Company announced

profit after tax of Rs.10.99 Billion by bringing down the UFG.

Managing Director said that the salaries of Executives have been revised while giving special relief to the junior Executives. He said that this incentive will prove as a relief for our hardworking Executives.

He added that SNGPL believes in the promotion of gender diversity and currently there are many female colleagues who are working at the decision making positions. He assured that the Company shall be giving equal opportunities to all the females working in SNGPL.

On the occasion, MD SNGPL Ali J. Hamdani planted a sapling. The ceremony was also attended by Senior Management of the Company and employees.

PCFA, UoP organize seminar

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: To celebrate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan China Study Centre (CSC) University of Peshawar (UoP) and Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Chapter jointly organized a seminar on the "75th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan" at the China Study Center's Conference Hall.

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director China Study Centre, University of Peshawar welcomed all the distinguished guests, faculty members, scholars, academicians, and students to the Webinar. He said that the history of the Muslim struggle under United India is a clear testimony to the fact that the struggle of the Muslims is the real desire of the Muslims for an independent state.

Given the enormous degree of challenges ahead, the things we need are unity, discipline, and faith. We must preserve and propagate national unity and social cohesion. We are victim of 5th generation war and we should counter propaganda that weaken our national integration, he added Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary-General PCFA Khyber Chapter said that since Pakistan's independence it has had a very good relationship



with all the countries around the globe.

On this auspicious occasion, when Pakistan is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence we should not forget those who gave sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan. This is high time that keeping in view the ground realities in the region and globally we should maximize our efforts for socio economic prosperity by strengthening our economic developmental activities in all walks of life and our Iron Brother & time tested friend China is excellent example as lesson to learn.

Prof Dr. Gul Majid Khan, Vice Chancellor Islamia College Peshawar enlightened the audience with the history of the Pakistan movement and said that we got independence due to the tireless efforts of our elders. Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama

Muhammad Iqbal along with other people have made it possible to get independence from the British colonialism Prof. Dr. Jehan Bakht Vice-chancellor, University of Agriculture Peshawar said that Pakistan is rich with many resources, four seasons, mountains, deserts, forests, rivers, and water bodies. We have to manage population, tackle the issues of climate change and mushrooming of housing societies. Qari Rohullah Madani, Ex-Minister Religious Affairs KP, emphasized the historical evolution of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan came into being on the Islamic Ideology. And it was possible due to the efforts of our brave people who sacrificed their wealth, health, money, and homes.

We need to follow the ideology upon which the country came into being, he added Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal along with other people have made it possible to get independence from the British colonialism Prof. Dr. Jehan Bakht Vice-chancellor, University of Agriculture Peshawar said that Pakistan is rich with many resources, four seasons, mountains, deserts, forests, rivers, and water bodies. We have to manage population, tackle the issues of climate change and mushrooming of housing societies. Qari Rohullah Madani, Ex-Minister Religious Affairs KP, emphasized the historical evolution of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan came into being on the Islamic Ideology. And it was possible due to the efforts of our brave people who sacrificed their wealth, health, money, and homes.

He congratulated Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar on successfully organizing the seminar on the 75th Anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Mr. Saifullah Khan, Registrar University of Peshawar in his vote of thanks speech threw light on different aspects of Pakistan freedom culture, and values.

He congratulated Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar on successfully organizing the seminar on the 75th Anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Mr. Saifullah Khan, Registrar University of Peshawar in his vote of thanks speech threw light on different aspects of Pakistan freedom culture, and values.

Ceremony held in Wana to mark Independence Day

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Under the auspices of District Youth Affairs Department South Waziristan, the main function of "Diamond Jubilee 75th Independence Day" was held at Wana AC Jirga Hall, in which speeches, Songs, Naat, and Qirat were offered.

Deputy Commissioner of South Waziristan Tribal District Amjad Meraj, the chief guest of the program, distributed prizes among the students.

A large number of tribal elders participated in the ceremony and shed light on the sacrifices of the leaders for freedom. Apart from this, events were arranged across the district with the support of the district



administration, Which included Ladha, Makin, Sararogha, Government High School Wana and Musa Nika Public School and College Wana and other various places of the district, Where Independence Day celebrations

were held in which tribal elders along with youth, students and general public participated in large numbers.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Amjad Meraj was the chief guest of the main event. On this occasion, Additional Assistant Commissioner Dr. Sadiq Ali, District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir, DSP Iqbal Baloch and Tehsil Chairman Maulana Saleh Wazir were present.

Speaking on this occasion, DC Amjad Meraj said that there will be no compromise on the survival, integrity and defense of the country, If the enemy tries to look at this country, they will put out their eyes.

He said that every citizen of the country has sacrificed their lives to get the country

Godfather, this country is a symbol of respect for all Muslims.

However, later the tribal elders, Malik Jameel Wazir and Malik Gulap Wazir addressed the ceremony and said that Pakistan forces and line for cement agencies are the guarantor of this country, but apart from that, it is the duty of all of us to protect this country in every difficult hour will be.

The tribal elders further said that one should not think that Pakistan is stuck in the mire of problems, but one day it will definitely come out. At the end of the function, District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir thanked the guests and praised the students for giving good speeches and melodious songs in the program.

IUB marks Pakistan's 75th Independence Day

Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: The Islamia University of Bahawalpur celebrated Pakistan's 75th Independence Day with enthusiasm. The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at Abbasia Campus.

Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor hoisted the flag along with Deans, senior teachers, students and recited the national anthem. In his presidential address, Vice-Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that Muslims ruled the subcontinent of Pakistan and India for a thousand years. After that, 150 years of slavery was also seen, the main reason of which was the distance from education and modern sciences.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan took up the task of exposing the Muslims to modern sciences and Aligarh Muslim University was established. Hazrat Allama Iqbal showed the dream of a separate homeland to the Muslims of the subcontinent through the Allahabad sermon, which was translated into reality by Hazrat Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah with his foresight and great struggle. Pakistan today is a reality and has a great success story.

In the last 75 years, we have made our name in the world in every field. He said that only education is the ladder of development. 5000 employees and 55,000 students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur are playing their role well in the development of the dear motherland. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur has now become the largest university in the country and is shining prominently in the national and international rankings. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor said that Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur will continue in the month of August.



PPAF releases Rs250m for flood emergency response

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: With over 50,000 households affected by the intense floods this season, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has allocated PKR 250 million for Flood Emergency Relief Programme to provide immediate life-saving assistance in the worst affected districts of Pakistan. An estimated 115,000 people in need will benefit across 8 districts in all four provinces from the humanitarian response.

The relief package will include a diversity of need-based interventions including temporary shelters, food ration packs, hygiene kits, water purification tablets, medical supplies, livestock vaccination and other items of need for the flood victims. PPAF will work with its local partners organisations already present in the affected areas to deliver the emergency response.

Explaining rationale of the response, the Chief Operating Officer PPAF, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech said, "PPAF has always been at the forefront of relief and rehabilitation efforts and has benefited over 11.6 million people over the years during the 2005 earthquake, the 2010 floods and COVID-19 pandemic. Recognising the immediacy of the challenge of intense floods and staying true to our mission, we are now responding to this crisis in worst-hit areas of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by releasing immediate assistance through our network of partner organisations in the field."

CHANGE IN NAME

I Baktawar Durrani S/O Mukhtar Hussain Durrani Resident of Peshawar do solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I was registered with FBISE at SSC Level under Registration No. : 8994010013 and passed the SSC Annual/Supplementary Examination 1989 under Roll No. 202134.
2. That I have decided to change/ partially change my name from Baktawar Hussain Durrani to Baktawar Durrani which is written as Baktawar Hussain Durrani in Board's document / record. Hence same may be changed.
3. The statement given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and nothing material has been concealed or withheld.



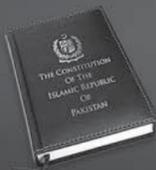


MUSLIM LEAGUE

THE CREATOR OF PAKISTAN

HAPPY 75th INDEPENDENCE DAY

1947 to 2022



FORMATION OF ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE 1906

1909 MINTO MORLEY REFORMS

QUAID-I-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH JOINED AIML IN 1913

1916 LUCKNOW PACT PASSED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE QUAID-I-AZAM

KHILAFAT MOVEMENT WAS BETWEEN 1919 TO 1922

DELHI PROPOSALS 1927

NEHRU REPORT REJECTED 1928

MUSLIM OPPOSITION TO NEHRU SCHEME.

Mr. Jinnah on Fate of the Report.

Calcutta, Dec. 31, 1928

Quaid-i-Azam and other Muslim leaders condemned the Nehru Report

14 POINTS OF QUAID-I-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH 1929

THREE ROUND TABLES CONFERENCES 1930 TO 1931

SESSION OF ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE IN 1930 AT ALLAHABAD

THE ACT OF 1935

ELECTIONS 1937

DAY OF DELIVERANCE 1939

LAHORE RESOLUTION 1940

CRIPPS MISSION 1942

GANDHI - JINNAH TALKS 1944

ELECTIONS FOR THE INDIAN CENTRAL ASSEMBLY 1945

DIRECT ACTION DAY 1946

MOUNTBATTEN PLAN 1947

PARTITION COUNCIL 1947

QUAID-I-AZAM AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE PAKISTAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY 1947

ASSALAM-O-ALAIKUM! DAWN OF FREEDOM: MUSTAFA HAMDANI, 13 AUG, 1947

OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION 1949

DISCOVERY OF SUI GAS 1952

FIRST CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN 1956

GAWADAR BECAME PART OF PAKISTAN 1958

APPROVAL OF ISLAMABAD AS NEW CAPITAL OF PAKISTAN 1959

THE LARGEST CANAL SYSTEM OF THE WORLD

THE SECOND LARGEST SALT MINE OF THE WORLD

PAKISTAN AERONAUTICAL COMPLEX KAMRA 1971

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF 1973 CONSTITUTION

OIC ISLAMIC SUMMIT 1974

GROUND BREAKING OF ATOMIC PROGRAM 1975

MANGLA DAM 1963 TARBELA DAM 1976

ESTABLISHMENT OF HMC 1979 AND STEEL MILLS 1973

MISSILE TECHNOLOGY 1989

WATER ACCORD 1991

THE FIRST MOTORWAY OF ASIA 1992

INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL EXCHANGE 1996

SUCCESSFUL NUCLEAR TESTS 1998

AGREEMENT FOR JF-17 WITH CHINA IN 1999

ESTABLISHMENT OF HEC 2002

CHARTER OF DEMOCRACY 2006

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF 18TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2010

INTRODUCTION OF 3G-4G TECHNOLOGY 2014

SIGNING CEREMONY OF CPEC 2015

LAYING OF FIBER OPTIC 2016

11000MW POWER ADDED IN NATIONAL GRID 2013-2018

THAR COAL POWER PLANTS 2019

INAUGURATION OF COMPLETE METRO BUS SYSTEM IN ISLAMABAD 2022

Scan for the Journey of the Creation of Pakistan

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Key Brexit legacy issues could come to head for new UK premier

Andrew Hammond

Boris Johnson declared last month during his speech announcing his resignation as Conservative Party leader, and therefore UK prime minister, that he “got Brexit done.” Yet he leaves his successor with a significant number of EU-related challenges still to be faced in the fall and beyond.

The recent long queues of trucks and holidaymakers at UK ports reminds one that many of the ramifications of leaving the EU, long suppressed by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, are beginning to be more strongly felt by voters and businesses.

Indeed, the UK economy lagged behind the trade performance of other big nations before the pandemic and has failed to fully share in the global trade rebound as the health crisis recedes.

Britain’s new prime minister will have to grapple with all of these Brexit practicalities, plus a relationship with the bloc that has been frayed by Johnson’s repeated threats to rewrite the deal he signed, and an electorate that is now showing some greater

signs of remorse about the result of the 2016 vote to leave the EU.

UK-EU relations are at a post-Brexit low as London pushes ahead with plans for a unilateral rewriting of the Northern Ireland Protocol, which is a lynchpin of the 2020 trade agreement. It governs the movement of goods crossing the border between Ireland, which is an EU member, and Northern Ireland, which — following Brexit — is not. The EU has said the plans to alter the protocol — spearheaded by Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, who is the clear favorite to win the Conservative leadership contest and become the new UK prime minister next month — breach international law. The bloc has threatened to tear up the 2020 agreement and/or introduce sanctions.

While few in Brussels are sad to see Johnson leave office, EU officials are under no illusions that there will be a big change under Truss or even if her rival, former Finance Minister Rishi Sunak, manages to pull off a surprise victory in the leadership election.

With much goodwill squandered since 2016, the EU’s willingness to compromise might be significantly reduced. Despite the solidarity between the EU

and UK over their support for Ukraine, this raises the prospect of a major bust-up between Brussels and London between now and 2024.

While the most likely prognosis is for a continuation of poor relations, the one window of opportunity for the new prime minister will come in the second half of the current financial year when the contentious Northern Ireland Protocol bill goes to the Lords, where it could be debated for months. If it becomes law, the political fireworks with the EU could begin soon after.

The Conservative leadership debate over Brexit underlines what a strange, Alice in Wonderland-style contest it has been. Although Sunak was proponent of Brexit in 2016 and Truss a “Remainer,” the latter has won more support from hard-line Brexiteer MPs than the former. Meanwhile, the only group of Conservative Party members among which Sunak has a lead over Truss are those who voted to remain in the EU.

Although Truss supported the Remain campaign in 2016, she subsequently transformed herself into one of the party’s most steadfast Brexiteers. This has earned her strong support from Brexiteer Conservative MPs, so she will be

under pressure to get tough with the EU. If she scores a big victory in the leadership election when the result is announced next month, she might feel especially emboldened to pick fights with Brussels, channeling the spirit of her political hero, Margaret Thatcher, who was the UK’s first female prime minister.

Truss claims that one of her key achievements since 2016 has been negotiating, while trade secretary, a new generation of post-Brexit economic deals with non-EU nations, stretching from Asia-Pacific to the Americas. Yet a significant number of these were similar, or even virtually identical, to the accords the UK already had in place as part of its EU membership.

As foreign secretary, Truss has driven the plans to unilaterally override the Northern Ireland Protocol, which could have a very negative effect on relations with the EU, potentially even leading to a mini trade war, despite the ongoing Ukraine conflict. In Brussels, the widespread view is that she has made a domestic calculation about her own political ascent that has subordinated the interests of Ireland to her ambition to move into Downing Street.

She has also pledged to review

by the end of next year all of the EU laws that were retained by the UK after Brexit, as part of a “red-tape bonfire,” and vowed to scrap or replace those deemed to be hindering UK growth. She also reportedly said she would seek to reform the European Convention on Human Rights and would be “prepared to leave” it if necessary.

While Sunak has a longer Brexit pedigree than Truss, it is surely a remarkable feature of the leadership contest that he has won significantly less support from Brexiteer MPs and party members than Truss has. That said, should he pull off a surprise victory next month, he might have more political cover than she does to seek compromises with Brussels, given his status as an original Brexiteer.

Taking all of this together, therefore, Brexit is by no means in the rear-view mirror as a UK policy issue. Indeed, the worst confrontations with the EU may be yet to come. If the Northern Ireland Protocol issue descends into further acrimony, that could yet result in a trade war — or even the collapse of the 2020 deal. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Andrew Hammond is an associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics.

Today Independence in Reality

While the nation is celebrating the 75th Independence Day (Diamond Jubilee) of the motherland with a renewed pledge to work with the spirit of the Pakistan Movement to make the country a true Islamic welfare state. At 75, the country is resiliently weathering all the storms and the nation is fully geared to stare the challenges in their face.

Historically, after its independence from British rulers on 14 August 1947, it has confronted many daunting challenges both internal and external, and is still facing a few tougher ones ahead. Pakistan is the fifth largest country on the planet earth with approximately 220 million people, blessed with a rare asset of demographic dividend, having nearly 65% below the age of 35. Likewise, with its vital strategic location on the regional map, Pakistan has hardcore professional armed forces fully equipped to ensure its territorial sovereignty against a five times larger adversary, India. So, the establishment of Pakistan was a miracle and one of the biggest developments of the 20th century, which was made possible under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the sacrifices of Muslims.

As we celebrate our independence, our country at this stage highly demands profound reflection to understand that real freedom is the one from hunger and poverty, and without economic sovereignty, it is not possible.

Keeping this fact in mind, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the high-powered national flag-hoisting ceremony stressed developing a consensus on the charter of the economy to transform Pakistan into an economic power. The Prime Minister said if we can become a nuclear power, we can also become an economic power but we have to strive day and night. Shehbaz Sharif urged the nation to work for the development of the country by following golden principles of faith, unity, and discipline set by the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

PM Shehbaz rightly highlighted the fact that without economic stability nothing could be achieved especially in terms of a welfare Islamic state. It really demands want, hunger and poverty-free Pakistan.

Overall, the government should work closely with the private sector, and civil society institutions to bring about structural changes in Pakistan’s economy, and pave the way for sustainable, long-term development. There is a dire need to improve governance, enhance economic growth and reduce poverty. The road ahead remains challenging, but success requires that the Government stay the course of reforms, and the Government should act by continuing long and short-term plans for the implementation of Pakistan’s poverty reduction strategy.



How to preempt second wave of terrorism in Afghanistan

Ishtiaq Ahmad

When Afghanistan was under Taliban rule previously, it unleashed a global wave of terror that claimed thousands of innocent lives in the 9/11 attacks and so many tragic incidents before and after. The war on terror dealt a mortal blow to Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups until the US withdrew from Afghanistan a year ago. Now the conflict-wracked country is again in danger of becoming a hotbed of global terrorism.

It is clear from the recent killing of Al-Qaeda chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri in a US drone attack in Kabul that the Taliban regime has never severed its links with Al-Qaeda. It has also continued to shelter other groups with terrorist ambitions in Pakistan, Central Asia and China. The UN estimates that over 10,000 terrorists are currently present in Afghanistan. These facts refute the Taliban’s repeated claims that they do not harbor any terrorist group on Afghan soil.

The Taliban regime also faces no direct threat from the Islamic State Khorasan Province since both have persecuted the Afghan minority and female population. The Daesh affiliate has been responsible for a spate of bombings on soft targets, such as mosques, hospitals and schools, in the past year, with Hazaras and other Afghan minorities among key victims. It has also claimed responsibility for killing Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani, a prominent Afghan cleric and proponent of female education, in a suicide bombing in Kabul on Thursday.

For several years, the people of Swat and tribal areas paid a heavy price due to terrorist activities by these two organizations. The TTP claimed the lives of more than 70,000 people across the country, including 134 students in the 2014 Army Public School attack.

A week after Al-Zawahiri’s assassination, TTP commander Omar Khalid Khorasani was killed in a bomb attack in the Paktika province of Afghanistan. Since then, the TTP has resurfaced in various regions of Pakistan’s Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, including North Waziristan, Dir and the Swat Valley. There are reports of army and police officials being captured by TTP militants, and also of provincial ministers paying extortion money to the group. A member of the provincial assembly was also shot and seriously injured. On Friday, the TTP also reportedly established a check post in the Swat Valley.

The sudden surge in the TTP’s militant activities is understandable. If we connect the dots, two major assassinations in a row — of the Al-Qaeda leader and the TTP commander — have seriously upset the Taliban regime. Its apparent relationship with Pakistan is close, but devoid of trust. The reason lies in Pakistan’s betrayal of the Taliban after 9/11, when it decided to join the US-led war on terror. It is likely that Taliban leaders suspect Pakistan of having a role in Al-Zawahiri’s killing. This creates common cause between the Taliban regime and the TTP to terrorize Pakistan.

Pragmatically speaking, renewed counterterrorism cooperation with the US augurs well for Pakistan. The country is in dire need of a revival of the economic bailout

program with the International Monetary Fund. It will also need international support to counter the resurgent TTP, especially if the Taliban regime is also seeking to stoke the fires of regional terrorism once again.

The global and regional stakeholders of peace in Afghanistan will be more than willing to offer such support. The US and its Arab allies in the Gulf would like to crush Al-Qaeda and Daesh in Afghanistan before either terror outfit becomes strong enough to threaten the Middle East again. Russia, China and India would also like to destroy terrorist groups that previously have threatened their peace and are still being nurtured by the Taliban.

To be sure, the Taliban regime no longer deserves trust after being exposed for its counterterrorism claims and for reneging on the promised restoration of rights for women and minorities. Hence, there should be zero tolerance for its dillydallying on both issues. Nevertheless, the world must still engage with Afghanistan, if only for the sake of helping its traumatized people at home and abroad.

How the TTP’s resurgence in Pakistan unfolds in the coming days will further reveal the Taliban’s terrorist face. Last time around, Pakistan’s border regions were the first to suffer before terrorism unleashed by a Taliban-led Afghanistan caused mayhem in the rest of the world. Preempting this rising danger in Afghanistan and Pakistan is the right step to take, before it is too late. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.

Raid on Trump’s house makes a Biden rematch more likely

Dr. John C. Hulsman

As the early 20th-century US politician John Sharp Williams so perfectly put it: “My reading of history convinces me most bad government results from too much government.” Judged by this yardstick, the FBI’s raid on former US President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago mansion — a clumsy, authoritarian effort to forcibly retrieve mishandled government documents — was both. It makes it far more likely that the 2024 presidential contest is a Trump-Biden rematch, an outcome that an overwhelming 70 percent of Americans in recent polling simply do not want.

First, to the merits of the Aug. 8 raid. The FBI’s aim, with sign-off from the Biden-appointed Attorney General Merrick Garland, was to retrieve mishandled classified material, records from Trump’s time in the White House that ought to be in the National Archives and not at his private mansion. In February, the National Archives took 15 boxes of material back from Trump, some containing classified documents. The government appeared to think the former president was holding out on them, and might have been unlawfully keeping further records. This was the first time a search warrant had been issued against a former president. Ironically, all of this took place as Trump’s grip on the Republican Party had begun to marginally weaken. The televised Congressional hearings into the Jan. 6 riots have reduced GOP voter support for Trump at the edges. A Reuters/Ipsos poll in July showed a significant 32 percent of Republican voters felt he should not run again for president in 2024, up from 26 percent in June.

While Trump’s previously iron grip on the GOP has slipped a bit, a genuine rival — in the person of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis — has emerged, promising to continue Trump’s populist program (deregulation, tax cuts, social criticism of leftist woke initiatives and an avoidance of foreign wars) without all the messy

personal baggage the former president brings to the table. A New York Times/Siena College poll in July gave DeSantis 25 percent support among GOP voters in a six-person 2024 primary, while Trump led with a 49 percent plurality of Republican voters. All of these political realities make it clear that while Trump is ahead in the 2024 race for the GOP crown, his nomination is not a foregone conclusion.

That is, before the Mar-a-Lago raid, which plays perfectly into Trump’s sense of victimhood, as well as the Republican Party’s increasingly dominant view that the levers of government, as well as the American establishment, are no longer playing the political game fairly.

This has mightily helped Trump’s cause. GOP rivals such as DeSantis as well as established critics such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have all rushed to the former president’s defense after the raid. The Trump movement itself, long becalmed as the media’s focus shifted to the hapless Biden administration, has found a second wind.

There is a conspiracy theory making the rounds that may just explain all this. For Joe Biden — deeply unpopular and seemingly overwhelmed by the demands of his office — this raid is manna from heaven. Biden has rallied his demoralized Democratic base by the attack on their favorite hate object, while reminding them of his number one selling point: Unlike his more leftist rivals in the Democratic Party, he can reach out to decisive independent voters and actually beat Trump, perhaps the only man in the country less popular than he is. The New York Times poll had Biden beating Trump in a 2024 re-match 44 to 42 percent. The greatest irony is that these two deeply unpopular rivals need each other. The raid makes it more likely, despite America’s deep misgivings about them both, that they will face off again in 2024. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Dr. John C. Hulsman is the president and managing partner of John C. Hulsman Enterprises, a prominent global political risk consulting firm. He is also a senior columnist for City AM, the newspaper of the City of London. He can be contacted via johnhulsman.substack.com.

US lawmakers arrive in Taiwan with China tensions simmering

Chinese mainland spokesperson says Taiwan's New Party has made positive contributions

TAIPEI/BELJING: A delegation of American lawmakers arrived in Taiwan on Sunday, just 12 days after a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that prompted an angry China to launch days of threatening military drills around the self-governing island that Beijing says must come under its control.



The five-member delegation, led by Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, will meet President Tsai Ing-wen and other officials to discuss U.S.-Taiwan relations, regional security, trade, investment and other issues, the American Institute in Taiwan said. The institute represents the U.S. government, which does not have official ties with Taiwan.

China responded to Pelosi's Aug. 2 visit by sending missiles, warships and warplanes into the seas and skies around Taiwan for several days afterward. The Chinese government objects to Taiwan having any official contact with foreign governments, particularly with a high-ranking congressional leader like Pelosi.

A Taiwanese broadcaster showed video of a U.S. government plane land-

ing about 7 p.m. Sunday at Songshan Airport in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital. Four members of the delegation were on the plane. Markey arrived on a separate flight at Taoyuan International Airport, which also serves Taipei. The group will be in Taiwan until Monday as part of trip to Asia, the American Institute said.

The other members of the delegation are Republican Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, a delegate from American Samoa, and Democratic House members John

Garamendi and Alan Lowenthal from California and Don Beyer from Virginia.

Chinese warplanes have continued crossing the midpoint of the Taiwan Strait on a daily basis even after the conclusion of the military exercises last Wednesday, with at least 10 doing so on Sunday, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said.

The 10 fighter jets were among 22 Chinese military aircraft and six naval ships detected in the area around Taiwan by 5 p.m. on Sunday, the minis-

try said on its Twitter account.

A senior White House official on Asia policy said late last week that China had used Pelosi's visit as a pretext to launch an intensified pressure campaign against Taiwan, jeopardizing peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the broader region.

"China has overreacted, and its actions continue to be provocative, destabilizing, and unprecedented," Kurt Campbell, a deputy assistant to President Joe Biden, said on a call with reporters.

"It has sought to disregard the centerline between the P.R.C. and Taiwan, which has been respected by both sides for more than 60 years as a stabilizing feature," he said, using the acronym for the country's full name, the People's Republic of China.

China accuses the U.S. of encouraging independence forces in Taiwan through its sale of military equipment to the island and engaging with its officials. The U.S. says it does not support independence for Taiwan but that its differences with China should be resolved by peaceful means.

River torrent kills 7 in China amid widespread heavy rains

BELJING: Seven people were killed by a torrent of water that came rushing down a river in a popular recreational spot following mountain rains in southwestern China, authorities said Sunday.



Workers and volunteers mobilized to urge people to leave the area after receiving an imminent heavy rain warning about 2:40 p.m. on Saturday, the emergency management bureau in Pengzhou city said.

People could be seen scrambling to flee in videos posted on social media, but some were caught when the torrent hit about 50 minutes later at 3:30 p.m.

One man at the scene said several people were washed away, including some chil-

dren, when the water flow in the lower reaches of the river suddenly increased in just 10 to 20 seconds, the state-owned China National Radio reported.

The Chengdu city government said Sunday that seven people had died and three others were hospitalized with minor injuries. Pengzhou is a tourist spot about

70 kilometers (45 miles) north of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province.

A video showed a helicopter rescuing a person stranded on a small outcropping by descending to just above the water and opening a door so the person could climb in.

Elsewhere in China, heavy rain flooded streets in the northwestern city of

Xining on Saturday night. Heavy to torrential rain was forecast for the northeast from Sunday to Monday afternoon, with 10 to 18 centimeters (4 to 7 inches) of rainfall expected in parts of Liaoning and Jilin provinces.

A heat wave was hovering over a wide swath of southern China, with forecast highs on Sunday of 35 to 39 degrees Celsius (95 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit) and possibly surpassing 40 degrees (104 Fahrenheit) in some places including Shanghai.

Jiangsu province warned that road surface temperatures could rise to 72 degrees (162 Fahrenheit), raising the risk of flat tires, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Brief scuffles slow tallying in Kenya's close election

NAIROBI: Kenya's peaceful presidential election saw a brief disruption late Saturday when riot police responded to scuffles at the national tallying center amid tensions over the close results.

An agent for longtime opposition leader and candidate Raila Odinga announced from the lectern that the tallying center was the "scene of a crime" before calm was restored. The agent, Saitabao Ole Kanchorry, offered no evidence in the latest example of the unverified claims that both top campaigns have made as Kenya waits for official results.

The electoral commission has seven days from Tuesday's election to announce results. Chair Wafu-la Chebukati on Saturday again said the process was too slow, and the commission told nonessential people watching at the center to leave.

Police remained at the center on Sunday morning. "We must all avoid raising tensions that could easily trigger violence," local human rights groups and professional associations said in a joint statement Sunday urging restraint from candidates and their supporters.

The race remains close between Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto as the electoral commission physically verifies more than 46,000 results forms electronically transmitted from around the country.

Turnout dipped sharply in this election, to 65%, as some Kenyans expressed weariness with seeing long-familiar political leaders on the ballot and frustration with economic issues including widespread corruption and rising prices. Outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta crossed the ethnic lines that have long marked politics by backing Odinga.

The president fell out with his deputy Ruto years ago. Past elections have been marked by political violence, but civil society observers, police, religious leaders and others have said this one has been peaceful.

Ties with Russia important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy: Envoy

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Relations with the Russian Federation are an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy, said Shafiqat Ali Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia addressing an event to mark 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

The Ambassador praised the invaluable role of the Pakistani community in Russia in enhancing cooperation and bringing the two countries closer to each other. Shafiqat Ali Khan also expressed gratitude to the Pakistanis residing in Russia for the support and assistance they render to the Embassy in organizing various events and activities.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow hosted an event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of independence of Pakistan today, on 14 August 2022.

The ceremony started with the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by a flag hoisting ceremony. The messages



of the President and the Prime Minister were read out by Deputy Head of Mission Mr Summar Javed and Third Secretary Muhammad Tayyab.

A string quartet of students from the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory performed classical adaptations of Pakistani songs 'Jeevay Jeevay', 'Sohni Dharti' and 'Dil Dil Pakistan'.

Joshua Edwin Arthur, a language trainee, also sang Pakistani national songs to the accompaniment of the guitar. The performers were warmly welcomed by the audience, which included the members of the Pakistani community in Russia, diplomats and employees of the Embassy, as well as Russian friends of Pakistan.

Authorities deploy forces' personnel in IIOJK ahead of India's I-Day

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the authorities have deployed Indian troops and police personnel in the territory in the name of security measures ahead of India's Independence Day, 15th August.

Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel have stepped up checking of vehicles and random frisking of passengers and pedestrians across the territory, subjecting the people to immense discomfort.

A multi-layer security arrangement with both ground and aerial surveillance has been thrown across the territory, particularly in Srinagar. A cricket stadium in Srinagar where the official function is to be held has been fortified with the deployment of paramilitary troops, new bunkers and barricades. The stadium is also being monitored with drones.

The checking continues at several places including Lal Chowk, Ram Munshi Bagh, Indra Nagar, Dalgate, Barbarshah, Munawarabad, Khanyar,



Rajbagh, Kothi Bagh, Shaheed Gunj, Tourists Reception Centre (TRC), Kral Khud and several other areas in Srinagar.

The troops and police personnel have established special check-points across the city. Drones and CCTV cameras mounted on forces' vehicles and build-

ings are being used to monitor the movement of the people. Indian forces' personnel have been deployed on the high-rise buildings while sniffer dogs are also being used to maintain a tight vigil.

On the other hand, posters have again appeared in different areas of the territory, urging the people to observe the

Indian Independence Day, (August 15) as a Black Day.

The posters displayed in different parts of the territory are aimed at registering a protest against India's illegal occupation of their motherland since October 1947 and the illegal and brutal actions of the Modi-led fascist Indian government since August 5, 2019.

The posters with pictures of resistance leaders, including APHC Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi and Mushtaq-ul-Islam, said that the people of IIOJK had rejected the Indian illegal and military occupation and demanded immediate release of all illegally detained Kashmiri political leaders.

It further said that India had occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people and the Kashmiris would continue their struggle till complete freedom from the Indian

N. Korea criticizes UN chief's support for North's denuclearization

SEOUL: North Korea's foreign ministry on Sunday criticized the United Nations Secretary-General's recent comment on his supports for the North's complete denuclearization, calling the remarks lack impartiality and fairness.

North Korea's state news agency KCNA released a statement from the foreign ministry after UN chief Antonio Guterres on Friday said he fully supports efforts to completely denuclearise North Korea when he met with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol.

"I cannot but express deep regret over the said remarks of the UN secretary-general that grossly lack impartiality and fairness and go against the obligations of his duty, specified in the UN Charter, as regards the issue of the Korean peninsula," Kim Son Gyong, vice minister for international organizations of North Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Kim added that the UN secretary-general should not request or accept orders from the government of a specific country but refrain from doing any act that may impair his or her position as an international official who is liable only to the UN.

Kim said the North's "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" (CVID) was "an infringement upon the sovereignty of the DPRK," referring to North Korea by the initials of its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"It demands the unilateral disarmament, and Secretary-General Guterres perhaps knows well that the DPRK has totally rejected it without any toleration," said Kim, adding that Guterres should be careful when uttering "dangerous words" amid the extremely acute situation on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea has test fired a record number of missiles this year, and officials in Seoul and Washington say that it appears to be preparing to test a nuclear weapon for the first time since 2017, amid stalled denuclearization talks.

UN-chartered ship in Ukraine readying for journey to Africa

ODESA: The United Nations-chartered ship MV Brave Commander will depart Ukraine for Africa in coming days after it finishes loading more than 23,000 tons of wheat in the Ukrainian port of Pivdennyi, a UN official said.

The ship, which arrived in the port near Odesa, will sail to Ethiopia via a grain corridor through the Black Sea brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in late July. It will be the first humanitarian food aid cargo bound for Africa since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, under the framework of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The cargo was funded with donations from the United Nations World Food Programme, US Agency for International Development and several private donors. A total 16 ships have now departed from Ukraine following the deal with Russia to allow a resumption of grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports, after they were stalled for five months due to the war.

The agreement was reached last month amid fears that the loss of Ukrainian grain supplies would lead to severe food shortages and even outbreaks of famine in parts of the world. Ukraine has some 20 million tons of grain left over from last year's crop, while this year's wheat harvest is also estimated at 20 million tons.

So far most of the cargoes under the deal have carried grain for animal feed or for fuel. As part of the UN deal, all ships are inspected in Istanbul by the Joint Coordination Center, where Russia, Ukrainian, Turkish and UN personnel work.

Shelling kills 1 in Ukraine; Russia wants nuke plant pledges

KYIV: Russian forces on Sunday fired rockets on the Mykolaiv region in southern Ukraine, killing at least one person, and a Russian diplomat called on Ukraine to offer security assurances so that international inspectors could visit a nuclear power station that has come under fire.

The Mykolaiv region is just to the north of the Russian-occupied city of Kherson, which Ukrainian forces have vowed to retake. The Ukrainian emergency service said one person was killed in shelling early Sunday of the Mykolaiv region settlement of Berezhneuvate.

As fighting steps up in southern Ukraine as Russia's war closes in on six months, concern has grown sharply about the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is held by Russian forces and has been hit by sporadic shelling. Both Ukraine and Russia blame each other for the shelling, which officials say has damaged monitoring equipment and could lead to a nuclear catastrophe.

The Zaporizhzhia facility is Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Russia's envoy to international organizations based in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, called on Ukraine to stop attacking the plant in order to allow an inspection mission from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is important that the Ukrainians stop their shelling of the station and provide security guarantees to members of the mission. An international team cannot be sent to work under continuous artillery shelling," he was quoted as saying Sunday by Russian state news agency Tass.

41 killed in massive church fire in Egypt's Giza

CAIRO: At least 41 people were killed and 12 injured in a massive fire that broke out in a Coptic church in Egypt's Giza Province on Sunday, the Egyptian Health Ministry said.

The accident took place in Abu Sifin church in the Imbaba neighborhood, according to the ministry.

"Four of those injured are in unstable conditions," the ministry said in a statement, adding it had sent 37 ambulances to the scene. The fire started from an air conditioner on the second floor of the church building because of an electrical fault, the Egyptian Interior Ministry said in a separate statement.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi extended his condolences to the victims of the church fire in a phone call to Pope Tawadros II, head of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church. "President Sisi reiterated that all state institutions are providing the necessary support to contain the aftermath of this tragic accident," said the Egyptian presidency in a statement.

Sanctions against Iran can be lifted soon: Russian envoy

TEHRAN: Sanctions against Iran can be lifted soon, a Russian diplomat said, referring to the talks in Vienna for a possible return of the United States to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Permanent Representative of Russia to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said in a tweet on Sunday that sanctions against Iran can be lifted soon.

He wrote the tweet in response to a Twitter user who asked him if the West would finally decide to lift the sanctions against Iran, Russia, and other countries.

"I can't say the same about anti-Russian #sanctions," Ulyanov wrote, adding that anti-Russian sanctions are only partially associated with Ukraine. "The West perceives independent policy of Russia as a strategic challenge and will hardly abandon the practice of sanctions," he said.

Iran and the P4+1 recently resumed talks in Vienna, with indirect participation of the US, to finalize an agreement to revive the 2015 nuclear deal based on a proposal from the EU. Iran and the US have yet to accept the EU's proposal.

Pak-Turkiye PTA

FPCCI rubbishes claims that private sector not consulted

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has categorically rubbished the claims doing the rounds in some news articles that private-sector of Pakistan was not consulted on the recently signed and well-anticipated Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Turkey, i.e. Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods Agreement.

He emphasized that we should be careful in giving press statements pertaining to the very crucial, historical, brotherly and economically significant Pakistan-Turkiye relations.

FPCCI Chief has also expressed his satisfaction over the fact that Pakistan-Turkiye Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), i.e. Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods Agreement, has been signed on August 12, 2022 in Islamabad; in the presence of the commerce ministers of the two countries in a high-profile ceremony. Being the apex body, FPCCI represented the entire business community of the country on the auspicious occasion.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has apprised that in FY22, the bilateral trade volume between the two brotherly countries has crossed the psychological barrier of \$1 billion after a long hiatus of ten long years and has climbed up to \$1.1 billion per year. Therefore, he is optimistic, the bilateral trade volume is expected to get a major boost in the years to come and has the potential to touch the \$5 billion mark in a matter of a few years.

Amjad Rafi, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan-Turkey Joint Business Council (PTJBC), has explained that a very rigorous and regular consultative process was going on in the federal ministry of commerce for a period of one and a half years; and, stakeholders from the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan was duly and thoroughly consulted.

Akzo Nobel launches campaign 'PehchanKaRung'



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: On the momentous occasion of the 75 years of Independence of Pakistan, AkzoNobel – the maker of Dulux brand of decorative paints, launched a powerful social campaign 'PehchanKaRung' to inspire today's youth to play an active role in shaping the destiny of the country.

As a global colour expert, AkzoNobel knows the importance of colours in our lives. Homes are much more than walls, they symbolise identity, respect, emotions and their most cherished moments. For nearly five decades now, Dulux Paints have been an intrinsic part of every family's life in Pakistan. The over 2,000 vibrant colours of Dulux have been protecting the interior and exterior of homes and adding colours to the lives of families.

Elaborating on #PehchanKaRung, Mubbasher Omar, Chief Executive Officer, AkzoNobel Pakistan Limited, states, "As a responsible corporate, AkzoNobel is committed to contribute to the sustainable future of Pakistan. For decades, the vibrant colours of Dulux have been bringing alive our identity as individuals and families. As we near the historic 75 years of Independence of Pakistan, let us celebrate our identity as responsible citizens of Pakistan and contribute to the future of our country."

Through the latest social activism movement on the occasion of Pakistan's 75 years of Independence; AkzoNobel is reinforcing that homeland comes before home and will always be the biggest part of every Pakistani citizen's identity.

Bank Islami holds Azadi walk

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: August 14, 2022: Strengthening its long-standing commitment to the nation's unity this Independence Day, Bank Islami held the Azadi Walk for its employees with the support of Commissioner Karachi Division.

The Azadi Walk took place in the afternoon of 12th August, starting at Metropole and ending at the Commissioner's office. The event was attended by CEO BankIslami Syed Amir Ali, Commissioner Karachi Mohammed Iqbal Memon, and senior Bank management and government officials. Bank Islami is also proudly sponsoring the upcoming "Platinum Jubilee Youm-e-Azadi Pakistan Festival" organized by Commissioner Karachi Division.

Bank Islami has been at the forefront of renewing the national spirit of freedom, progress, and inclusion every year with meaningful and engaging employee activities. And this time, they have taken it a step further and beyond. This year's walk was significantly bigger and on a much larger scale. The walk was followed by speeches by the Bank's CEO, senior management and the event's esteemed guests. The event was then brought to a close with a special shield distribution ceremony and a Hi-tea for the attendees.

Annual ICT Awards playing strong role in driving innovation, growth: Minister

Says industry poised to drive exports & growth for the nation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Syed Amin Ul Haque, Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, has acknowledged the fact that Annual ICT Awards have been playing a strong, catalytic role in driving innovation and growth for the past 17 years by recognizing the leaders in the industry. He further added that the IT industry, spearheaded by P@SHA, is in a unique position to uplift the entire country out of the economic challenges.

P@SHA, the apex trade body for the IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) industry is conducting the 18th annual P@SHA ICT awards later in October this year and through a detailed process of evaluation by a jury of world-renowned members, will cover 10 core categories along with 42 subcategories; which will include startups, fintech, edtech, e-commerce companies and large exporters in the IT industry as well, along with recognizing innovations and excellence in several business verticals. Students from schools, colleges and universities can also submit their projects.



Badar Khushnood, Chairman P@SHA, apprised that these awards are free-to-apply and no sponsorship or contribution is charged – whatsoever. That is the reason that companies, small or large, exporters, investors or JVs,

new or established industry players, students, and women entrepreneurs are all welcome to apply to the pertinent categories, he added. Hira Zainab, Secretary General of P@SHA, has explained that P@SHA's ICT Awards are

not only the most prestigious IT & ITeS awards of Pakistan, but they provide a gateway to international recognition, promotion, and the right positioning to awardees on a truly global scale.

The winners and runner-ups will consequently be participating in Asia-Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2022 to showcase their talent and compete on an international platform. P@SHA has regularly featured in APICTA Awards over the last decade and they have bagged 2 gold & 4 merit awards in 2021 – and, that made Pakistan one of the top 5 countries in IT talent & achievements.

The IT industry is currently the only industry in Pakistan that can grow at an exponential rate and contribute to exports growth in the same spirit by the highest cash flow positive grading and the easiest to expand since the industry relies only on availability of talent and conducive policies to help it grow. It is pertinent to note that the IT industry exports in the last 2 years have jumped from approximately \$1.4 billion in 2020 to \$2.1 billion in 2021 and to \$2.62 billion in 2022, showing a growth of 87 percent in just 2 years.

U Microfinance Bank plants 5,000 trees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: U Microfinance Bank in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) organized a tree plantation drive at G-8/1 Islamabad.

To celebrate the onset of monsoons, U Bank employees participated in plantation activity. 5,000 trees were planted in order to continue U Bank's drive to be an environmentally conscious company.

U Microfinance Bank is led by a triple bottom line ambition and have been organizing tree plantation campaigns every year. Cognizant of the impact of its work on the



planet, U Bank has kept its tradition alive and has been playing its part in conserving and protecting environment from the past four years. The initiative is part of U Bank's larger vision as a company to work towards reducing its carbon and waste footprint as well as incurring a set of products

to support climate resilience and a sustainable change in society as a whole.

Emphasizing the need to conserve and safeguard the environment U Microfinance Bank President & CEO, Kabir Naqvi said, "There is a dire need to initiate such drives in order to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change. U Bank has always been taking steps to protect the environment. We are committed to our ambition in consciously designing products to support our fragile environment which is constantly under threat from climate change. Let us all pledge not only to plant trees but also nurture them".

Independence Day celebrated at CBD House Punjab

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Lahore Central Business District Development Authority (LCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) enthalls the patriotic passion with Pakistan's 75th Independence Day celebration at CBD House Punjab.

The ceremony loaded with patriotic zeal was attended by Mr. Imran Amin-CEO LCBDDA, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua-COO LCBDDA, Directorate Heads, Management Officials and the entire ancillary staff of LCBDDA.

The celebration began with flag hoisting at CBD House Punjab, along with special prayers for the development and safety of the country, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony that enhanced the charm of the celebration. CBD Punjab family added to the celebration by recreating the iconic nation-



al song "Yeh Watan Tumhara Ha" as a tribute to our beloved homeland.

Imran Amin-CEO of LCBDDA while expressing his views said "as a nation, we have seen

fortunate we are to be able to celebrate our freedom.

LCBDDA feels immense pride that we have played a pivotal role in the journey of development by establishing Pakistan's first business district. In a short span of time, CBD Punjab has ameliorated Pakistan's image on the global economic map and is committed to striving for the development of Pakistan with full zeal and passion".

On the account of the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan, the CBD family extends its wishes to our nation fellows on this auspicious occasion and prays that we see our flag waving with the true Pakistan spirit. Today CBD Punjab has reaffirmed its commitment for the development of the country. The future projects of the authority will be an epitome of excellence for the homeland which will surely enlist Pakistan in first-world countries.

Platinum Azadi celebrations at Faysal Bank

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Faysal Bank Limited organized a heartwarming ceremony for flag hoisting on August 14th, 2022 to mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan, at their iconic Abdullah Haroon Road branch.

Celebrations of the 75th anniversary required a platinum edge, therefore FBL decided to showcase Pakistan's inclusivity by inviting the Special Olympic athletes to grace the occasion.

Athletes from Pakistan chapter of Special Olympics were invited to join FBL in this grand celebration of Pakistan's Independence Day. FBL is enthusiastic to have these special



champions shine with equal resonance. The reverberation of their achievements becomes equally treasurable.

Sports in Pakistan may have carried a national flag, but their emotional impact far outweighs any other effect. 40 members of the athletic team joined the

to flutter and add cheer to an already vibrant environment

"Faysal Islami strongly believes in inclusion from all segments of the society." Yousaf Hussain, the President, and CEO of FBL reiterated FBL's mission as part of its strategic objectives. "On this special day of 75th year of our independence it is important to remember that we have to work towards the shining Pakistan, FBL plays its role by providing economic opportunities in a Shariah Compliant manner." He further elaborated on the importance for society to endorse this need for inclusion and allow youth to aim for their dreams irrespective of their challenges.

Meezan Bank announces financial results for half year

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Meezan Bank approved the financial statements of the Bank for the half year ended June 30, 2022.

The meeting was chaired by Riyadh S.A. A. Edrees – Chairman of the Board, Faisal A. A. Al-Nassar – Vice Chairman of the Board was also present.

The Board has approved an interim cash dividend of Rs 1.75 per share (17.5%) and 10% bonus shares. This brings the total cash dividend payout for the half year to Rs 3.50 (35%) per share along with 10% bonus shares.

The Bank's profit after tax increased to Rs 17.1 billion compared to Rs 12.6 billion in the corresponding period last year, reflecting a 36% growth – despite taxation

charge at 49% (inclusive of 10% super tax) in the current half year pursuant to Finance Act 2022. The Bank was able to manage its tax charge efficiently by maintaining an ADR of over 50% and accordingly, did not attract any additional tax charge relating to ADR below 50%.

Total deposits of the Bank closed at Rs 1.57 trillion – an 8% growth over last year. During the half year, the Bank opened 29 new branches, bringing its geographical network to 931 branches in more than 300 cities.

The Bank's ATM network crossed the 1,000 ATMs milestone during the half year. The Bank's Mobile Banking App remains the highest-rated Mobile App in the banking industry on both Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Pakistan State Oil celebrates Independence Day



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The country's leading energy company and national flag bearer, Pakistan State Oil (PSO), celebrated 75 years of Pakistan's Independence at PSO House, Karachi.

On this momentous occasion, Managing Director & CEO, Syed Muhammad Taha hoisted the national flag,

which was followed by the national anthem and prayers for the country's prosperity and progress. Mr Taha also planted tree saplings for a greener Pakistan.

Company officials and staff were also present at the occasion to express solidarity and love for their homeland. PSO renewed its pledge to continue fueling the nation's progress.

PFC to participate in 'China Eurasia expo' at Urumqi

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council, in collaboration with Chenone, will participate in "China-EurAsia expo" being held at Urumqi China on August 25-30 to showcase Pak products and identify new global markets besides luring foreign investments.

Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq

while talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ahmad Waqar Ch said here Sunday that 6-day expo starting will provide an opportunity to present a world class range of Pak products and all other allied services.

He said it is platform for import and export mainly with various and flexible pattern of trade.

Spotify commemorates 75 years of Pakistan's Independence

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan completes 75 years of Independence, Spotify is marking the occasion with a distinct mix of tunes and exclusive content that celebrates the nation's pride and heritage.

The music streaming platform will celebrate the day with some of the

country's hottest artists, starting with Spotify Pakistan's captivating social media franchises "All About Qoumi Taranah" and "Only in Pakistan".

The former explores lesser-known facts about the anthem through the eyes of Faakhir, Bilal Saeed, and EQUAL Pakistan Ambassadors Hadiqa Kiani and Natasha Baig, whereas Zoha Zuberi and Zaw Ali

each reveal their favourite part about being Pakistani. As fans hear about things that only happen in Pakistan, they will be in for a treat.

Spotify's official Independence Day playlist, 'Pak Sarzameen', returns again this year with additional tunes. The playlist is a collection of some of the most beloved and evergreen patriotic songs from Paki-

stan's music history, including 'Aye Watan Kay' by Noor Jehan, Nayyara Noor's 'Is Parcham Ke Saye', Mera Iman Pakistan' of the legendary Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Vital Signs' popular track 'Dil Dil Pakistan', Junoon's 'Jazba-E-Junoon' and 'Dil Se Pakistan' by Haroon, to name a few. The diverse musical mix not only strikes a chord with listeners

looking to vibe with the theme of Independence Day but also offers a complete selection of the greatest hits in one place.

With nostalgia playing a significant role in the day, fans can also head to the 'Pakistani Music Through the Decades' destination to enjoy and discover Pakistani classics from the 50's to the 2010s.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:58 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	4:59 pm
Maghrib	6:56 pm
Isha	8:27 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHO	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883	G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Flag hoisting ceremony held at UAJK

Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: An impressive flag hoisting ceremony was held at the City Campus of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of 75th Independence Day of Pakistan here on Sunday.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi opened the ceremony by hoisting the national flag while Associate Dean Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Dr. Bashirur Rahman Kanth and the President of Academic Staff Association, Dr. Nazanin Habib hoisted the flag of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Dean Faculty of Sciences Professor Dr. Ghulam Murtaza hoisted the flag of the university.

On this occasion, a contingent of university's security staff saluted the national flag and the flag of Azad Kashmir.

After unfurling the flag, a special prayer was offered for the security, development, and prosperity of Pakistan, unity, and solidarity in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and early success of the ongoing freedom struggle waged by valiant people in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) for their freedom and right to self-determination.

PIDE launches "One Year Growth Strategy for Pakistan"

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has launched the "One Year Growth Strategy for Pakistan" on the occasion of Pakistan's 75th anniversary of independence.

Despite experiencing extreme economic and political instability, Pakistan has still been unable to break with the ramshackle of its unstable development enigma. As a result, Pakistan's economic indicators have fluctuated widely over the last seventy-five years.

We have the lowest investment rate in neighboring countries: our policy is totally focused on the tax rate and revenue collection, with no priority to investment and growth.

According to a press release issued from the PIDE office, it was said that historically we focused on taxation, not on growth. We have to shift the focus on growth; for that, we need to shine a light on investment, productivity, and exports. However, we must address the bottlenecks.

Another grave concern is that Pakistan's debt to GDP ratio has continuously been rising over the last decade. Research says there is a negative linear association between debt and economic growth regardless of the types of debt and the countries' income levels. Moreover, since 1965, Pakistan has approached International Monetary Fund (IMF) twenty-two times; the recent engagement with IMF



makes it the 23rd time.

According to PIDE's One Year Growth Strategy for Pakistan, Energy is a chronic problem that eight governments have not been able to solve. Due to mismanagement and weak governance in the power sector, huge transmission & distribution losses occurred (Rs. 473 billion during 2021, out of which Rs. 402 recovered through tariff and Rs. 71 billion was added to circular debt).

PIDE report suggests a decentralized billing system at the DISCO level and need to bring pre-paid meters to the market, which consumers will buy themselves. Link this pre-paid meter to DISCO billing. This will create the possibility to minimize losses in receivables by 80% (total receivables at the end of 2021 stood at Rs 1.5 trillion, and they are growing at 15 % annually)

There is also a need to empower the regulator (NEPRA) to facilitate 'wheeling' at the marginal cost to make it attractive for sellers (generation companies) and buyers (bulk power consumers). It will decrease the cost of energy for the indus-

try. All DISCOs should also be allowed to purchase energy on a short-term contract and acquire generation assets falling inside their territorial jurisdictions and even from outside.

The PIDE's research also suggests reforms in Taxation for Sustainable Growth. There must be a mandatory tax filing, need to abolish the distinction between filers and non-filers. The distinction creates a nuisance and does not contribute to improving the tax net (the number of filers was 2.28 million in 2020 and 2.29 million in 2021).

Individuals file returns with 0 incomes only to avail of the filer. PIDE recommends introducing joint return filling instead of individual, and Income tax should be universal and not segmented. The division of income based on agriculture, dividends, and so on must be abolished. An integrated, fair value single VAT-based system of Sales Tax is the need of the hour.

Besides these four areas, PIDE suggests that we also have to focus on our market spaces. Consider the case of the Real Estate Market, Cities, the Internet for All, Street vending as employment, Sports, Agriculture Market, Export Sector, and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

PIDE proposes that Pakistan must grow at 7-9 percent. Other crucial issues would settle through the spillover and the ripple effect of that much growth. How it will grow at this rate; the roadmap has already been explained above: Reform, facilitate, privatize, digitize, and de-regulate are the few buzzwords as a key takeaway.

Dewan of Junagadh congratulates Pakistanis

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dewan of Junagadh State, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, giving a special message on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, said that Pakistan has come into existence for a great purpose.

The creation of Pakistan is sheer negation of false Indian nationalism and an affirmation of the two-nation theory. The slogan of Indian nationalism was the worst political fraud of the 20th century, which was defeated by Allama Iqbal's thought and willing leadership of Quaid-e-Azam with day and night hard work and the achievement of Pakistan became possible.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah wanted to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state where socio-economic justice would be available at the doorstep of the people without any discrimination of colour, creed and caste. On this basis, Nawab of Junagadh annexed the State of Junagadh to Pakistan on September 15, 1947 - Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali said that Junagadh is a part of Pakistan under international law.



Quaid-i-Millat Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan had clarified in the Junagadh case that Junagadh is a part of Pakistan under international law.

Dewan of Junagadh further said that Pakistan is our spiritual commitment and Kashmir and the State of Junagadh are part of this commitment. Junagadh is our historical and legal right and living nations do not give up their right, so we have to keep fighting for our right. Indian occupation of Junagadh and Kashmir is the worst example of colonial remnants in the 21st century.

Quaid-i-Millat Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan had clarified in the Junagadh case that Junagadh is a part of Pakistan under international law.

PANAH organizes seminar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of August 14, a seminar was held in connection with the Independence Day of Pakistan, which was presided over by the President of the PANAH, Major General (Retd) Masoodur Rehman Kayani.

Secretary General Sanahullah Ghamman was the host of the occasion. Nacem Akram Qureshi, a senior member of Panah, performed the duties of the stage secretary. Special guests including General Mohammad Ashraf Khan, General Kamal Akbar, General Ashoor Khan and women, gentlemen and children from all walks of life participated in the event. Nacem Akram Qureshi welcomed the guests and started the program. Secretary General Sanahullah Ghaman told about Panah's services to the nation, how Panah has contributed to the development of the country. PANAH has not only reduced the suffering of the people but also reduced the burden of diseases on the country but contribute for a healthy nation. For this, Panah organizes awareness seminars, walks, workshops and free medical camps all over the country and is also working as Pakistan's ambassador in Afghanistan, which has increased the good name of Pakistan.

TDC Islamabad celebrates Independence Day

Participants express their commitment to serve Pakistan by performing their duties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Center (TDC) Islamabad celebrated Independence Day with a pronounced spirit of serving the motherland with dedication, hard work and honesty.

A function was organized in which the management, doctors, staff and distinguished guests from Motorway Police led by CPO participated. Chairman TDC, Dr. Asjad Hameed felicitated the participants on 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. He expressed his resolve to make Pakistan a diabetes free country Chief



Guest of Ceremony, Tayyab Nazir, CPO Motorways Police, greeted those attending the event a Happy Independence Day.

He expressed his commitment to serve Pakistan by performing his duties with utmost honesty. Later, the cake was cut and the National flag was hoisted. Prizes were distributed among staff

of TDC who best decorated their respective departments. The Independence Day event ended with the aspirations of a healthy Pakistan and a diabetes-free society.

Health Corner

Improving cancer immunotherapy

ISLAMABAD: During a battle with cancer, T cells can become exhausted and are no longer able to function properly. The early phase of exhaustion can sometimes be reversed with immunotherapy drugs, but once T cells become too exhausted, it had been thought that this state was irreversible. However, new insights from University of Pittsburgh and UPMC researchers suggest that even the most fatigued T cells can be revived.

In a study, published in Science Immunology, the team profiled molecular features of T cells as they progressed from early to terminal exhaustion in a mouse model of melanoma. They unexpectedly found that even the most terminally exhausted T cells retain some capacity to be functional again and identified approaches to overcome exhaustion, opening potential new avenues for cancer immunotherapy.

"People think about terminally exhausted T cells as a lost cause, that there's no coming back from this state," said co-senior author Amanda Poholek, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and immunology at Pitt's School of Medicine and director of the Health Sciences Sequencing Core at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. "But given the right circumstances -- the T cell version of rest -- we show that they can come back. This finding could have incredible potential for immunotherapy."

Over time, tumor-fighting T cells may enter the early phase of exhaustion, a progenitor-like cell, which eventually differentiates into poorly functional, terminally exhausted cells. While current cancer immunotherapies can be successful at reversing exhaustion in these progenitor cells, giving T cells renewed energy to attack cancer cells, those that are terminally exhausted tend not to respond to such therapy.

"To bring the promise of immunotherapy to more cancer patients, we need to uncover more about why T cells fail," said co-senior author Greg Delgoffe, Ph.D., associate professor of immunology at Pitt and director of the Tumor Microenvironment Center at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.

With this goal, Poholek, Delgoffe and their team deeply analyzed early and terminally exhausted T cells in mice with an aggressive form of melanoma. They profiled the cells' epigenome -- the inheritable molecular marks that attach to DNA and control gene expression.

"We expected to find exhausted T cells with epigenomes damaged beyond repair, that they were goners," said Poholek. "So, we were really surprised to find that these cells had the potential for recovery."

Maroof Int'l Hospital celebrates Independence Day



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital celebrated Pakistan's 75th Independence Day with great zeal.

All the employees devotedly decorated their respective departments and took part in interdepartmental competition. To remember the occasion officially and give respect to the independence day cake cutting ceremony was also organized where Chairman, Ch Naseer Ahmed, Mrs. Chairman and the CEO of the Hospital, Mr. Haroon Naseer applauded everyone's efforts.



ISLAMABAD: The celebration of Diamond Jubilee, the 75th Independence Day of the motherland held at Jamia Masjid Rahmatul-Lil-Alameen, Nazim Road, F-8 Markaz here on Sunday.



ISLAMABAD: The central Publicity Secretary of Pakistan Education Foundation, central president of Private Schools Network Islamabad, Executive member of Nazria Pakistan Council, and presidential award winner of Scouts Tehreek Dr. Muhammad Afzal attends the flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day celebrations here on Sunday. Dr. Muhammad Afzal also presented the badge of the Pakistan flag to chairman Nazria Pakistan Council Mian Muhammad Javed and Senior Executive Committee members Aziz Mirza and Ishrat Masoom.

International Youth Day observed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) organised an event titled "Independence from tobacco" to celebrate International Youth Day 2022.

The Speakers shed light on the importance of banning novel tobacco products and highlighted that these products are biggest threats for younger generations as tobacco industry is finding new ways of manipulating our youth. Studded with false advertisement and carcinogens (cancer causing chemicals), these products are presented as nicotine pouches, gums and lozenges.

Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Parliamentary Secretary, Federal Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (NHSR&C) said Pakistan is lucky to have a majority of population in youth; 61 million of youngsters are an asset for our country and the government realizes that. We will not let any industry deliberately target our youth to put their future in jeopardy. Dr. Shazia appreciated SPARC for educating the youth on malicious practices and harmful products and also giving youth a platform to share their



stories with policymakers. She also assured to raise voice in parliament for legislation regarding novel products.

Mirza Nasir Ud Din Mashhood Ahmad, Special Secretary, Federal Ministry of NHSR&C expressed concerns that 1200 children beginning smoking daily and 170,000 people dying due to tobacco induced diseases every year.

He stated that the tobacco control cell at the ministry is active and we encourage parliamentarians, civil society, academia and media to collaborate with us in countering the sales and promotion of emerging tobacco products to children and youth.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), mentioned that in order to attract youth, tobacco industry is engaging youth icons such as famous musicians, actors and models for paid social media content. The extensive online campaigns on almost all social media platforms are also a proof that these products are targeted at youth. Imran added that if these attempts of tobacco industry to gain more buyers are not kept in check through proper mechanisms, they will grow more powerful and keep being the cause of deaths and diseases in the country.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Country Lead Vital Strategies, / Former Technical Head/Director, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of NHSR&C/ Former Technical focal Person of Govt. of Pakistan for WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) mentioned that in Pakistan there's

no federal or provincial legislation regarding novel products i.e. nicotine pouches, e-cigarettes and vapes. Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Ordinance 2002 provides key guidelines in controlling children's access to traditional tobacco products. Such legislation is required for novel products as well.

Anees Jillani Member, Board of Director SPARC, stated that since 1992 SPARC is working for the dismal plight of the children across the country through research, awareness raising, and improved policy making and implementation.

International Youth Day 2022's theme "Intergenerational Solidarity", calls for collaboration between children and adults to put strong barrier to the malicious campaigns of tobacco industry. SPARC has initiated "Anti-Tobacco Youth Clubs" campaign with the vision of creating a tobacco-free Pakistan. Our aim is to encourage our children to come forward and play a part today and in future as well.

The event was attended by senior journalists, civil society activists, and health advocates who appreciate SPARC and CTFK for their continuous efforts in raising awareness on harms of tobacco.