



**76 years of Independence, we salute our proud sons of Pakistan: COAS**

COAS Speech to Azadi Parade at PMA Kakul "I wish to congratulate you all on completion of 76 years of Independence, and for celebrating 14th August with the glorious tradition of an immaculate and inspiring Parade at Pakistan Military Academy. (Complete speech on Page 8)



**Shehbaz confident caretaker PM would ensure transparent polls**

Outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif delivered his farewell address to the nation on Sunday. At the outset of his speech, he said that after his government's 16-month term was over, a caretaker government would take charge. The departing premier took office in April last year after the PTI chief was deposed from office through a vote of no-confidence.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Nation to celebrate Independence Day with national spirit**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The nation will celebrate the 76th Independence Day on August 14 (Monday) with traditional zeal and enthusiasm through a number of activities to highlight the struggle of forefathers and national heroes for acquiring a separate homeland.



The federal capital and all major and small cities have already turned into green and white colours with a large number of Jashan-e-Azadi stalls carrying dresses, flags, bunting, pin badges, toys and other decorative accessories to attract youngsters and children.

Different public and private departments will hold special functions and activities, including seminars, discussion programmes, photographic exhibitions, painting, poetry, national songs and debate competitions with the focus on acknowledging the contribution of leaders of the Pakistan Movement and sacrifices of national heroes.

The significance of Independence Day goes beyond the celebration of national pride and patriotism. It is a day to remember the struggles and sacrifices of forefathers who fought for our independence. It is also a reminder of the responsibility we as a nation have to preserve and protect our independence by working towards the progress and prosperity of our nation.

Since the Independence Day celebrations have become a sort of a festival in the country, different brands, online retailers, eateries, cab-hailing services and even electronics companies are offering exciting discount offers, adding more charm to the festivity. Special prayers will be offered in mosques at dawn for peace, solidarity and prosperity of the country. The day will dawn with special prayers and a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salutes in all provincial capitals.

**PM felicitates Anwaar ul Haq Kakar on his appointment as Caretaker PM**



**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday congratulated Anwaarul Haq Kakar on his appointment as Caretaker Prime Minister and expressed the confidence that he would ensure holding of free, fair and impartial elections in the country. The prime minister said that trust reposed by all parties in Kakar's name proved their proper choice as the upcoming caretaker PM was an educated person and patriot. He said that under a constitutional process, they agreed upon the name of a suitable person and thanked former leader of opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz for holding a consultation in this regard, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

**Security forces operation in Bajaur, 4 terrorists killed & one soldier martyred: ISPR**



**Adam Khan Wazir**

BAJAUR: A soldier was martyred and four terrorists were killed during a clash in Bajaur tribal district. "On night 12/13 August 2023, security forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Charming, Bajaur District on reported presence of terrorists." During an intense exchange of fire between security forces and terrorists, four terrorists were sent to hell while one terrorist was apprehended," said ISPR in a press release. The weapons, ammunition and explosives

including a suicide vest was also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens, especially suicide blasts. During intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Muhammad Shoaib (age 24 years, resident of District Kohat), fought gallantly and embraced Shahadat (Martyrdom). The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan.

**US Ambassador felicitates people of Pakistan on 'Independence Day'**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Sunday congratulated the people of Pakistan on its 76th Independence Day. In his statement, issued by the US Embassy in Islamabad, the Ambassador said that the past year has been a testament to the strength of our relationship. He said "We worked together on health, energy and climate to support the Pakistani people's recovery from last year's floods. Looking forward, the US-Pakistan Green Alliance is a transformative initiative between our two



countries that will address environmental challenges, and create new jobs, industries and livelihoods for our people, he added. The envoy further added that the United States and Pakistan will work to create a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future. Youm-e-Azadi Mubarak! (Happy Independence Day)

**UAE Ambassador congratulates on Independence Day**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Message from His Excellency Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, the UAE Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of 76th Pakistan Independence Day: In my 7th year in this beautiful country, it gives me great privilege to be celebrating with my Pakistani Brothers and Sisters, Pakistan Independence Day. Through wise forethought, diplomatic efforts, and trade and business exchanges enacted over the last few years, the UAE and Pakistan relationship has become a successful model for bilateral relations and has been elevating to another



level, closer than ever. Our collaboration today went way beyond economic affairs, it has extended into the domains of education, culture, science, and technology. I sincerely wish further progress and continued success to our friends, the Pakistani people and may you enjoy continued peace and prosperity during this independence Day celebration and beyond.

**43 PTI workers arrested from Charsadda**

**Bureau Report**

CHARSADDA: Police have arrested 43 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers who held a rally without permission in Charsadda. As per details, the PTI workers were arrested for organizing a rally without getting permission from the administration. DSP Sanobar Shah said that cases were registered against the PTI worker for interfering in state affairs. Earlier, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) worker for offensive remarks against a state institution. Read more: PTI worker arrested over 'offensive remarks on state institutions

**Iranian ambassador felicitates Pakistan on Independence Day**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam has congratulated the government and nation of Pakistan on the 76th Independence Day. In a message on the eve of the 76th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, he said, "I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to the government and honourable nation of Pakistan." The envoy said Iran was the first country that recognized Pakistan and with which established diplomatic relations.

**Deputy Chairman Senate Afridi felicitates nation on 76th Independence Day**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi on Sunday congratulated the nation including overseas Pakistanis on the joyous occasion of 76th Independence Day. In his message on Independence Day, he said the value of freedom rested in true democracy and its values. Afridi said free and living nations celebrate their Independence Day with the renewal of the pledge that they will make their country a welfare state in the true sense. "Today is a day of real celebration and I offer my heartiest congratulations to the entire nation," Mirza Muhammad Afridi said.

**Independence day parade to be held at PMA Kakul tonight**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A military parade to mark the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan will be held at Pakistan Military Academy Kakul tonight. At Pakistan Military Academy Kakul, a large Independence Parade is being planned for Pakistan's 76th independence day. The Independence Parade will be held on the night between August 13 and 14. The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir will attend the Independence Parade's great celebration as the main guest. During the session, the Pakistan Military Academy cadets will provide a stunning demonstration of expertise in their own manner.

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# 76 years of Independence, we salute our proud sons of Pakistan: COAS

COAS Speech to Azadi Parade at PMA Kakul

KAKUL: I wish to congratulate you all on completion of 76 years of Independence, and for celebrating 14th August with the glorious tradition of an immaculate and inspiring Parade at Pakistan Military Academy. Alongside the national fervor of rejoicing this day, every year, 14th August brings back to us an opportunity for revival of pledge, for total commitment and unflinching resolve, for a bright future of our motherland. You all stand tonight to honour 'Independence', which came as a result of the vision of our great leaders, and the relentless efforts and sacrifices of our forefathers. This day reminds us of the spirit behind the creation of this country, "Pakistan ka matlab kia-La illaha illallah" which was rooted in the ideology of the Two Nation Theory, and the manifest destiny of the Muslims of Sub Continent

For 76 years, we have maintained this tradition of celebrating freedom, equality and quest for happiness, which we must continue to cherish, every day of our lives. We are here to reinforce the patriotic spirit of serving our homeland, a land of countless opportunities and immeasurable bounties. Our great country and the nation will Inshallah continue to rise, in line with the aspirations of our forefathers, the people of Pakistan and for a bright future of the coming generations

We are passing through interesting times, a watershed era, fraught with challenges, geo-political wrangling, increasing power contestation, hegemonism and jingoism. We continue to withstand the evil designs of the inimical forces; forces of instability and chaos, which are eager in their failed attempts to undo Pakistan. Let me caution them all, in the words of our great Quaid, "There is no power on earth, which can undo Pakistan"-Inshallah. We have fought for long with our external and internal enemies, and we will fight for as long as required in future as well.

As I said at a number of occasions, we have the will, capacity and capability to withstand all challenges, whether external or internal. I stand here tonight, not to define these challenges being confronted, but to give a message of Hope to our great nation. I am here to reassure the people, that we the defenders of Pakistan, will never hesitate from any sacrifice in preserving our sovereignty and territorial integrity. Wherever required, we shall contribute towards the Comprehensive National Security of Pakistan, and the national development efforts. Pakistan Army as a National Army, takes pride in its unwavering commitment to the people of Pakistan. Attempts to drive a wedge between Army and Nation are reprehensible, and will never succeed - Afvaj-e-Pakistan aur Awam aik hain!

This great country is gifted with countless blessings stretching from the Himalayas to the Coastal Belt, from Rocky Mountains on the West to the green pastures, alluvial plains and the expansive deserts in the East, which are all rich with natural endowments and great opportunities. We have a vibrant nation of over 240 million, with bulk comprising of aspiring and hardworking youth. All we need is to follow the principles of Faith, Unity and Discipline. Faith in Allah and our abilities to rise against all odds, while never giving into distractions; Unity in our efforts; and the desired Discipline of



channelizing our energies towards the right direction of peace, prosperity and development

I urge you to reject despondency, propaganda of naysayers and fear mongers, who are wagging a failed attempt to foment despair and hopelessness. This great country and the nation has withstood many such challenges during its creation and thereafter. No country or nation on earth has ever met success without such challenges coming their way. Allah also reminds us in Surah Al-Inran (Ayat 139)

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَالْأَعْلَىٰ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي يُخَوِّذُ مَنِ يَمُنُّ ۗ

Fear Not, Worry Not, and you will be superior in victory if you are indeed believers

In Surah Anqaboot (Ayat 2) Allah Says

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسَ أَنْ يَمُرُّوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ۗ

Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe" and they will not be tried?

And in Surah Al-Baqarah (Ayat 214) Allah Says

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تُدَلَّخُوا الْهَيْجَةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُم مِّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مَلَأُوا مِنَ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَلْحَقُوا بِاللَّهِ وَالرُّسُولِ وَالَّذِينَ أَمَّنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَىٰ نَصُرَ اللَّهُ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ لَكَرِيمٌ

They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the Messenger (MPBUH) and those of faith who were with him cried, "When (will come) the help of Allah?" Ah! Verily, the help of Allah is (always) near!

To my Kashmiri Brethren, I would say that Inshallah you will also get free from the clutches of brutal occupation forces, as we got our freedom 76 years ago, through your rightful cause of self-determination and indigenous freedom struggle. No evil design can withstand the determination of the Kashmiri people, despite the communication blackouts, blatant use of the bayonets and turning Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir into the largest prison of the world

It is for the conscience of international community to realize, that Indian excesses in Kashmir have gone unaddressed and right to freedom and self-determination is being denied at the altar of geo political necessity. To all Kashmiris, I reiterate the assurance and full backing of your brothers in arms and the complete Pakistani nation

To our brothers of Khyber Pakhtun-

ka and Balochistan, who are resiliently fighting against the savages of terrorism and proxies for over 2 decades, we want to reassure, that we will inshallah succeed against this menace being waged against us. We want you to live in peace, and progress in line with the aspirations of the people

To our neighbor, who has never been able to reconcile with the idea of Pakistan and is a threat to the regional peace and stability, I must say that we gained freedom after a great struggle and we know how to defend it!. The strategic calculus of our arch rival, skewed by its outsized ambition, carrying an illusion of being a great power and blinded by Hindutva driven hyper nationalism, needs serious attention of the world

We will never be coerced by any aggressive designs, and neither can the region afford such hostility amongst two nuclear powers. Unfortunately, the adversary continues to peddle its nefarious designs against us for petty political mileage; I would humbly remind them of their predicament, last time they tried to do so

With respect to our Afghan brothers..... we have been the most hospitable nation and wish that they reciprocate to our earnest efforts to the least, and not allow their soil to be used against us. We are making great strides of partnership and cooperation with our time tested friend China and we have reinvigorated a new spirit in our historic relations with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Republic of Turkiye, State of Qatar and Islamic Republic of Iran. Pakistan is determined to rise amongst the comity of nations, and we wish to deepen our relationships with all our friends and partners. We have a very bright future that lay ahead of us, provided we remain united, steadfast and undeterred

I commend you all on this immaculate display of drill on the Independence Day. You have chosen a noble profession entrusted with the sacred duty of defending Pakistan against its enemies; within and without, visible and invisible. Always be ready for any sacrifice to uphold the honor and dignity of this country. My message of Hope is for the people of all ages, gender, creed or cast. We are Pakistanis first and foremost, and we are all proud of our country and this great nation. We must stand united and rise above self to serve Pakistan in whatever ways it demands of us. Always remember; Pakistan is our identity, and the rationale to exist -- Pakistan hai, to hum hain!

فرد قائم ربط ملت سے ہے تنہا کچھ نہیں موج ہے دریا میں اور بیرون دریا کچھ نہیں

# Fair, free elections: Caretaker PM Kakar to quit party, Senate membership

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister-designate Anwaarul Haq Kakar has decided to resign from party membership and the Senate. In an exclusive conversation with Dunya News, Kakar stated that he would resign from the membership of the Senate and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).

Kakar mentioned that now, as he is responsible for ensuring free and fair elections in the country, for which he

needs to cooperate with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he has decided to resign from the Senate.


It should be noted that Kakar, who is the eighth nominee of the caretaker prime minister, will take the oath tomorrow. A decision will be made about the caretaker cabinet after assuming the charge.

On the other hand, the head of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), Sardar Akhtar Mengal, expressed reservations about the

appointment of the caretaker Prime Minister and wrote a letter to the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Nawaz Sharif.

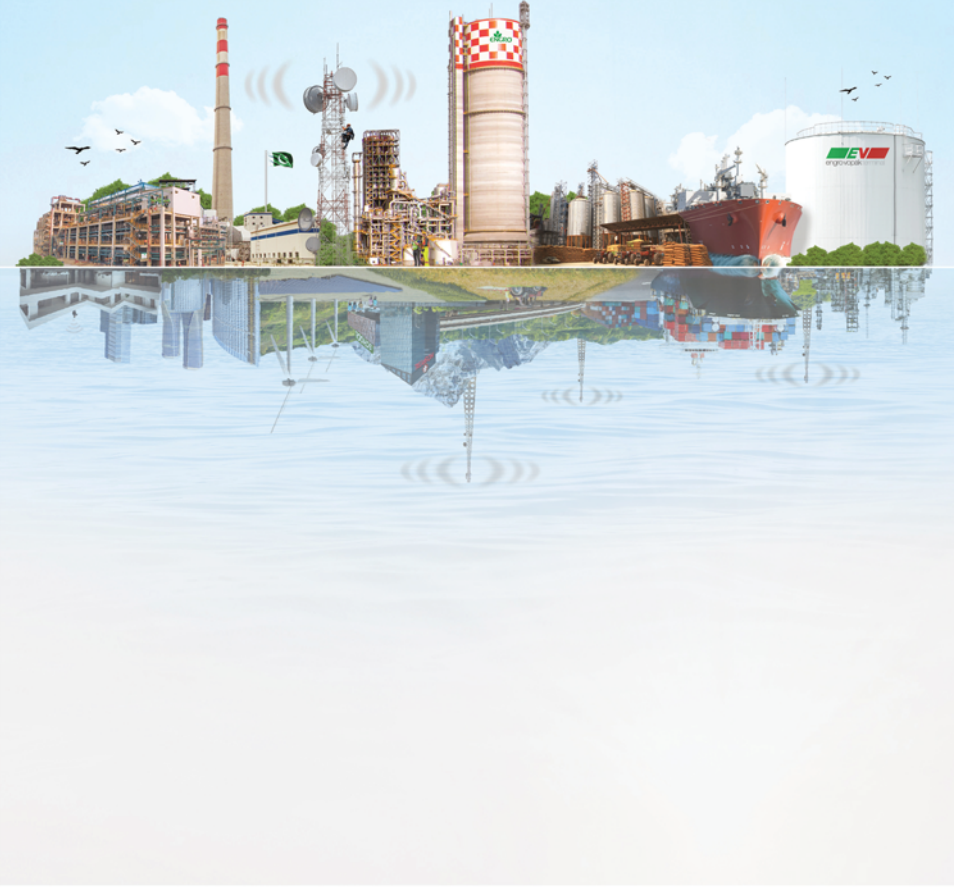
Expressing his dismay, the BNP-M head said notwithstanding the situation being faced in Balochistan, it was a surprise that they [Nawaz and others] had been unable to learn from what had they faced. A solution to the current problems was being found in consultation with the establishment, instead of politicians, he remarked.

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# Congratulate the Pakistani Nation on Celebrating the 76th Independence Day: Gillani

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani's message on Independence Day celebration

I congratulate the Pakistani nation on celebrating the 76th Independence Day.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his colleagues participated in the Pakistan Movement with enthusiasm and succeeded in getting an independent state, we pay trib-

ute to them. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Our forefathers and leaders made unforgettable sacrifices to make Pakistan.

As our elders worked hard for this God-given country, we all should play our role for the bright future of Pakistan. Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousif Raza Gilani Said

Youth are the future of our country, youth should play their role in strengthening Pakistan instead of being a part of a misguided group.



## Competition

MULTAN: Pakistani girls busy in flag painting competition about Pakistan Independence Day (14 August)



Photo: Asim Tanveer

*Pakistan is currently passing the most critical period in history: Allama Naqvi*

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Quaid Millat Jafariya Pakistan Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi while talking to Shia Ulema Council Spokesperson Basharat Qureshi on the phone said that the Pakistan is currently passing the most critical period in history, in these circumstances the movement of Pakistan There is a need to awaken the spirit that existed at the time of the creation of Pakistan, when the dream of a Pakistan fulfilled by passionate people's struggle was a shame, the same spirit is needed today. The country can be freed from the problems only by uniting on the internal and external fronts while keeping the national interests as the priority. Joint efforts can prove to be useful and effective for the elimination of economic and political corruption. This is the requirement of celebrating Independence Day in the true sense. To be united, living nations always live with dignity. On this day we have to pledge that no sacrifice will be spared for the defense of the country

On the occasion of the 76th Independence Day, Quaid-e-Millat Jafariya Pakistan Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi said that more than 7 decades have passed since the independence of Pakistan, but unfortunately we have not yet become strong enough internally which is the requirement of the time. On the occasion of Independence Day, we should not just ignore these problems and the bitter past, but we should start the struggle with new determination to solve the problems and overcome the difficulties and face the challenges, because Pakistan needs development, prosperity, stability and strength. Then it can be obtained

*Commissioner Multan ordered to speed up the anti-dengue operations: Iram Salemi*

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak ordered to speed up the anti-dengue operations. He ordered all the departments to play an effective role in the anti-dengue campaign and said that all the departments should conduct a vigorous anti-dengue campaign by improving mutual communication.. Aamir Khattak also appealed to the citizens to keep their environment dry and clean. Dengue mosquito eradication is possible by following anti-dengue SOPs.



In this regard, the Focal Person for Dengue Campaign, Dr. Attaur Rahman, took several actions on his day off, 126 places were sealed, and 201 prosecutions were collected in the respective police stations. While the Department of Health also conducted anti-dengue spraying in government institutions.

*PAC building illuminated to mark Independence Day*



**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Building was decorated with beautiful lights in connection with Pakistan's Independence Day. The flag hoisting ceremony will be held at Punjab Arts Council today at 9 o'clock. Competitions of tableau, speech and national songs will start at 10 am in which children from schools of Rawalpindi Islamabad will participate. Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir will be the chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony. Cake cutting ceremony will be held at 12 noon. All Punjab Azadi mushaira will be held at 5 pm under the chairmanship of famous poet Wajid Mir from Lahore, in which Rehan Abbasi and Habiba Rathore will perform the duties of host. njum Salimi, Afzal Khan, Javed Jadoon, Ahmed Attaullah, Saeed Raja, Imran Aami, Mehboob Kashmiri, Dr. Sajid Rahim, Habib Chaudhry, Ahmed Naseer, Ishaq Wardag, Maryam Safa, Ali Arsh, Rais Jami, Zeeshan, Murtaza, Fayyaz Hussain Shah, Masoor Abbas and others are among the poets. "Mera Pakistan" Music Show will be held at 8 pm, in which Sonia Azeem, Mubshera Hafeez, Rizwana Khan, Ishaq Malik Ghorri, Samina Khan and Folk Dance Party will perform.

*We Salute the struggle and efforts of the founder of Pakistan and Allama Iqbal: Yaqoob Shera*

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: On August 14, in connection with Pakistan's Independence Day, SP Chowk Cantt, while addressing a rally in the context of "Hum Sab Ka Pakistan", district member peace committee and member cant board Muhammad Yaqoob Shera, Central Trade Union Leader Ghazanfar Malik, Khawaja Moazam Waheed, Clube Abid Khan and Khawaja Dilshad Ahmad said that the enemies of Pakistan are on the verge of dividing and weakening us on the basis of linguistics, sectarianism and political affiliations.

The children of Pakistan are proving this by celebrating the Independence Day in a vigorous manner. We are a patriotic and dignified nation. We salute the struggle and efforts of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Iqbal and the efforts of our national heroes.

*Patriotic Leadership is needed for the construction and development of Pakistan. Dr Safdar Hashmi*

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: It has been 76 years since the establishment of Pakistan, but the dream of Allama Iqbal and the struggle of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah are still there today. Amer-e Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi has said in his special message on the occasion of Independence Day that patriotic leadership is needed for the construction and development of Pakistan. A leadership that knows the pain of the people. The rulers who were imposed in 76 years have done the ruin and destruction of Pakistan. They have filled their coffers and looted the wealth of the people. Sometimes they come in the name of PML-N sometimes as Q-League, sometimes in the name of People's Party and sometimes in the name of Tehreek-e-Insaf.



# Hashoo Group and Capital Development Authority join hands for a Greener Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In a symbolic gesture aligning with the spirit of Pakistan's Independence Day, Hashoo Group, the leading hospitality conglomerate, collaborated with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to orchestrate a grand tree plantation drive on August 11th. The event, attended by Mr. Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Hashoo Group and Mr. Noor-ul-Amin Mengal, Chairman of Capital Development Authority, along with executives from both sides, marked a remarkable step towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly future by planting trees along the Srinagar Highway (Rest Area), Islamabad.



As the nation prepares to celebrate its 76th Independence Day, Hashoo Group and CDA recognized the significance of nurturing the environment and giving back to the country that has nurtured them. Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, COO, Hospitality and Educa-

tion Division, Hashoo Group, shared his thoughts on the occasion, stating, "Our tree plantation drive isn't just about planting saplings; it's a demonstration of our collective responsibility towards the environment. We are

proud to stand together with CDA to safeguard the environment for future generations. Tree by Tree, We Unite."

Mr. Murtaza Hashwani's visionary leadership and initiatives towards a sustainable future were at the heart of this endeavour. This drive resonates with his commitment to achieving a Net Zero future and reducing carbon footprints through tangible actions. By planting trees and envisioning Pakistan's green flag in nature, Hashoo Group and CDA set a precedent for other businesses and institutions to embrace sustainability.

Hashoo Group, a trailblazing hospitality entity, boasts an impressive portfolio of five-star, four-star, and select service hotels spread across Pakistan. Committed to growth and excellence, Hashoo Group is not only a leader in

## Let's caretakers care carefully: Naseer Vohra

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: Naser Yousaf Vohra President Cloth Board Pakistan has welcomed the Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq kakarr expecting that he will care in all respect and focus to the disappointing environment to liberate the people of Pakistan from the dire economic anarchy. He further pointed out that there is a need to promote the economic environment in Pakistan on priority so that the people facing the problems may come out of this black cloud. He expressed that being an individual of independent state it is our responsibility to ensure the liberal phenomenon from top to bottom without any discrimination. Vohra describes that Pakistan needs transparent law enforcing agencies to implement the law honestly where our women may participate in economic affairs without any hesitation. He appreciated the role of Faisalabad Women

Chamber of Commerce Industry (FWCCI) where numerous female genders have been playing key roles for overcoming the economic problems and this continuity will surely prove in future that without women's contribution the Economic escalating is impossible due to their equal participation. He further described that the business organizations especially the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce Industry (FCCI) will have to play a vital role in emerging fruitful economic results in the business environment. He said adding that the impartiality is better than monopoly because In the arena of impartiality we have many ways to travel smoothly for economic development.

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## The Business World has entered a new online era

Interview of Hassan Maqsood, CEO Blink Capital Management (BCM) and Cafe Forex discusses the new world of online trading



Tahir Amin Malik

This is not just a tagline of our company BCM, but a whole new concept of this modern world with changing trends. Trading is one of the oldest activities in the history of mankind evolved during the era when the economy was based on barter system. Technology has converted the world into a global village in real terms introducing the concept of "Online Trading". Hassan Maqsood, CEO Blink Capital Management (BCM) expressed these views in an interview. He graciously graced a request moved by "Daily The Spokesman" for an exclusive interview. Some of extracts of the interview are given here for interest of our worthy readers.

**Please share with us your education career and your career as a CEO Blink Capital Management how did you found of to come in this field?**

Hassan Maqsood: I have done Masters in International Economics with specialization in Islamic Finance vs. global Market Economy from GC University Lahore. Later on, I have done Masters in Business Administration in Marketing from Institute of Business & Management UET Lahore. Furthermore, I have done certification in Commodity Trading and Market Regulation of derivatives from Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan (IFMP). As I have always been curious about practical demonstration of Economics subject in real market so, I came to know that Online Trading is the only field where I can adjust perfectly. I sent a lot of CVs to different financial companies and brokerage houses but got rejected from almost every company due to lack of practical knowledge. Even one company did not accept me as according to them I was over qualified for that specific post. Then I got a call from Blink Capital Management (BCM) for interview and got selected over a very nominal salary. This was the start of my career with BCM which became a life changing event of my life and after a struggle of 7 to 8 years and countless blessings of Allah Almighty I became share holder director and CEO of BCM.

**Please share the details of your company Blink Capital Management and the services you offer to the Clients?**

Hassan Maqsood: Blink Capital Management (Private) Limited "BCM" is corporate member of Pakistan Mercantile Exchange. It is a professional organization fully equipped with Portfolio Management, Investment Consultancy, Trading & Market Research expertise providing international standards of Wealth Management, Alternate Investment Plans, Brokerage, Risk Management Services to Individuals, Firms, Corporate Entities and Financial Institutions.

**You are really genuine example in the Capital Investment field How will you motivate the new investors who want to come in this field?**

Hassan Maqsood: The world is changing very fast and specially after the pandemic of Covid 19 we have entered a new era of

technology and business. We have witnessed a huge bull run in the share value of those sectors and companies which were operating online model of business. In the mean while physical businesses got a huge negative impact during the recent crises. Now we have to understand the importance of new forms of information technology in businesses and trading so capital investment in these sectors will be so profitable rather than the orthodox methods of investment like real estate, banking, manufacturing, construction and physical trading. The whole world is facing the post corona highest inflation growth right now so we should adopt the more profitable avenues to counter this situation.

**How the trading skills can be utilized in investment field please share with us?**

Hassan Maqsood: Trading skills are basically the sets of strategies which can be learnt very easily now a days and used in trading to maximize the profits with little improvisation. For Example, some of the very basic strategies are averaging and hedging. If someone wants to invest in trading, he/she should learn at least these basic strategies then it would become a great source of profitability for them in this field.

**You are also the trainer how many University/Colleges you have given the awareness programs and what's the response?**

Hassan Maqsood: We have almost covered 50 plus universities/colleges and institutes within Pakistan so far as our future generation needs to focus more on the changing scenario of business world. I do travel a lot to the foreign universities and colleges and I have witnessed that those people are so ahead of us in training their students about new technological changes in financial & trading markets. That's why I give more emphasis on our local educational institutes that they should adopt new methods of study including more relevant subjects which will be beneficial for students in their upcoming practical lives. Alhamdulillah, we have got a very positive response from the institutions and their students and recently my own alma mater the most prestigious institution GC University Lahore has added a short-term course of Online Trading along with the regular courses offered at the university. I think this was a milestone achievement in my cause.

**You have honour to participate as a Judge in Entrepreneurship World Cup, 2022, Where was this event held, please us with detail.**

Hassan Maqsood: Yes, it was really an honour for me that I have been appointed as judge for the Entrepreneurship World Cup 2022 for the Semifinal of Pakistan's chapter of innovative business ideas. Its final was held at Australia. More than 20 countries have participated in the championship, we got 40 new business ideas applications from Pakistan only from which I have filtered out 6 best business innovative ideas and sent to the final round. Alhamdulillah among these one of the contestants from Pakistan has been selected in top 5 ideas of this championship.



Do you think that BCM is fruitful • Agriculture (Rice, Wheat,



**platform for short format Investors?**

Hassan Maqsood: BCM is the one big umbrella for all kinds of investment formats having all the best solutions to cater the needs of investors under one roof so every investor either short term and long term can get benefits from our training.

**What kind of Investment required to start the business in BCM and how many sectors where the investors can do the invest please tell us with detail?**

Hassan Maqsood: We have 5 different sectors with number of items for trading and investments;

- Metals (Gold, Silver, Copper, Platinum, Palladium)
- Energy (Crude Oil, Brent Oil, Natural Gas)
- Forex (Euro, Pound, Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen etc.)
- Indices (Dow Jones 100, NASDAQ 500, S&P 500, Nikkei 225)

Cotton, Corn, Red Chilly etc.) A minimum account can be opened with only PKR 25000/- but we always recommend to open it with good equity at least PKR 500000/- if someone wants to earn good profits.

**How many countries you have visited for participation Conferences/Seminar or as a Trainer?**

Hassan Maqsood: I have almost visited 10 countries to attend the sessions and seminars regarding trading as a participant and as a trainer too. We are currently working with different Trading and Financial Companies of 7 countries for the research exchange collaboration program like Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Turkey etc. We are going to expand our existence to Europe, UK and USA very soon InshaAllah.

**BCM has honour to become representative one of the best Exchange of world Singapore group of Exchange please also**



**tell us about this?**

Hassan Maqsood: As we all know Singapore is one of those countries who has changed its economy from developing to developed in a very short span of time just with the help of financial institutions. Singapore has no any competitive edge in agriculture, industry or natural resources as it is a very small piece of land with limited resources but it has utilized the strength of its financial institutions to attract the investors from all over the world just by providing them safe and secure investment models. That is the main reason it has one of the most powerful currencies in the World.

**Research is difficult work how can someone work in research?**

Hassan Maqsood: Every work is difficult when you do it first time but with the passage of time and practicing again and again can make anyone a master of it. If you want perfection in your work then you need to practice it multiple times. Research can never be taught as it is like an on-road



or SECP. Then investors need a proper CNIC/NICOP along with the copy of Next of Kin's CNIC, an active account in any local bank of Pakistan. Furthermore, the investor must have a duly registered mobile phone number on his/her own name or close blood relations, an email id and proof of income certificate to open the account with Pakistan Mercantile Exchange through BCM.

**Which sector is the most famous sector and what is your suggestion in which sector the investors should start the investment?**

Hassan Maqsood: All Sectors are equally famous and have great potential for earning but it all depends on season, fundamentals and technical of the certain commodity for a heavy fluctuation which may cause for a good return. The fluctuations of market depend upon the change in demand and supply in the world.

**What is the role of Pakistan Mercantile Exchange to conduct the awareness session/program with BCM?**

Hassan Maqsood: BCM and PMEX both are joining hands in collaboration of awareness sessions and training programs in different institutions from city to city throughout the country. We are running very useful campaigns within colleges/universities and corporate sector to get the potential prospects in the trading world. We are hopeful that one day our National Commodity Exchange will be in the top list exchanges of the world.

**What is your point of view about the fundamental skills and abilities that go into making successful businessman and investors?**

The fundamental skill in any investor and businessman should be the calculative risk taking. Most of the people spend their lifetime in a nutshell due to the fear of losing that is why they don't become successful in their lives. I love my sector because it teaches us how to take calculative risk and

then implement it accordingly. The second most important ability is to have patience because whenever you take a risk with proper calculation and management then you should have patience too to get the best results. No business strategy or investment can be successful in a short span of time, a proper time is always needed to verify the outcomes of your risk.

**Any message for the new investors who want to come in trading field?**

Hassan Maqsood: My message has always been very loud and clear to the new entrants of the trading market that always take this market as a business not as gambling. As we all know this market has the potential to grow 100% of your capital invested in one fundamental overnight but definitely it comes up with a huge risk. For Example, if a car has the capacity to speed up to 240 km per hour but you have to follow the maximum speed limit mostly up to 120km to 140km so, if you increase the speed it may give you thrill but it also can kill. Same principle is followed in the trading world higher the risk, higher the profit but you have to control your emotions and greed. Always do trade with proper Take Profit and Stop Loss formulas. I can assure you if you will follow the golden rules of safe trading, you will earn your lifetime. For any query regarding Trading or Research you can visit us on our official Website of Company [www.blink.com.pk](http://www.blink.com.pk)



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 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
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**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

# Independence Day and internal Enemies of Pakistan - I

**T**he birth of Pakistan in 1947 was a momentous event that reshaped the political map of the subcontinent. It marked the culmination of a long and tumultuous struggle for independence, driven by multiple socio-political and historical factors. There were many key reasons that led to the creation of Pakistan.

The primary driving force behind the creation of Pakistan was the demand for a separate homeland for Muslims. The Indian subcontinent, under British rule, was a diverse land with people of different faiths living side by side. By the 20th century, tensions between Hindus and Muslims were on the rise, leading to communal clashes and disputes over political representation. The All India Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, demanded a separate state for Muslims, where they could exercise their political, social, and economic rights freely. The idea of Pakistan as an independent Muslim-majority nation emerged from this desire for preserving a distinct religious identity. The Two-Nation Theory, propounded by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in the 19th century and later championed by Jinnah, formed the ideological foundation of Pakistan's creation. According to this theory, Hindus and Muslims were distinct nations with different cultural, religious, and social identities. They could not coexist under a single administration without jeopardizing their rights and interests. This theory further solid-

ified the demand for a separate Muslim state, as it provided a logical and moral justification for the partition of British India.

The British colonial rulers skillfully employed a policy of "divide and rule" to maintain control over their vast Indian empire. They exploited the existing religious, ethnic, and linguistic fault lines to sow seeds of discord among various communities. The divide and rule policy inadvertently contributed to the polarization between Hindus and Muslims, making the idea of a separate Muslim state more appealing to the Muslim population. Economic disparities between the regions inhabited by Muslims and Hindus were significant. Muslim-majority areas like Punjab, Sindh, and Bengal felt marginalized and economically exploited by the British rulers and the Hindu elite. The call for Pakistan was, in part, an aspiration for economic emancipation, where Muslims could control their resources and development without being overshadowed by the dominant Hindu-majority regions. The failure of Hindus and Muslims to find common ground and resolve their differences through dialogue exacerbated the demand for Pakistan. The lack of consensus on issues like representation, governance, and cultural practice-

widened the gap between the two communities, making partition appear to be the only viable solution. Several key historical events influenced the trajectory towards Pakistan's creation. The Nehru Report of 1928 and the subsequent Simon Commission, which failed to adequately represent the interests of Muslims, bolstered the demand for separate electorates for different religious communities. Furthermore, the failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan in 1946, which aimed to establish a united India with safeguards for minorities, highlighted the irreconcilable differences between the Congress (dominated by Hindus) and the Muslim League. The creation of Pakistan was a complex process influenced by numerous socio-political, economic, and historical factors. The aspiration for a separate Muslim state arose from the desire to protect the religious and cultural identity of Muslims and to address their economic and political grievances. Despite its birth being marred by violence and displacement during partition, Pakistan's creation remains a significant milestone in the history of the Indian subcontinent, shaping its political landscape for decades to come.

Pakistan Day, celebrated on the 14th of August every year, holds immense significance in the history and hearts of Paki-



Abdul Basit Alvi

## Performance Report

**M**inistry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has launched a 16-month performance report while highlighting its key achievements made from April 2022 to August 2023.

The 29-page report contained details of achievements made by the ministry from April 19, 2022 to August 9, 2023, a news release said on Sunday.

During the period under review, the Planning Commission managed to hold 33 meetings of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and 12 meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

A large number of development projects and schemes of strategic significance were considered and approved during this period, said the report.

The report emphasized that special attention was given to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) as the Planning Ministry increased the PSDP from Rs500 billion to Rs1150 billion for 2023-2024, overcoming financial limitations while ensuring transparency through the PSDP Portal, which provides digital access to 1.1 trillion worth of PSDP data.

While highlighting the performance of the CDWP, the reports said that CDWP-approved projects showed the sensitization of priorities to carry out national development schemes.

After the infrastructural projects, the major emphasis has been laid on the projects of human resources development.

It further said since April 2022, the Planning Ministry has placed special emphasis on youth empowerment and inclusive development. This section includes several strategic initiatives undertaken by the Ministry as part of the PM's Youth Development Programme. Under this programme, six initiatives are on education, four center around engagement and opportunities, and two each for employment and entrepreneurship.

Similarly, the report said, National Top Talent Scholarship Programme would provide the Pakistani students with Master's and Ph. D. degrees in the top 25 universities of the world, for which Rs 4.7b had been allocated.

The establishment of Centres of Excellence on Emerging Technologies, the National Centre for Nano-Technology, the National Centre for Quantum Computing and the National Institute of New Manufacturing was a great success of the Planning Ministry.

Furthermore, the establishment of the National Growth Centre would help in increasing the country's growth, the report added.

Despite an already ailing economy, the Ministry conducted the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and devised a resilient relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction (4RF) framework.

It resulted in pledges of \$10 billion from international donors during an international conference on Climate Resistant Pakistan in Geneva on January 9, said the report.

The report highlighted that on November 12, 2022, a pioneering initiative worth Rs 40 billion was launched, targeting 20 underdeveloped districts. This marked the Federal Government's first-time intervention to uplift impoverished districts, addressing economic disparities.

Simultaneously, the Planning Ministry reconstituted the Advisory Committee to enhance policy formulation and implementation.

The crowning achievement was the launch of the '5Es Framework to Turnaround Pakistan', prioritizing Exports, Energy, Environment, E-Pakistan, and Equity & Empowerment. This framework would prove to be the bedrock for transforming Pakistan into a \$1 trillion economy by 2035.

"Approved by the National Economic Council in June 2023, the framework offers a tangible pathway for economic revival in five priority areas, including Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure, and Equity and Empowerment," explained the report.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmî. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

# Love's End Independence!



MA Rashid

**I**t is my birth right to hold the real spirit and candle of freedom inside & outside here and there whether offshore or inshore.

All Pakistanis want to see it in practice and this right of freedom has been given to us by Allah Almighty.

We are not counted among those who have obtained freedom from the gods or Idols.

The so-called critics were and are not the heirs of Pakistan. My opinions are based on Islamization weather sitting alone on the peak of a hill.

My beloved Pakistanis, may I disclose that, my forefathers used to tell the stories of independence got with many hardships. When I used to listen in my childhood, felt afraid what the Hindu & Sikhs had been dealing with us while we were on the road to Pakistan a new emerging state on the map of the world.

Undoubtedly, no one like to leave his soil, loss his lives, honors but it happened why? Yes! For sake of Allah & Muhammad (PBUH) to live entirely under Islamic laws/ Jurisprudence.

Who did control the country and till now which kept us away to adopt the realities of Islam? So far as

we don't come on the path of Islamic philosophy, it is meant that we are not independent in our social system & all slogans, plannings will remain on the verge of chaos. Changing the faces never meant to change the system. It is a fact that Holy Quran's words/ verses can never be changed but Quran changes for positive reinforcement.

Voice of independence is voiceless without taking the ideology of Pakistan. If there is independence then why above 90% complain about the independence seeks for independence?

May I say Yes Sir! Then it is independence! If I speak "No Sir", whether I am on the right path, but your right path is no matter but saying "NO" is your crime?

I am not authorised to say what is right & wrong? Then, it is the worst definition of slavery more & more dangerous than forest history life where you can develop friendship easily. On this day if Independence, the nation has great expectations on the Caretaker PM.

Whereas current time discloses that, Mr. Bilawal has made his above 107th foreign visits in a short period of 15/16 months

Out of 450/475 days, he spent about 325 nights abroad

He has come to Abu Dhabi to condole the death of the brother of the ruler of Abu Dhabi.

Just some days before his visit, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had left for the same purpose. But despite being the foreign minister, Bilawal chooses to visit separately on a special plane.

The "Elite" class has special sense

of the plight of the masses who are struggling to survive in a vacuum. Who are suffering every moment? Who live and die everyday trying to pay their utility bills?

Today, the situation of the common Pakistani has become such that he is not even able to bear the expenses of births and deaths in his homes. The white-clad class has almost disappeared.

Just a year and a half ago, the "experienced rulers" who had been marching against inflation are preparing to become rulers again by trapping the country in the mire of inflation?

Why doesn't anyone ask, where do they get money for so many luxuries? But who asks, if someone asks, he will be given a certificate of treason. Credit goes to both our major political parties.

Under the guise of democracy, family politics i.e. ownership was promoted. Government funds were treated as personal funds. Political consciousness was eliminated from the people and a few families were proved blessed and reliable. And today the entire nation has become slave who always has been raising the voice for the prosperity of Pakistan.

On the other hand, the caretaker Punjab government has ended the subsidy on utility stores for general consumers.

Eliminating poor people's subsidy, the elite bought Vigo cars for whom? Inflation has also taken away the right to protest from the people who will protest against the inflation, terrorism FIRs will be filed against them, the poor and middle class used to buy subsidized goods from utility

stores. Because of this, the people are very worried and looking for a messiah. There are those who will come and ease their problems?

Shahbaz Sharif government claimed to end inflation, when this arrangement minute took over the government, at that time inflation was at 9 percent, now it has gone above 30 percent.

Personal vehicle, rickshaw, motorcycle expenses should be mentioned.

May Allah forgive, If all this happens, what will the white-clad person who earns 25/30 thousand a month do further to live?

Where will it go?

The poor man has no way out, he is completely destroyed

May Allah bless us all with His grace and mercy.

The entire spending boost could go on wage demands unless expectations are damp down.

PM's trying to damp down the fire & would be highly appreciated under impartial clutch on the criminals from any class without any distinction.

Secondly, there are crisis tendencies in the system, which if they are not damped down and managed in various ways will result in actual crisis.

So today look after the Pakistan and look for the stable phenomena to get our independence.

Let's damp down all unlawful interception in the ways of independence because this homeland is ours and we are its guards. God helps those who help themselves & leave all agonizes playing a role of positive feedback from all sides.

(The writer is staff member)

# Shahbaz a Saviour, or.... II

**W**hen Shahbaz Sharif became Pakistan's Prime Minister in April 2022, he stated, "The country is facing a serious economic crisis." Default is a possibility." Despite the fact that GDP growth averaged 5.8% during Imran Khan's tenure, which was greater than the previous five-year average of 5.2%, inflation was maintained from 8.8% to 12%. Foreign reserves rose from \$10 billion to \$20 billion, remittances from \$22 billion to \$30 billion, and foreign investment rose from \$2 billion to \$5 billion.

However, after the Shahbaz Government left office, the numbers were not as good as in the prior examples. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey, real GDP increased by 0.29% in FY2023, while per capita income fell to \$1,568 from \$1,765 last year due to currency depreciation, lower GDP growth, and expanding population. The investment-to-GDP ratio was 13.6% in FY2023, down from 15.6% in FY2022. In FY2023, the industrial sector experienced 2.94% negative growth, while the services sector experienced 0.86% growth.

According to a recent World Bank assessment, economic development is likely to decline, with real GDP growth slowing dramatically to 0.4 percent in FY23 due to tighter fiscal policies, high inflation, high energy prices, and import bans. For the first time in more than 20 years, agricultural output is anticipated to fall. With supply chain disruptions, lower confidence, higher borrowing costs and fuel prices, and heightened uncertainty, industry output is anticipated to shrink, and households will remain exposed to economic and climate shocks.

Since Pakistan's creation, the cyclical up and down of the economy has been a common feature preceding the change of any government, owing to our inability to grow our country as strong and indomitable. The world powers and their tools, international donor agencies, hold our pride, digni-

ty, and sovereignty hostage.

Their first and most powerful technique is to attach conditions to loans and grants, forcing weaker countries to implement policies that are not in their best interests. The second essential tactic is to trap weaker countries in debt by lending them more than they can repay. The third strategy is to use sanctions to penalise non compliant countries, and the fourth tool is to manage the politics of weaker countries by using aid to reward countries that implement policies that they favour; and withholding help from those that do not cooperate.

The Shahbaz Sharif government is gone, and

history will decide whether it was a saviour or not, but a new interim government is on the way. Many laws and procedures have been altered to bolster the caretaker, demonstrating the establishment's urgency to continue its push to improve the economy and fundamentally improve four sectors under its purview.

We have many examples where military intervention in civilian matters has been successful to some extent, but there are also many situations where such a model, after providing a kickstart, left the field to civilian institutions, which then led the nations to the pinnacle of glory.

According to the most recent democracy ranking, wealthy countries rank high on the democracy scale. Norway ranks first with a score of 9.8, while the United States ranks 26th with a score of 7.9, India ranks 46th with a score of 6.9, Pakistan ranks 102 with a score of 4.3, and Afghanistan ranks 166th with a score of 0.3. We may also boost our economy and prestige by climbing the democratic ladder.

Concluded  
 (The author is the former Press Secretary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan in France and also has been the former MD/CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC)).

# UNFPA, SoLF and QAU join hands to celebrate International Youth Day 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A resounding call for youth empowerment and sustainable action echoed through the halls of Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) as UNFPA Pakistan, School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) and Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) joined forces to commemorate International Youth Day 2023. The event aimed to celebrate the potential of the youth, acknowledge their challenges, and inspire innovative approaches towards a greener and more sustainable future.

The event opened with the warm welcome of Ms. Latika Maskey Pradhan, Deputy Representative of UNFPA Pakistan, and Dr Raja Muhammad Qaiser, the esteemed Registrar of Quaid-e-Azam University. Addressing the audience, Ms. Pradhan emphasized the urgency of addressing sustainable development challenges in the current global landscape.



"If we nurture innovation and leadership among young people, we can yield a more conscionable generation that has the power and grit to repair the planet" said Ms. Pradhan. "Together, we can unlock their immense poten-

tial, harness their creativity and innovation, and build a world that offers equal opportunities for all."

Recognizing the importance of green skills for youth, the event featured interactive presentations, dialogues, and a

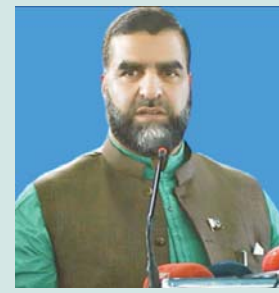
theater performance that captured the essence of the day.

Empowering youth for social entrepreneurship and green development is the focus of innovative projects like the Health & Well-being Innovation Challenge and Generation Unlimited Challenge. This has led to remarkable ventures such as She-Guard, crafting eco-friendly sanitary pads; Siachen Sherpa, building an artificial glacier for sustainable water in Khaplu, Gilgit Baltistan; and Zamurd Enterprise, replacing plastics with degradable organic Bio Plastic within three to six months. These initiatives were spotlighted at the event, showcasing inspiring models for best practices.

As the event concluded, participants expressed enthusiasm and a renewed commitment to driving sustainable change. The event served as a rallying point for youth to engage, innovate, and collaborate on critical challenges for the betterment of society and the planet.

## Altaf Ahmed Bhat extends felicitation on Independence Day

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, Altaf Ahmed Bhat, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), offers heartfelt felicitation to the people and government of Pakistan.

He also extended best wishes for the economic and financial stability of Pakistan. He acknowledges the significance of a strong and prosperous Pakistan in promoting regional

peace and development.

Chairman Bhat emphasizes that a thriving economy in Pakistan can play a pivotal role in advancing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He envisions a future where economic growth and stability in Pakistan contribute to the overall well-being of the Kashmiri people and their pursuit of justice and self-determination.

Chairman JKSM Bhat further said that Kashmiris are fighting for the freedom from Indian occupation and completion of Pakistan. He urged Pakistani nation and the government of Pakistan to practically support Kashmir cause till it's logical end: freedom from illegal Indian occupation.

While celebrating the independence of Pakistan, Chairman Bhat also sheds light on the pre-planned financial and economic crackdown that the Modi-led BJP government of India initiated in Kashmir since August 5, 2019.

He condemned the targeted suppression of Kashmiri youth, resulting in loss of lives and the truncation of their aspirations. The deliberate disruption of education, businesses, and economic activities has gravely impacted the livelihoods and future prospects of the Kashmiri people.

"The youth of Kashmir have been unjustly targeted, their futures snatched away, and vital economic activities halted. This calculated move aims to punish Kashmir for its legitimate demand for freedom and its desire to join Pakistan," Chairman Bhat states.

## Celebration

ISLAMABAD: H. E Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi the Ambassador of UAE in Islamabad, attends celebrations and luncheon hosted by the visa center in the Embassy for the employees and their families on the occasion of Independence Day of the Pakistan, and wishes the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, its leadership and its people further progress and prosperity.



## DFP felicitates Pakistan on its Independence Day

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has extended its heartfelt felicitations to the people and the government of Pakistan on their Independence Day.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman while conveying his party's best wishes for peace and prosperity of Pakistan said, "The struggling people of Jammu and Kashmir are highly grateful to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its all out moral, political and diplomatic support to our just and legitimate struggle".

He expressed the optimism that Pakistan would continue its all out support to Kashmiris' legitimate struggle till they achieve their cherished goal of right to self-determination for which they have offered unprecedented sacrifices.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement a spokesperson of the DFP urged the people of Kashmir to observe Indian Independence Day as Black Day as a mark of protest against India's forcible occupation of Kashmir.

Terming India as usurper he said that the country that has deprived millions of Kashmiris from their fundamental rights and snatched their fundamental freedoms by occupying their motherland has no justification, whatsoever, to observe Independence Day.

## SM Foods celebrate 76th Independence Day



Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Celebrations of Independence Day were held at the renowned institution SM Foods, a globally recognized entity in the food sector. The special event was presided over by Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Group Chairman and Member of the National Investment Board. The beautifully decorated venue resonated with chants of "Pakistan Zindabad" amidst the spring of national flags. According to details, a spectacular and beautiful ceremony took place at the central office of SM Foods Group Industries in Multan on the occasion of Pakistan's 76th Independence Day. The ceremony was inaugurated by Group Chairman Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, who hoisted the national flag. Following that, he paid tribute to the martyrs of Independence Day, the armed forces of Pakistan, and the police, and extended congratulations to the factory officers, workers, and the entire Pakistani nation. He also praised the services of the Pakistan Army at the present borders. He mentioned that twenty crore people sleep peacefully because our guardians remain vigilant. The event was attended by Malik Salim Awan (GM HR), Abdul Majid (Chief Accountant SM Group), Riaz ul Haq (General Manager GLZ), Baba Asmat (General Manager), Chaudhry Ghufan (Admin Manager UTL), Malik Shahzad Khokhar (Admin Manager Universal), Muhammad Farooq (General Manager UTL), Mian Salahuddin (General Manager Marketing), Muhammad Amir (PA to Chairman), Zaim Ul Abideen Abid (Media

## Azad Kashmir PM to mark Independence Day with 'patriotic zeal'

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Independence Day was being celebrated with patriotic zeal and fervour all across Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

"It was on this day (14th August 1947) that the world's largest ideological Islamic state came into being under the wise and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah", the PM said, adding that the establishment of Pakistan was a manifestation of the aspirations of millions of Muslims of the subcontinent.

He said that 14 August 1947 was a historic day when Allama Iqbal's dream of a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent came true.

In his special message on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, the PM said that the historic day reminds us of the relentless struggle



and sacrifices of our ancestors.

Paying eulogizing tributes to the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and other founding leaders of the Pakistan movement, the PM said that Quaid-i-Azam organized the Muslim League on the basis of a two-nation theory and united all the Muslims of the subcontinent under one flag.

The PM said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's dynamic

leadership, unwavering faith, perseverance and his vision for Pakistan helped the Muslims of the subcontinent to win freedom in a short period of time despite the fiercest opposition of the Hindus and the British empire.

Referring to the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle against Indian imperialism, the AJK premier said that India wants to oppress the people of Occupied Kashmir through use of its military might.

The observance of Pakistan's independence day on both sides of the line of control (LoC), he said, ignites the passion of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and rekindles their hope that the sacrifices made by them in the ongoing freedom struggle would never go in vain.

The PM also appreciated the government, people and the armed forces of Pakistan for standing in support and solidarity of the people of Kashmir through all thick and thin.

## At least four killed in terror attack on Iran shrine

At least four people were killed during a terrorist attack on a shrine in Iran's central city of Shiraz on Sunday — less than a year after a similar attack on the same site — according to state media.

"Four people have been killed so far following a terrorist attack by two armed men on the holy shrine of Shah Cheraagh," AFP reported quoting Iran's official news agency IRNA.

One of the suspected assailants was arrested while the other went on the

run, according to Tasnim news agency.

A mass shooting in October at the revered shrine left 13 people dead and 30 wounded, in an attack later claimed by Daesh.

Iran hanged two men in public over the October attack, the judiciary's Mizan Online news website reported last month, identifying them as Mohammad Ramez Rashidi and Naem Hashem Qatali but not revealing their nationalities.

Authorities had previously said the attack involved people from other countries including neighbouring Afghanistan.

The pair were hanged at dawn on July 8 on a street near the shrine in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province, IRNA reported at the time.

Mizan said they had been convicted of "corruption on earth, armed rebellion and acting against national security" as well as "conspiracy against the security of the country".

## Turkmenistan State Agency statement on reports of gas unions and alliances

News Desk

Turkmenistan, being an active participant in international energy cooperation, pays great attention to the development of cooperation in the oil and gas sector with various states based on the principles of equal and mutually beneficial partnership, the State News Agency of Turkmenistan (TDH) reports.

As is known, our country has repeatedly come up with initiatives aimed at creating effective mechanisms that ensure reliable and stable supplies of energy carriers to world markets, respecting the interests of all participants in this process: producers, transit countries and consumers of energy.

In this context, Turkmenistan State News Agency corre-

spondent addressed the Deputy Chairman of the State Concern "Turkmengaz" Myrad Archayev with a request to comment on media reports regarding the idea of creating gas unions and alliances, the activity of which may in the future affect the legitimate interests of our country as a participant in major energy projects that have been effectively functioning for a number of years.

M. Archayev: Indeed, on August 11 of this year, a number of mass media disseminated a statement by Dmitry Birichevsky, Director of the Economic Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, regarding the so-called "tripartite gas alliance" with the participation of Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. According to him, Russia does not rule out "the possibility

of expanding trilateral cooperation in the gas sector" and knows "that other states are also showing interest in it."

Mr. Birichevsky's statement raises at least a few questions. What "opportunities for expansion" are we talking about, what "other states" are showing interest in them, what, in principle, is behind the "trilateral cooperation" in the gas sector? The streamlined language used by the Russian diplomat does not provide answers to them. Moreover, complete clarity is required here, since the interests of other states, including Turkmenistan, are affected.

As is known, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and China have been cooperating for a long time on the transportation of natural gas from Central Asia to the People's Republic of China, with clearly agreed volumes, terms, economic and

technical parameters.

Currently, there are three branches of the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline through which gas is supplied from Turkmen fields in the east and southeast of the country. All three lines, the production facilities that ensure their operation, were jointly built exclusively by the Turkmen and Chinese sides—respectively, the State Concern "Turkmengaz" and the Chinese oil and gas company CNPC. Today, Turkmenistan is the largest supplier of gas through this pipeline: out of the total agreed supply of 55 billion cubic meters per year, 40 billion cubic meters are contracted by Turkmenistan, and the rest are provided by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

There are no sources of gas from other countries to fill the pipeline, and the existing scheme for distributing gas



volumes supplied to China does not include plans to expand the number of participants in the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline project.

It should be noted that Turkmenistan strictly adheres to its obligations to Chinese, Uzbek and Kazakh partners. And legitimately counts on reciprocity.

It is also obvious that any changes in the agreed and

formalized volumes and schemes of gas supplies, using the existing infrastructure, require prior approval from all participants without exception. Meanwhile, no consultations were held with Turkmenistan on this issue.

Such an approach is incomprehensible and unacceptable for the Turkmen side, and is considered by our country as

inconsistent with the norms of international law and practice in the gas sector.

In this context, Turkmenistan is seriously concerned about the statements of official representatives that in one way or another affect the international obligations of our country, and may sow confusion and speculation about their implementation by other participants.

As a responsible state, Turkmenistan proceeds from the fact that international cooperation, including in such an important segment as energy supplies, should be based on open and clear criteria, mutual respect and consideration of interests and strict observance of the agreements reached. Fluctuations in the external environment cannot serve as a reason to change these principles, the State News Agency of Turkmenistan report says.

# Hamdard Pakistan holds free medical camp to celebrate 14th August Independence Day

KARACHI: To celebrate 14th August Independence Day, Hamdard Pakistan organized a free medical camp on Sunday 13th of August, at Hamdard Matab Jehangir Road Karachi under its national health initiative 'Hamdard Zindagi'. Karachiites in a large number benefited from the camp and took advice on various medical and health problems from expert and experienced physicians such as Hakim Amjad Ismail, Tabiba Huma Saeed and Hakim Shiraz Muhammad Siddiqui. The patients also underwent comprehensive medical assessments. On this occasion, Hamdard Pakistan extended a 50% discount on medicines.

Speaking to the journalists, Hakim Shiraz Siddiqui conveyed that since its inception, Hamdard Pakistan has been striving to address the health and medical challenges of the nation. He further said that in recent times, such diseases are spreading in the society which are easily preventable through the adoption of a healthy lifestyle.

In continuation of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said's vision, Hamdard Pakistan, through its various initiatives, not only encourages people to embrace the effectiveness of affordable Tibb-I-Unani, but also raise awareness about fundamental principles of health.

Citizens appreciated this effort of Hamdard Pakistan and expressed hope that Hamdard organization will continue to organize such medical camps in the future.



## Sarsabz commemorates Pakistan's 76th Independence Day with a message of hope

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: While celebrating Pakistan's 76th Independence Day, Sarsabz Fertilizer released a purposeful video, with a special narration by the distinguished playwright Anwar Maqsood, encapsulating the country's ongoing existing woes and the need for the entire nation to unite firmly and stay hopeful towards shaping a prosperous future. The video also exemplified the unwavering spirit of a Pakistani farmer who works tirelessly in the fields and defeats all odds through the power of hope and commitment. It is these farmers who continue to portray unyielding determination as the driving force behind progress.



The video serves as a powerful reminder of these remarkable individuals and how their resilience in the face of trials continues to sow the seeds of growth that fuel the nation's relentless advancement. Their ceaseless efforts, coupled with their benevolent intentions, form the bedrock upon which the nation thrives; ensuring both food security and economic stability for all. The same sense of unity and a relentless belief in striving together as a nation is required to tackle the challenges that beset our nation.

The video transcends the boundaries of visual representation; it is a tribute to the selflessness of the farmers and a celebration of the indomitable spirit of the nation. In its portrayal, the video magnifies the sacrifices made and contributions given by these farmers, elevating them to the status of foundational pillars supporting Pakistan's journey toward prosperity. Amidst these themes, the video also eloquently conveys messages of unity and positivity.

## Ever-increasing production cost real threat to trade and industry: BMP

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has said that high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for the trade and industry, as ever-increasing cost of production is the real threat to the economy amidst frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar.

FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar, while strongly rejecting the significant jump in electricity prices and hike in gas tariffs to meet the IMF condition, has said that it will put additional burden of billions of rupee on consumers.

## Colors of national flag

KARACHI: A view of State Bank building decorated with national flag colors in connection with celebration of Independence Day, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Ufone 4G brings amazing Independence Day Cashback Offer via easypaisa

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G has introduced an amazing cashback offer for its customers on key bundle subscriptions via easypaisa, to celebrate the spirit of freedom this Independence Day i.e. 14th of August, 2023. Ufone 4G users can get 14% cashback, amounting up to Rs.200 per bundle to freely engage in the national day festivity with seamless voice and data connectivity.

The 14% cashback offer will be available on selective bundles, including Digital Grand Offer, Weekly Digital Offer, Social Hero and UPower 150 where customers can pick any bundle from 10GBs to 100GBs to enjoy Ufone 4G's quality connectivity.

## PIAF warns of record inflation, as high cost hurting economy

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has warned the record inflation and high cost of doing business would hurt economic growth, demanding a careful policy to keep it in control. PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said that the most serious threat to the economy in the current fiscal year would be inflation, as the government plan of approaching the donors for further financial assistance will bring a fresh wave of price-hike, because inflation is already hitting economy due to continuous raise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency.

He predicted that inflation would remain high and may even increase further due to market frictions caused by relative demand and supply gap of essential items, exchange rate depreciation and recent upward adjustment of administered prices of petrol and diesel. The PIAF leader called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit, as the Pakistan's federal budget deficit projection has been revised to history's highest to over Rs 6 trillion, highlighting the unending fiscal woes that have pushed the country into a debt trap despite putting additional burden of billions of rupees on industry in the current fiscal year. Expressing serious concern

over the high jump in country's budget deficit, PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said the revision has been made in light of agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which exposed the massive underreporting of expenditures at the time of budget presentation by the Finance ministry. This is a highly unsustainable level and has already pushed the country into a situation where debt restructuring seems to be the only viable option. The PIAF chairman maintained that the failure to reform the tax system and increase revenue collection is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government.

## Someone is offering 'a special sale' for you even on August 14. Please check

**Tooba Khan**

So in Pakistan, the Independence Day has become yet another great opportunity to promote your brand and expand reach by offering something special like discount and introducing a new service or product. You can't miss a chance in a free market which is based upon consumerism while making you addicted to different commodities. It is the reason why even the August 14 is not immune to the "sale culture" - a constant in Pakistan nowadays when products are sold at discounted prices.

In good old days too, special events like Eid and Christmas in Pakistan attracted customers to markets. There was or is nothing extraordinary about it. It happens around the globe. However, markets back then had a lot of people even during others days thanks to the better purchasing power.

Less competition meant there was no need to announce sales and discounts, barring less than a dozen well-known brands of different items which resorted to these only during Eid days or summer and winter seasons depending upon their nature.

What made a difference was the mushrooming of local and the arrival

of foreign brands in 1990s, resulting in an intense competition. It wasn't surprising as Pakistan witnessed a rise and expansion in the urban middle and upper middle classes - who were influenced by market forces that offered a plethora of goods and services.

The same period saw the arrival of cable TV followed by internet some years later. So different brands ranging from toothpaste to autos had an opportunity to first reach your TV lounge and then the left pocket in which you always carry your mobile.

It means everyone can now be treated as a potential customer whether you like it, endorse it or not. You are now bombed by ads not only through TV screens but also the computer and mobile phone you use as many of us have access to the internet nowadays. You are a free person and a hostage at the same - 24/7 without any gap.

The market economy revolves around consumerism and commercialisation of every aspect of life, be it sports like football and cricket or art and culture in the shape of movies and music.

For example, even the affluent families didn't have their children addicted to pizza and burger before 1980s. But these food items along with many others are a common

thing in the market. Now that you are among the addicted, the next step is to keep you in the customers' list. But given that we as a society have very little or no appetite for innovation, the only thing these brands can offer is reduced prices during the entire year.

The elite - the main chunk of the high-end customers in terms of money spent [which is the only thing that matters in economy] - doesn't give damn to things like inflation and rising prices as things like reduced purchasing power are in his or her dictionary. He or she mostly shops during foreign trips to buy the quality products which aren't available in Pakistan. And if still there is something to buy, the high-end outlets are here to serve them.

Meanwhile, they are now less dependent on shopping during foreign tours because everything is now available in the country thanks to the high-end stores. And they can still fly abroad in case of some urgent need or non-availability within the country. Finances aren't their problem.

But there are those hopeful of becoming an elite, the upper-middle class including the ones who claim to be a part middle class but actually are not. They too follow the brands and rush to avail these discounted rates. They are brand-crazy but still looking

for some opportunity to save money. In fact, they are the main target population.

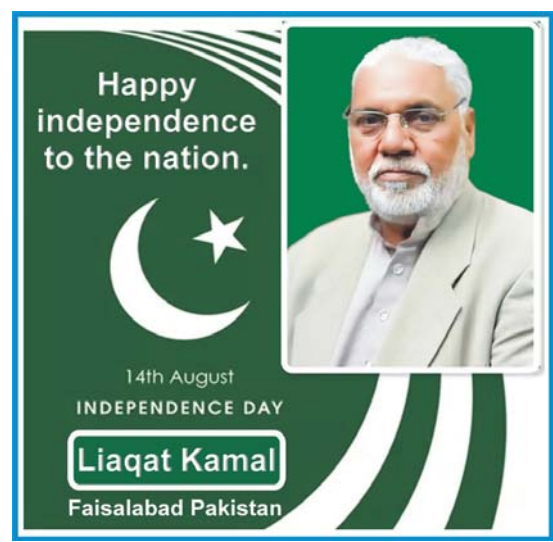
Next comes the last group under discussion, the middle class, who are always waiting for special offers because their limited budget doesn't allow them buy new items otherwise, especially amid the current economic crisis. However, the affordability issue means their list in terms of brands remains short even during sale offers.

It is in this context, the intense competition between different brands is reflected in sales offers on special occasions, the list of which is expanding with each passing day. The 14 of August is one of them.

Using these events for business purposes is nothing illegal or deplorable phenomenon but still shows how the businesses try to relate their products to the very specific days. No consumer means no business.

They use customers' feelings and requirements to their advantage, showing the powerful the markets forces are in a free market economy. But are the customers free remains a question.

With the overwhelming majority busy tackling the food inflation as the biggest challenge, the target population is shrinking which will certainly further promote the "sale culture" in Pakistan.



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Waziristan Independence Day Jeep Rally kicks off from Peshawar

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Waziristan Independence Day Jeep Rally organized by the Department of Tourism Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Culture and Tourism Authority got underway from Peshawar Sports Complex amidst great enthusiasm.

"The rally starts its journey toward scenic Waziristan's Razmak Valley and then to Gomalzam Dam in Waziristan. More than 50 4x4 jeeps from all over the country are participating in the rally," DG Tourism Authority Barkatullah Marwat told APP soon after the departure of the Jeeps Rally.

"The race will be held on August 14 on a 7 km track at Gomal Zam Dam, DG Tourism Authority Barkat Ullah Marwat informed.

"The race consists of three different categories," he said.

"Race jeeps in the A category, 2000 cc and above in the B category, and 2000 cc jeeps in the C category will participate," Barkatullah Marwat said.

He said, "To celebrate Pakistan's 76th Independence Day celebrations are also being continued in the adjoining districts."

He said, "Steps have been taken to promote tourism in the merged districts and through this way, the same will be highlighted to the rest of the world and with these



local and foreign tourists." "Through this way, construction of the building, rest houses, and rest areas in the merged districts have also been planned so that to ensure facilitation to the tourists on a permanent basis," Marwat added.

Kasun Rajitha powers Galle Titans to thump Jaffna Kings in LPL

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Right-arm pacer Kasun Rajitha's four-for led Galle Titans to register a thumping seven-wicket victory over Jaffna Kings in the 17th game of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) on Sunday.

Opting to bat first, Jaffna Kings lost their first wicket on the third ball as Rajitha sent attacking opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz back to the pavilion.

The defending champions soon slumped to 7-4 as they lost three wickets within eight deliveries.

This opened the floodgates as Kings fell into the abyss with wickets crumbling at regular intervals.

Dunith Wellalage anchored through the innings with 22 runs off 31 balls amid chaos on the other end as he kept losing partners.

Only three players, other than Wellalage managed to reach double figures and Jaffna Kings were consequently bundled out for a meagre 89 runs.

Rajitha led the bowling attack for Galle Titans, picking up four wickets for 20 runs, while Tabraiz Shamsi and Lahiru Kumara chipped in with two wickets each.

Galle Titans started the chase strongly as they swiftly raced to 33 runs off



four overs before Bhanuka Rajapaksa was caught by Shoaib Malik off Maheesh Theekshana.

Tim Seifert then led the chase and carved a sensible 51-ball partnership with Chad Bowes off 48 deliveries to lead his team to 84-1 in 12 overs.

With only, six runs needed, Seifert attempted to finish things in style however he was caught at short cover by Perera off Madushanka.

His 42-ball 55 featured five boundaries and one six.

Captain Dasun Shanaka hit the winning runs in the next over, as Galle Titans comfortably chased the total with 39 balls remaining.

Galle Titans are placed at number four in the LPL points table below third-ranked Jaffna Kings, due to net run rate difference.

However, Galle Titans have one more game to play in the LPL against Colombo Strikers on August 15, while Jaffna Kings have played all their group-stage games in the current LPL.

Hasan Ali, McDermott shine as Dambulla Aura sink Colombo Strikers in LPL

A Sports

COLOMBO: Ben McDermott's unbeaten half-century and Hasan Ali's three-for powered Dambulla Aura to a crushing 50-run victory over Colombo Strikers in the 16th game of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) on Saturday.

Dambulla Aura, having already booked their place in the playoffs of the LPL, comfortably sit at the top of the points table. Whereas, Colombo Strikers sank to the bottom of the LPL points table.

Opting to bat first, Dambulla Aura found themselves in trouble as they slumped to 24-3 in the fifth over.

Coming out to bat at number five, Ben McDermott put on a brief 22-run partnership with Dhananjaya de Silva before the latter perished.

Alex Ross joined McDermott at the crease with the scoreboard reading 46/4 and launched an astounding recovery for the Aura.

The pair batted sensibly under the pressure before taking the bowlers head-on.

They knitted a solid 102 runs partnership off 71 deliveries before Ross was caught behind off Matheesha Pathirana soon after amassing his half-century.

Alex Ross's 38-ball 52 featured five boundaries and two sixes, while Ben McDermott remained unbeaten at 69 runs off 46 balls with the help of four boundaries and as many sixes.

This partnership helped Dambulla Aura reach a commendable total of 166 in 20 overs.

Matheesha Pathirana topped the bowling charts for Colombo Strikers with two wickets, while Naseem Shah, Chamika Karunaratne and Jeffrey Vandersay chipped in with one wicket each.

England eye to 'unretire' Ben Stokes for World Cup defence

A Sports

England's white-ball coach Matthew Mott eyeing to bring the 2019 World Cup hero Ben Stokes out of retirement to be part of the squad for their World Cup defence in India later this year.

Motts is also planning to take a gamble on fast bowler Jofra Archer amid his fitness vows, as he is a 'proven performer'.

English selectors are expected to announce an 18-player squad for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in India this Tuesday, which will be further trimmed down to the final 15 prior to September 28, as per ICC rules.

Matthew Mott has told the media that there are two elements, 'a call from Jos Buttler to his fellow England



captain Stokes' and 'an updated medical report on another hero of 2019 in Archer' would be crucial before the selectors finalise the squad.

"Jos will probably lead the way on that communication (with Ben Stokes), but Ben's pretty straight with all of us. We will see if he's keen," Mott said.

He further emphasized Stokes's importance to the team in all three aspects of the game.

"There has not been a clear direction on what he's going to do yet, but we are still hopeful. I've always said his bowling would be a bonus, but just look at what he brings with the bat, even in the field," said Mott.

"Watching him throughout the whole Ashes series, he had such a great presence. He's done it for years when it comes to performing in one-day cricket and so he's an invaluable commodity," he concluded.

Ben Stokes, announced his retirement from ODI cricket during the home series against South Africa last year. He made his ODI debut in 2011 and represented England in 105 ODI games.

The decorated all-rounder scored 2919 runs, including three centuries, and took 74 wickets in his glittering

ODI career. He played a vital role for England with his unbeaten 84 in the 2019 ODI World Cup against New Zealand and forced the match into a super over before Jofra Archer's super over helped England lift their maiden ODI World Cup title by 'the barest of margins'.

Jofra Archer was also a hero for England in their successful World Cup campaign in 2019.

However, his career has been plagued with injuries as he managed to play only seven games since the World Cup final against New Zealand in 2019.

However, the English coach is ready to take a risk, as Archer has been a 'match-winner' for the English side.

Virat Kohli lauds Babar Azam as 'the top batsman in the world'

A Sports

Former Indian captain Virat Kohli spoke highly of Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam, and termed him "the top batsman in the world".

Virat Kohli shared his first encounter in Manchester with Babar Azam when Imad Wasim introduced Babar to Kohli.

"The first interaction I had with him [Babar] was during the 2019 [ODI] World Cup after the game in Manchester. I've known Imad [Wasim] since the Under-19 World Cup, and he said Babar wanted to have a chat," Kohli said.

He further talked about the meet- ings and the friendship they shared

since that first meeting. "I saw a lot of regard and respect from him from day one, and that hasn't changed," he added.

Kohli then termed Babar as the top batter across the globe and claimed that he enjoys watching Babar play.

"He is so down to earth character, he will go a long way as a player. He is probably the top batsman right now across all formats. He performs so consistently and I've always enjoyed watching him play."

Babar Azam is currently sitting at the top of the ODI batting ranking, the position which was once held by Virat Kohli. Both batters are celebrating across the globe as the best



batters of this era.

However, despite the comparison and debates regarding who is better, the cricketers always displayed mutual respect for each other.

Last year, in July Babar came out in support of Virat with a motivating tweet, "This too shall pass. Stay strong" and received an overwhelming response from the cricket fans.

Virat, also responded to Babar's supportive tweet for him in a challenging phase of his career, while also wishing latter the luck. "Thank you. Keep shining and rising. Wish you all the best," Virat replied to Babar in his tweet.

They will come face to face in the Asia Cup, when Pakistan and India will collide at Kandy on September 2.

The Asia Cup is scheduled to treat the fans with as many as three India-Pakistan games if both teams reach the final.

The arch-rivals will also feature in the most anticipated clash of the ODI World Cup at Narendra Modi Stadium on October 14.

Pakistan training camp for Afghanistan ODIs, Asia Cup to kick off tomorrow



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket team's training camp for the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan and Asia Cup 2023 will commence on August 14, Monday (tomorrow).

A brief three-day training camp will end on August 16, Wednesday, before the team departs for Sri Lanka on August 17.

All-rounder Faheem Ashraf, who has returned to the ODI squad after a two-year hiatus will also be a part of the training camp along with Abdullah Shafiq and Saud Shakeel.

Notably, Saud Shakeel is only part of the Pakistani ODI squad which will take on Afghanistan in a three-match series.

He has played five ODIs and his last was in March 2022 when Pakistan chased down 348 against Australia with six wickets in hand in Lahore.

Salman Ali Agha and Mohammad Wasim Jr. will also be part of the training camp, while Haris Rauf, Mohammad Rizwan, Tayyab Tahir and Shaheen Afridi will join the Pakistan training camp on August 16.

However, the players who are participating in the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) will join the team directly in Hambantota.

PCB has also called eight additional players for Pakistan's training camp.

An 18-member Pakistan squad will take on Afghanistan in Sri Lanka from 22 to 26 August and it will be trimmed to 17 players for the Asia Cup, commencing on 30th August at Multan Cricket Stadium.

The opening game will see host Pakistan face Nepal.

The squad was finalised following consultations between the national men's selection committee - which also includes Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Hassan Cheema (secretary) - and Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

Pakistan's Squad:

Openers: Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq

Middle order: Babar Azam (captain), Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Tayyab Tahir and Saud Shakeel (only for Afghanistan series).

Wicketkeepers: Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Haris

Spinners: Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Mohammad Nawaz and Usama Mir

Pace all-rounder: Faheem Ashraf

Pacers: Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi

Advertisement for Pakistan's 14th August Independence Day, featuring agricultural products and government services. Includes text like 'آزادی کے 14 سالوں کا سفر' and 'پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل'.