



**Profile of Caretaker Prime Minister
Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar**

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar took oath of office as the 8th caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan on August 14, 2023. He was elected as an independent Senator from Balochistan province for a tenure of March 2018 to March 2024. (Details on Page 8)



**British High Commissioner message on
independence day of Pakistan**

"Today we celebrate your successes, and I am delighted at the progress made on the relationship between the UK and Pakistan over the last 76 years. I am even more excited at the many wonderful opportunities over the next year, not limited to the return of the England Men's Cricket Team to Pakistan in 2024, as well as witnessing Pakistan's elections. I wish all Pakistanis a very happy Independence Day". Jane Marriott CMG OBE, British HC

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Independence Day ceremony

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the official flag hoisting ceremony on the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan on Monday.



Photo: PID

Alvi for promoting rule of law, democracy to ensure country's prosperity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said Pakistan could be put on the path of development and prosperity by promoting the rule of law, democracy, provision of basic human rights, eradication of social injustices and poverty. Addressing a flag-hoisting ceremony held here in connection with the 76th independence day of Pakistan, the president expressed the hope that Pakistan would soon become a prosperous and developed country by following all the basic rules and guidance given by the founder of Pakistan Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said Quid-i-Azam always discouraged nepotism and

voiced for the promotion of merit, unity, socio-economic justice, and poverty alleviation. He said Pakistan got independence in 1947 because of the long struggle of Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other founding leaders, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of people. He said the country's armed forces, police and the public were still sacrificing their lives for the country's security as over 100,000 people had rendered their lives in the war against terrorism. He said the aim of Pakistan's independence was the establishment of an independent state for the Muslims of the subcontinent to live their lives according to Islamic principles.

The president paid the heartiest tributes to the founders of Pakistan who struggled for independence of Pakistan and the hundreds of thousands of people who embraced martyrdom for Pakistan. President Alvi stressed the responsibility for poverty alleviation and promotion of education and health, which he said were inter-connected with each other. He said currently 27 million children were out of school across the country and needed to enrol in schools. He stressed that every child should be enrolled in school which could only be possible through resources. He said everybody should pay his or her due tax so that

the government could get more resources to provide maximum facilities to the people. Similarly, he said good health was also vital for nation-building. The president said although it was necessary to explore natural resources buried under the land but the actual wealth was built in our minds which should be fully utilized. He stressed the need to look into the areas of the latest technologies, IT, industries and agriculture. He quoted Allama Iqbal as saying that without women's participation; no nation could develop and prosper. Therefore, he called upon the women folk of the country to work for the development of the country by actively participating in all areas.

Quid-i-Azam, he said also encouraged his sister Fatima Jinnah to fully participate in the country's politics. The president also expressed solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. He hoped that by the will of God, soon Kashmir would become part of Pakistan. He vowed to the people of Kashmir not to leave Pakistan's support for their just struggle. He also thanked the friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Turkiye, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for supporting Pakistan in its difficult time. He said Islam always preached peace and love even when the world was desecrating the holy Quran.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar takes oath as caretaker PM



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here took oath as the caretaker prime minister of Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath to the caretaker prime minister in a ceremony at the President House. Outgoing prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman,

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan and leading politicians of various political parties also attended the ceremony. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, and other high ranking officials were also present on the occasion

PAF greets entire nation on Independence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has greeted the entire Pakistani nation on the auspicious occasion of Independence Day. "The journey of modernization, enhancement of operational capabilities, and the quest for innovation are important features of this special message," said a PAF news release issued here on Monday.

"The message also reiterates the commitment that the Pakistan Armed Forces are ever ready to fulfill the sacred duty of defending the nation and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice in the line of duty," it added.

Pakistan Navy celebrates 76th anniversary of Pakistan with traditional ardour



Bureau Report

KARACHI: An inspiring Change of Guard ceremony was held at mausoleum of Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the entire nation celebrated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan. Smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Naval Academy cadets and sailors clad in ceremonial dresses, assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with enthusiasm, traditional spirit and military customs. Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, Commodore M Khalid graced the occasion as Chief Guest and reviewed the guard. The Chief Guest and cadets of Pakistan Navy presented Quami Salam to the Father of the Nation, Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The ceremonial mounting of Guard was followed by laying of floral wreath at the Mazar-e-Quaid by the Chief Guest on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff, officers and men of Pakistan Navy. Later

on, the Chief Guest offered Fateha and recorded his remarks in the visitor book and paid rich tribute to our beloved Quaid. Earlier, the day dawned with Gun Salutes and special prayers were offered in all Naval mosques for solidarity and progress of the country and particularly for the success of Kashmiri struggle. Pakistan Navy Ships and Establishments were illuminated in Navy's traditional manner. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at designated Units of Pakistan Navy at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Coastal Areas. Various independence day activities were held at Pakistan Navy units/ establishments including singing of national anthem in the morning, PN Band Display and Flag Hoisting Ceremony at Pakistan Maritime Museum, Boat Rallies at Karachi Harbour, Marathon Races, Cycle Races were also part of the celebrations. PN ship celebrated independence day during overseas deployment at foreign port.

From space UAE astronaut congratulates Pakistanis on Independence Day



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Astronaut of the United Arab Emirates Sultan Al Neyadi has joined in Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations from 400 kilometers above earth and felicitated the Pakistani nation. The UAE history maker shared a picture of Pakistan's capital Islamabad, taken from the International Space Station on Monday. Dr Al Neyadi who is coming to the end of his six-month voyage in space, paid tribute to Pakistan's "rich culture" in a congratulatory message on social media.

76th Independence Day being celebrated with national spirit

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The nation is celebrating the 76th Independence Day on August 14 (Monday) with traditional zeal and enthusiasm. A number of activities will be organised to highlight the struggle of forefathers and national heroes for acquiring a separate homeland. 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. Similarly, private and public educational institutions will also hold different activities, including quiz and speech competitions, functions and sessions to educate the students about the historical struggle

for the creation of Pakistan. Overseas Pakistanis living around the world will also celebrate the Independence Day with equal fervour and passion. They will also organize cultural events, flag hoisting ceremonies, and rallies to show their love and loyalty for the homeland. 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. The Independence Day of Pakistan is a day of great historical significance and national pride. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by forefathers for the independence

of beloved 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. 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 electronic 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. There will be a dramatic pause throughout the country with sound-

Caretaker PM assumes office, seeks briefing from ministries



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here assumed his responsibilities after taking the oath of office. The PM sought a briefing from all ministries on important matters.

National flag hoisted at Pakistan House to mark Independence Day in New York

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan's 76th Independence Day was zealously celebrated in New York on Monday, with the hoisting of the national flag at the Pakistan House by Ambassador Munir Akram, as the nation-

al anthem was played. The joint ceremony, held by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN and the Consulate General, started with recitation from the Holy Quran. It was attended by officers and staff of the Pakistan Mission and the Consulate

General. President Dr Arif Alvi's message for the occasion was tread out by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Aamir Khan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's message was delivered by the Trade and Commerce Officer at the



Consulate, Talat Gondal. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Akram highlighted the importance of the Lahore Resolution which led to the establishment of Pakistan.

Cake Cutting

ISLAMABAD: Master Ayub cuts the cake along with Deputy British High Commissioner to Pakistan Andrew Dalgleish and Islamabad Police Officers at his open Air school at Sector F-6 to celebrate 76th Celebrations of Independence Day, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Speaker Ashraf extends warm felicitation to Pakistan on 76th Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: 13th August 2023; Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has extended warm felicitation to whole nation on its 76th Independence. He said that this day is to remember and honour the sacrifices of our forefathers and pay them a rich and well-deserved tribute. He also renewed national commitment to follow the principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline outlined by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He added, "While we engage in the Independence festi-

ties, let us not forget about our brethren in IIOJK, who are imprisoned in an open jail from the past 4 years and stripped off their right to self-determination and right to freedom." He also resolved, "On this occasion lets pledge to add more vigour and intensity in our efforts to sensitize the International Community regarding the deprivation of basic human rights, especially self-determination and freedom, of our Kashmiri brethren by the Extremist and Fascist BJP led Government and RSS Ideology.



While highlighting the significance of democracy

and democratic values, he said that nation is passing through important juncture and with unity and democracy the country would sooner stand amongst developed countries. He also said that Pakistan is blessed with Youth population which is an unmatched asset for country. He added "this day is a day to reclaim and reassert our sense of Pride and Patriotism." He also said, "The Crescent Flag and Star reminds the world that our flag is not just a symbol but a rendezvous point where we all stand united."

Kashmiris to observe India's I-Day as Black Day today

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR AJK: Like all previous years Jammu and Kashmir State people living on both sides of the line of control and the rest of the world would observe India's independence day falling on August 15 (Tuesday) as Black Day.

Kashmiris observe August, 15 Indian independence day every year as a black day to reiterate ever-lasting hatred against India and to register strong protest over Delhi's forced Aug 05, 2019, sinister action of scrapping the special status of the internationally recognized Jammu and Kashmir state.

Kashmiris observe India's all

national days including independence day as black day to condemn India for constantly denying Kashmiris birth right to self-determination and to apprise the external world of India's ongoing worst reign of state terrorism making people of occupied Jammu Kashmir state besieged, at gunpoint of over two million of her military and paramilitary troops.

India has unleashed history's worst atrocities and state terrorism against the people in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) fighting for the liberation of the motherland from the forced Indian rule for the past 76 years.

"The observance of the



scheduled Indian Independence Day as the black day is also aimed at expressing indignation against Indian imperialism for forcibly keeping the bulk part of the State in her unlawful and forcible occupation for the past 76 years," organizers said.

"Anti-India rallies followed by protest demonstrations in all small and major cities and towns at both sides of the LoC, will be the hallmark of the day", an AJK government spokes-

man told APP here Monday.

"Participants of the protest rallies will wear black bands around their arms as a sign of hatred against India, according to the organizers of the special black day programs."

"Black flags will be hoisted atop the private buildings by the protesting Kashmiris at both sides of the LoC," according to the reports.

In Azad Jammu & Kashmir, anti-India rallies will be staged and processions will be brought out in all small and major cities including AJK's capital city of Muzafferabad and all other nine district headquarters of Mirpur, Kotli, Bagh, Bhimber, Palandri, Rawalakot, Haveli, Jhelum

Valley and Neelam valley by the people belonging to walks of life to reiterate severe hatred against the Indian imperialism.

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

Profile of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar took oath of office as the 8th caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan on August 14, 2023.

He was elected as an independent Senator from Balochistan province for a tenure of March 2018 to March 2024.

He is also one of the founding members of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and was appointed as the central spokesperson of the party in 2018. While serving as Senator, he was the chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development and as a member of the Business Advisory Committee, Finance and Revenue, Foreign Affairs, and Science and Technology. Earlier, he served as spokesman for the government of Balochistan from December 2015 to January 2018.

An avid intellectual, with keen insight on the issues faced by Pakistan, particularly Balochistan province, Mr Kakar has been sharing his

perspective at academic and policy making platforms, both nationally and internationally. These include interactions with students and faculty members at Pakistan's top-ranking universities, closed door sessions with the country's policy makers, briefings to the country's political and military elite, sessions on building the Balochistan narrative with the diplomatic corps based in Islamabad, as well as a significant number of nationally televised political talk shows.

Born in 1971, he hails from Muslim Bagh, Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar holds a Master's degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Balochistan. He is an alumnus of the prestigious National Security Workshop at the National Defence University, Islamabad. He is also Patron-in-Chief of the Voice of Balochistan, an independent perception building initiative he masterminded. Mr. Kakar is fluent in English, Urdu, Persian, Pashto, Balochi and Brahvi.

Pakistan's Independence Day celebrated in Netherlands

News Desk

THE HAGUE: The embassy of Pakistan in the Netherlands celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day here on Monday with traditional zeal and enthusiasm.

A flag hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan House which was attended by a number of Pakistani community members including, students, women and children from different parts of the Netherlands.

The national flag was hoisted by ambassador Suljok Mustansar Tarrar at the tune of national anthem. Special messages of the President and the Prime Minister on this auspicious occasion were read out to the audience.

Shahroz Kashif, a renowned Pakistani mountaineer, also attended the flag hoisting ceremony. He is the youngest mountaineer who climbed the K2 on 27 July 2021. He also addressed the participants and informed about his plans to fly Pakistani flag on the top of all 14 eight-thousand mountains. Kashif is on a visit to the Netherlands to project tourism potential of the country.

He informed about Pakistan - the Netherlands bilateral relations and the celebrations being held in the Hague and Islamabad to commemorate 75 years of the establishment of bilateral relations between the two countries this year.

He also emphasized to remember



Kashmiri brothers and sisters in our prayers who are facing persecution in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). He reiterated Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people.

The ambassador appreciated the Pakistani community's active role. He urged the community members to continue to play a constructive role in improving relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

A group of young Pakistani diplomats who are in the Hague to attend training programme at the Clingendael Institute as part of Pakistan -Netherlands cooperation also attended the event.

Flag hoisting ceremony held to observe Pakistan's Independence Day in Beijing

News Desk

BEIJING: An impressive flag-hosting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing here on Monday to commemorate 76th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence Day.

The event began with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque raising of the national flag. Messages by the President and the Prime Minister were also read out.

President Dr. Arif Alvi in his message paid tribute to the sacrifices rendered by our founding fathers and workers of the Pakistan movement.

President urged the countrymen to work for the welfare of deprived sections of society and uphold the principles of democracy freedom, equality, socioeconomic justice and moral and ethical values as enunciated by Islam. The president also reiterated Paki-

stan's unwavering and continued political diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiri brethren in their legitimate right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in his message paid homage to the Quaid-i-Azam's visionary leadership and also the other leaders for their struggles that resulted in the creation of Pakistan.

The prime minister praised the resilience of Pakistanis to face the worst natural disasters and the will to rebuild.

He said that this day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices of the past, celebrate the achievements of the present, and envision a brighter future for our country.

The prime minister urged Pakistanis to work towards a nation that embodies the principle of justice equality and prosperity for all.

In his address, Ambassador Moin ul



Haque congratulated Pakistanis on the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

He commended the efforts of our forefathers and leaders who conceived and crystallized the idea of an inde-

pendent and sovereign Muslim state in the subcontinent.

He stated that on the special day let us all pledge to renew our commitment to build a more prosperous and united Pakistan and remain steady fast and work with full dedication for the development and betterment of our country.

He spoke about the special friendship between Pakistan and China which is time-tested and growing stronger.

He added that this year is important for both countries as we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and also celebrating the year of tourism exchanges between both countries.

He invited Chinese tourists to visit Pakistan to explore the beauty, diversity of its landscape and enjoy the friendship that Pakistanis hold for them.

76th Independence Day was celebrated with full national spirit & national unity

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In order to celebrate the 76th Independence Day with full national spirit in various places of Wana, Lower South Waziristan District, events were organized in many places.

A cake was cut to mark the 76th independence day of Pakistan, and a variety of saplings were planted by civil and military officials to commemorate Independence Day.

DC Lower South Waziristan Nasir Khan, DPO Farman Ullah South Waziristan, Additional DC Kashmir Khan and AC Wana Yasir Salman Kundi along with teachers, tribal elders and students participated in the event and showed their national spirit and expressed, the main event about Independence Day was organized at Government High School, Wana.

Meanwhile, DC Nasir Khan also attended the Martyrs Ceremony at South Waziristan Scouts Upper Camp



Wana.

Special congregational prayers were offered for the nation, the security forces and the martyrs, and the day offi-

cially begins with the unfurling of the green flag.

On this occasion, DC Nasir Khan and DPO Farman Ullah saluted the

green crescent flag.

Later, Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan and DPO Farman Ullah said that the motherland has come into existence thanks to the endless sacrifices of our forefathers and for the development, peace and stability of the country and people, we all have to move forward together with our (faith, unity, belief, firmness) actions according to the decree of our great leader.

Independence Day conveys a message of unity and solidarity/sacrifice and love, no power can defeat nations that uphold the rule of law and rule of law.

Along with curricular activities, the youth have to prove their abilities in various academics, sports, scientific fields and extra-curricular activities and for the prosperity of our beloved country, we have to use all our abilities and all available resources, only then we can present our country as a developed and prosperous state in the world.

Independence Day is peaceful expression of strong national spirit: Aamir Khattak



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A colorful celebration of Independence Day was organized by Nishtar Hospital. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak unfurled the flag and cut the cake. MS Nishtar Hospital Dr Rao Amjad, a large number of doctors and paramedical staff participated in the ceremony. Commissioner Aamir Khattak distributed sweets among the patients and relatives and inquired about the facilities available in the hospital. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that Independence Day is a day of peaceful expression of strong national spirit.

Let the world know that no power can look at this kingdom of God with a blind eye. The new generation needs to be reminded of the struggle for a free homeland. There is an important need. The whole nation has the passion to sacrifice their lives for the protection of this earth. The songs played in the ceremony boosted the enthusiasm of the participants.

14 August Pakistan Independence Day is very important for every Pakistani

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan, the flag was unfurled at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, and a grand ceremony was held, which was presided over by Mian Rashid Iqbal, President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. And Industry Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, Sheikh Fazl Elahi, Syed Iftikhar Shah, Naveed Iqbal Chagatai, Shahid Mahmood Khan, Zafar Iqbal Siddiqui, Aurangzeb Alamgir, Muhammad Shafiq and other members participated in this. On the occasion, Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mian Rashid Iqbal also cut the cake along with the members and prayed for the development and prosperity of the country.

Addressing the ceremony, he said that the day of August 14 is very important. This day is a day to remember those martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to protect the freedom of the motherland. Azad Pakistan is a great blessing from Allah. Making Pakistan economically strong and prosperous is the responsibility of the industrialists and businessmen of this country. Independent Pakistan is a special blessing from Allah and now it is the responsibility of the people of the country to make it strong and prosperous.

Today we also have to think to leave a Pakistan for the future generations which is an economically stable country and they do not have to make tough decisions. It is the responsibility of all of us to sit together and make decisions that May the name of Pakistan be bright in the world.

Sindh Premier League signs Sukkur Patriots to take part in Kashmir Cricket League



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A Signing Ceremony was held at PC Hotel, Lahore between Sindh Premier League (SPL) and New Franchise Sukkur Patriots. Wahab Riaz, Former test cricketer and Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs was the Chief Guest. Sindh Premier League President, Arif Malik, Sukkur Patriots, President Sukkur Patriots Bilal Saikhou, CEO, Sukkur Patriots Ch. Shehzad Akhtar, and Director Operation Sukkur Patriots, Raja Abdul Mateen were also present. The President Sindh Premier League Arif Malik and Sukkur Patriots President Bilal Saikhou Signed in the ceremony. On this occasion Wahab Riaz the Chief Guest said that Sindh Premier Cricket League will be very effective for the promotion of cricket in Pakistan. He appreciate the role of Arif Malik who is holding Sindh Premier League and I hope this League will be also successful in future. The President SPL said that to hold the Kashmir Cricket League was difficult task for us because there were no facilities of Airport near the venue and for this we used the Islamabad Airport for International players. However we were successful to hold the Kashmir Cricket League. He said that all the matches will be organized in international standard and with the ICC rules. Arif Malik also appreciate the role of Bilal Saikhou who worked very hard and bringing young talent from Gujranwal and hopefully his team Sukkur Patriots will perform well during this event. The President Sukkur Patriots Bilal Saikhou also said that after the PSL Sindh Premier Cricket League will be the 2nd biggest cricket League in Pakistan and he said that Gujranwal has big talent in cricket and Sukkur Patriots team will perform well during the SPL matches. The Ceo Sukkur Patriots Ch. Shehzad Akhtar also said that after Kashmir League we will hold this 2nd cricket event which will be hopefully we will made this events successful which will be remember by cricket lovers long time.

Railways Multan Division celebrates Independence Day with pomp and pageantry on 14th August

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Like the rest of the country, Pakistan Railways Multan Division organized special celebrations of Independence Day. In connection with the celebrations of Independence Day, a grand ceremony was organized in the premises of Railway DS Office Multan in which DS Railway Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza, Deputy DS Saima Bashir, DPO Shahid Raza, DCO Adnan Marwat Simat. Other officers and employees participated, on this occasion DS Railway Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza unfurled the flag, while prayers were also offered for the development and prosperity of the railway department and national security.

Speaking on this occasion, DS Rail-



way Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza said that today's day does not need any introduction or praise. On this day, Allah Almighty blessed us with a great blessing like freedom,

76 years ago today, the sun of 14th August rose with the promise of freedom. Independence Day reminds us of the sacrifices and goals of our elders and great leaders. Those who sacri-

ficed their lives and money to achieve freedom, as the head of a division in a national institution, I personally understand that one should continue to work with hard work and dedication, adopt compassionate behavior with one's subordinates.

A large number of railway officers and employees were present on this occasion, later DS Railway Hamad Hasan Mirza visited the patients in the railway hospital and distributed fruits among them.

On the occasion of Independence Day, railway Multan Division stations were decorated with colorful lights, flags and national flags.

On the other hand, on the occasion of Independence Day, the 14th August cake was cut in the DS office by the child whose birthday was the previous day.

Women University Multan celebrated 76th Independence Day

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Keeping its traditions alive, the Women University Multan celebrated 76th National Independence Day of Pakistan with great zeal and enthusiasm. The flag hoisting ceremony was performed by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kulsom Pracha followed by the national anthem at Katchery campus. A parade of security personnel of the university also took place at the ceremony. The event attracted a large number of faculty and staff members.

Addressing the ceremony VC Prof. Dr Kulsom Pracha paid special tribute to the sacrifices of ancestors and said that it was due to their sacrifices and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal that the nation was living in an independent atmosphere.

VC Dr Kalsoom Paracha said that Pakistan Movement is a lesson for every-



one. She said that no amount of hurdles could deter a nation from achieving its goals once it decided its path.

Dr. Mamoona Khan, Chairperson

Department of English said we have to strengthen Pakistan as this country belongs to us, our forefathers and to our next generations. She said we should not

forget our brothers and sisters of occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

Dr. Qammar Rubab, Registrar WUM said that August 14, 1947 was the day of victory, for which the Muslims of the Subcontinent made innumerable sacrifices under the enthusiastic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam and the dream of Allama Iqbal.

Dr. Azra Liaquat said that we have Pakistan, the Almighty Allah's gift and this day should be celebrated in full vigor as it is our reference point which commemorates the day when we got independence after rendering so many sacrifices.

Director Student Affairs, Dr Adeela Saeed said that Independence Day reminded us of our vision to transform the country in accordance with Quaid-e-Azam's dreams. She said that our homeland Pakistan was a gift of decades of struggle.

ICAP President Mr. M. Ali Latif Raises national flag on Pakistan's 76th Independence Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: ICAP President Mr. M. Ali Latif raised the Flag on Pakistan's 76th Independence Day, Uplifting the Spirit of Patriotism and National Unity. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) commemorated the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with a flag-raising ceremony at its offices across Pakistan. The event graced with profound reverence and enthusiasm, was presided over by Mr. M. Ali Latif, President ICAP.

The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the national flag, symbolizing the nation's strength, resilience, and the spirit of freedom that binds us together.

Speaking on the occasion, President ICAP, Mr. M. Ali Latif, emphasized the significance of Independence Day and



the pivotal role of chartered accountants in shaping Pakistan's econom-

ic landscape. He stated that on this momentous day, we commemorate the

sacrifices and struggles of our forefathers who fought tirelessly to secure our freedom. The history of our independence is a testament to the unwavering determination and resilience of our people. We should remember the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (RA) who envisioned Pakistan as an independent state where Muslims could live with dignity and freedom. The principles of unity, faith, and discipline continue to guide us as a nation. These principles have been the driving force behind our progress, helping us overcome numerous challenges and achieve remarkable milestones.

The event witnessed the presence of Council Members ICAP, distinguished Former Presidents, ICAP members, students, and staff who participated with great fervor, showcasing their love for Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, ceremoniously raised the national flag at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to commemorate the National Independence Day on Monday.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:58 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:58 pm
Maghrib 6:55 pm
Isha 8:25 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Without Pakistan we are nothing: Aasma Butt

Maryam Siddiq

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Butt said that without Pakistan we are nothing. We all have to work together to secure the safety of our beloved country Pakistan. To streamlined our economic relations with other friendly countries, including China, so that the country develops.

President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Butt said in her message on the occasion of Pakistan's 76th Independence Day that Pakistan became independent after countless sacrifices. It is the duty of every Pakistani to appreciate it. We have to avoid any action that brings shame to the dear country in front of anyone. Remember that the foundation of every relationship is honesty and loyalty. If we are not loyal to our country, we cannot be loyal to anyone.

Aasma Butt said that to make Pakistan economically strong, we have to strengthen relations with other countries including our sincere friend China. On the occasion of Independence Day, I pay tribute to Pakistan Army from the platform of our Federation. We all should pray for them who protect the borders of our beloved country with-

AIOU celebrated the Independence Day enthusiastically

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) enthusiastically celebrated the 76th birthday of the beloved country Pakistan (Independence Day). University security guards presented a guard of honour to the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and then he hoisted the flag. On this occasion, a collective prayer was offered for the stability and development of Pakistan. Children dressed in green and white clothes expressed their love for the country by performing national songs, speeches and a beautiful tableau named "Pakistan Zindabad".

The guests from Turkiye and Russia also attended the ceremony. Mr Aleksandr Mikhailov, Ms Anastasiia Tenikhina and Mr Rasim Akhatov from Russia, while from Turkey, the Director of Yunus Emre Institute, Dr Halil Tokar, Consul of Turkiye Embassy, Ms Balqees and Education Attaché, Mehmet Toyran attended the event. Turkish artists conveyed the message of Turkiye's love through music on Independence Day.

VC AIOU, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood said that the youth are the future of the country, so it is necessary for them to



give full attention to education and skills. He further said that great nations never forget the sacrifices of their forefathers and that is why today the Pakistani nation is paying homage to the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and our national poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other leaders of Tehreek-e-Pakistan. Dr Nasir Mahmood, while addressing the children said that

you all should learn from your ancestors, respect your parents, teachers, and elders, help the needy, care for each other's rights and learn the manners of living in society. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof Dr Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dr Samina Aman, Dr Zahid Majeed, Dr Halil Tokar, Mr Aleksandr Mikhailov and Ms Anastasiia Tenikhina also addressed the ceremony.

Diplomat Golf Cup

ISLAMABAD: Participants posing for a group photograph before Golf match title "Mango Fest Diplomat Golf Cup" at Bahria Golf city in Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Flag hoisting ceremony ignites patriotism at CBD Punjab's Independence Day celebrations

City Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), proudly celebrated Pakistan Independence Day under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. The commemorations were marked by a solemn flag-hoisting and cake-cutting ceremony held at the CBD Punjab House in Lahore.

The esteemed ceremony witnessed the presence of key dignitaries, including CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin,

COO CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Chairman PCBDDA, Fazeel Asif Jah, Executive Director Commercial CBD Punjab, Mohammad Omer, Executive Director Finance, Syed Habbab Subhani, ADG Housing LDA Captain (R) Shameer Iqbal and senior management of CBD Punjab. The staff members of CBD Punjab also joined in the patriotic celebration, reflecting their commitment to the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

While expressing his views on the occasion CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, said, "The celebrations resonate with our collective pledge to uphold

the values that led to Pakistan's creation. Through our various initiatives, we strive to infuse the spirit of Azadi-e-Taraqi o Kamaal into our projects and activities."

COO of CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, stated, "On this momentous occasion, we reaffirm our dedication to the advancement of our beloved nation. The spirit of freedom and unity echoes through our endeavors as we continue to raise the flag of Pakistan high."

In line with the theme of 'CELEBRATING AZADI-E-TARAQI O KAMAAL', CBD Punjab has orchestrated an

array of festivities, including captivating fireworks which were witnessed by a massive crowd of citizens of Lahore which left them stunned. A flag hoisting at Liberty Roundabout in collaboration with local government, and illuminating the Kalma Underpass CBD Punjab Boulevard were the main highlights of celebrations done by CBD Punjab. Kalma Underpass CBD Punjab Boulevard echoed with patriotic songs and Pakistan Zindabad chants. These events exemplify the authority's unwavering commitment to fostering progress, unity, and a bright future for Pakistan.



Jehangira: First Female TMO in the history of KPK Ms Shahana Hoisting National Flag at TMO Office Jehangira KPK celebrating the Independence Day

DCO announces the launch of the Digital Prosperity Awards

City Desk

KARACHI: The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) today announces the launch of the highly anticipated Digital Prosperity Awards to honor and celebrate the remarkable digital contributions that enable prosperity for all, particularly in advancing the digital economy, which has a critical role in boosting nations' development and growth.

The Digital Prosperity Awards are structured around three core pillars and each pillar is bestowed in individual award categories, each representing a crucial aspect of digital advancement. The three core pillars are: Digital Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Empowering Society.

"The launch of the Digital Prosperity Awards is a significant milestone in recognizing outstanding digital contributions of the organizations that enable prosperity for all", said Ms. Deemah AlYahya, the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO). "We are looking forward to identifying the best digital innovators from the DCO's Member States and worldwide that benefit humankind."

Ms. AlYahya added, "The awards aim to acknowledge exceptional initiatives in adopting best practices, policies, and strategies to accelerate digital transformation in their respective countries. The objective is to accelerate digital economic advancement and lay the groundwork for constructive cooperation, cultivating shared vision and aspirations among all stakeholders. The awards reinforce the role of the DCO as an information provide, advocator, facilitator, and advisor, speeding up the sustainable growth of the digital economy and digital transformation of Member States, further strengthening the welfare, social stability, and cooperation to achieve digital prosperity for all."

Independence Day reminds us of the unparalleled sacrifices of our forefathers: Malik Abrar

Maryam Siddiq

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Central President Malik Abrar Hussain said that Independence Day reminds us of the unparalleled sacrifices of our forefathers, the new generation needs to be told that our forefathers sacrificed their lives and dignity for the establishment of Pakistan. After sacrifices, we got a free homeland.



He expressed these views yesterday while addressing the colorful Independence Day ceremony held at the International Islamic School of Excellence as a special guest. Malik Abrar Hussain said that the entire nation is currently celebrating the 76th Independence Day of the country with great enthusiasm. Today is the day of renewal of pledge. was given to establish Pakistan. He said that it is more important than ever to tell the new generation about these sacrifices. At this time, there is a need to educate children about the real objectives of patriotism in educational institutions across the country. Children have to be told that the country, which has been achieved through great sacrifices, will have to work hard for the next generation to walk in the world community. He said that the private education sector is playing its active role to create patriotism and educational awareness in the new generation. Currently, Independence Day celebrations are being organized in private educational institutions across the country, in which the value and dignity of freedom is being highlighted in the new generation.

Positive Pakistan Foundation celebrates Independence Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: 76th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated by Positive Pakistan Foundation at AIMS Education System, with students from various universities joining in the festivities. Sir Abid Iqbal Khari, Chairman of Positive Pakistan Foundation, led the event, alongside distinguished speakers like Barrister Zafar Ullah Khan (Ex State Minister), as well as Uzma Gul, Syed Afaq, Umair Raza, Waleed Asghar Hussaini, and Aamir Raza Advocate.

The celebration wrapped up on a high note with a Plantation Drive, showcasing a commitment to a greener future, followed by a delightful Cake Cutting Ceremony that added a touch of sweetness to the occasion.

Marhaba Jashan Azadi Cycling Races celebrate Pakistan's 76th Independence Day

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Lahore Divisional Cycling Association, in collaboration with Marhaba Laboratories, orchestrated an exhilarating professional cycling event to commemorate Pakistan's 76th Independence Day. With over 70 professional cyclists participating, the races brought fervor and sportsmanship to the celebrations.



The male professional category saw Sanaullah clinch victory, while Natalia Khan emerged victorious in the women's category. The races commenced at Marhaba Laboratories, traversed through Qazlabash Chowk, and concluded at Marhaba Laboratories. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by Director Sales and Marketing, Mohammad Jameel Sahib.

At the closing ceremony, esteemed guests included Hakeem Usman, who distributed prizes to the triumphant athletes. Marketing Manager Irshad Bhatti was also present on the occasion. Shahzada Butt, President of Lahore Division Cycling Association, and General Secretary Sakhawati Ali Shah extended gratitude to Marhaba Laboratories for contributing to the vibrant festivities.

Colonel (R) Jehanzaib Khan Niazi, Senior Vice President of Punjab Cycling Association, appreciated the efforts of Mr. Jameel and his team, along with the Punjab Police and Rescue personnel for ensuring the event's success. This event marked a significant highlight of the Independence Day celebrations, showcasing the spirit of unity and athleticism.

NTDC celebrates 76th Independence Day with traditional zeal and enthusiasm

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) celebrated the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with great enthusiasm and traditional zeal. The main flag hoisting ceremony took place at the TSG Training Centre in New Kot Lakhpat, Lahore. The Chief Guest of the event was Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, who unfurled the National Flag in a solemn ceremony. Salutes were also given by the security guards of NTDC as a mark of respect.

In his address, Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan paid rich tribute to the sacrifices made for the creation of Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of working hard for the development and prosperity of our nation, recognizing the immense value of the country we call

home.

Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan expressed his pride in the dedicated efforts of every officer and staff member of NTDC who work day and night with the spirit of serving the nation. He highlighted the significant role NTDC is playing in the development of the country. During the previous fiscal year, NTDC successfully completed four important transmission line projects, resulting in improved power supply and a reduction in load shedding. He reaffirmed the commitment to continue working with the same spirit to complete ongoing NTDC projects in the current year.

The Managing Director urged all NTDC officers and employees to work with integrity, passion, and dedication for the national development and the betterment of the company.



As part of the celebrations, Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, cut the Independence Day cake and presented appointment letters to the children of NTDC employees (in service death quota). In addition, students from the NTDC school and children of employees presented national songs and speeches, showcasing their patriotism and love for the country. Special prayers were offered for peace, solidarity, and prosperity of the nation.

The event was attended by Deputy Managing Director (AD&M), General Managers, Chief Engineers, and NTDC officers and staff, who actively participated in the celebrations.

NTDC remains committed to uphold the values of independence and contributing to the progress and development of Pakistan.

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Supreme Court strikes back with vengeance

The Supreme Court dashed the PML(N)'s hopes of fully exonerating Nawaz Sharif's return and thus satisfied its ego when, right in front of the Supreme Court gate, while addressing thousands of coalition party supporters, the PDM leadership threatened the judges to resign and go home if they dared to rule in favour of the PTI and against the coalition government. Threatened by the government and parliament, as well as hundreds of charged workers, the supreme court was irritated but restrained itself to instructing the attorney general to warn the administration and parliament not to use disrespectful language about the Pakistan Supreme Court. On the other hand, it did not press for the implementation of its ruling, which had called on the government, parliament, and the election commission to convene the Punjab assembly elections within 90 days, which they all brutally ignored.

The power to decide the timing of the election, it is the considered opinion of the jurist that this implies that the election commission can decide the date of election within 90 days or prior to 90 days but not beyond 90 days. I hope that there will be a lot of litigation about the interpretation of the Election Commission's powers in determining election dates.

The PML(N) was so enamoured with power and backing from the appropriate quarters that it made the return of Nawaz Sharif a must for holding the next general election. It was also conditional on providing a level playing field, which according to the PML(N) narrative meant equally the balancing panel of justice for the Nawaz family. It meant removal of Imran Khan and placing Shahbaz in his place, quashing of all cases against Nawaz Sharif and his family, imprison Imran Khan, as he had done to Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and his brother Shahaz Sharif and majority of the PML(N) leadership, removing PTI from power from Punjab, KP and Kashmir, embroiled Imran Khan into as many cases as possible as he did to her and to her family, Shatter PTI and unnerve Imran Khan. While the PML(N) reached one milestone after

another, it also took legal steps to reinstate Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister for the fourth time, unless he abdicated in favour of his brother or daughter.

With a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament, the PML(N) was unable to amend Article 188 to grant Nawaz the right to appeal the 10-year prison term imposed by the Accountability Court in Islamabad on July 6, 2018, on charges of corruption related to the purchase of four London flats. In addition, he was fined PKR 1.1 billion (USD 7.8 million). Sharif had already exhausted his right of review appeal, which had previously been dismissed by Pakistan's Supreme Court on January 14th, 2019 and had reached finality.

Court, which dismissed the suit in July 2018. As a result, this decision is now definitive.

The convictions in both cases have since reached finality under Article 188 of the Constitution, which allows the Supreme Court to review its own decisions, and Article 189, which states that "Any decision of the Supreme Court that decides a legal question or is based on or articulates a legal principle shall be binding on all other courts in Pakistan." To get around the lack of a two-thirds majority in both chambers of parliament, the PML(N) enacted the Supreme Court Practise and Procedure Act 2023 (SCPPA 2023), which was rubber stamped by the opposition-free Assembly on July 1, 2023. This statute curtailed several of the Chief Justice's powers while broadening the scope of the Supreme Court's review jurisdiction by granting the appellant the authority to file an appeal against the Supreme Court's own decision, but before a different bench than had announced the initial decision.

The Supreme Court, on the other hand, suspended the law even before it became an act, and in the meanwhile began regular hearings and timed the publication of the ultimate ruling with the date of dissolution of the National Assembly and termination of the government to minimise the anticipated reaction and protest.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Earlier, on July 28, 2017, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disqualified Nawaz Sharif from holding public office for life in a different case. The Court also prevented him from running for office for ten years and ordered that his assets be frozen. The judgement was made in response to a petition brought by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which claimed Sharif had acquired assets outside of his known sources of income. Nawaz Sharif contested the Court's verdict at the Lahore High Court, but the decision was affirmed. Sharif then petitioned the Supreme

Chinese company to help Pakistan boost edible oil production

Pakistan's annual consumption of edible oil is around 5 million tons, but due to the low economic potential of oilseeds in the local market, they are not preferred by the farmers.

The country has to import about 89 percent of oil to meet the demand, spending US\$3.6 billion annually. Pakistan's iron brother, China, also has great demand for edible oil.

Last year, China's cooking oil consumption is about 13.44 million tons. China also suffered a short domestic supply of edible oil until the mid-1950s, when China began to promote brassica napus, also known as victory rapeseed.

Brassica napus plants are tall, disease resistant, and more importantly, the yield is very high.

The improvement of rapeseed varieties laid the foundation for China to greatly increase rapeseed production.

In recent years, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has made a great breakthrough in breeding new varieties of rapeseed, which have been extended to some parts of northern China.

Rapeseed now realized seasonal rotation with rice, wheat and other staple crops, which maximizes the utilization of arable land. Such Chinese experience and technologies can be a good reference for Pakistan, according to CEN.

Chinese company Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng and a Pakistani company Evyol Group jointly provide high-quality hybrid rapeseeds to Pakistani farmers.

"It took us 10 years to produce a variety that is compatible with the local climate, produces a good yield and is good for human health," said Ghazanfar Ali, head of marketing in the Evyol group.

"The crop provides an increased profit for the farmers. They can get 1.5 tons of yield out of 2 acres of land, which is over 10 percent more than the yield from other varieties currently available in Pakistan."

"This year we sold 11 tons of seeds across Pakistan, which will be cultivated on 20,000 acres, and our target for next year is 100 tons," said Zhou Xusheng, director of the international business department of Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng Seed company.

The Chinese company will also buy back the canola harvest from some of the farmers and send it to the edible oil factories so that both farmer and the factory owners can realize the potential and health benefits of the oil.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Independence Day and internal Enemies of Pakistan - II

The entire nation is adorned with the colors of the flag as people dress up in green and white, and streets are decorated with bunting and lights. Patriotic songs and national anthems fill the air, and various cultural events, parades, and ceremonies are organized across the country. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan deliver speeches highlighting the nation's achievements and future goals. Prayers are offered for the prosperity and well-being of the nation, and homage is paid to the leaders and individuals who played a pivotal role in the struggle for independence.

The same old things are repeated, but the newspaper itself writes that "we have not received confirmation of the cipher from any source." On this account, any one and PTI members like Adil Raja can make up a story by himself and give it to the American newspaper that these are cipher words and tell that we are related to the army and this newspaper will print it. Although this newspaper itself clearly admits that they have not received confirmation of the cipher from any reliable sources. If this cipher narrative was true, then the PDM government would have supported Ukraine on the war in Ukraine, but not only Pakistan remained neutral, but despite American pressure in the United Nations, Pakistan did

not support Ukraine. Then what benefited the United States from the removing Imran Khan (according to him) whereas decisions and policy remained neutral. It is also clear here that Tehreek-e-Insaf is giving huge sums of money to its lobby groups in America and using all energies to defame Pakistan and its institutions. Adil Raja can also prove to this newspaper that I belong to the army by writing the cipher himself because this newspaper is admitting that we have not verified this cipher from any credible source. The US Department of State also said that the US is not involved in any conspiracy against the Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf and former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. Spokesperson of the US Department of State, Matthew Miller, said in a press conference that the allegations leveled against the US regarding Pakistan are false and will remain false. The evidences clearly show that Imran Khan is using cipher drama just for his political interests. He doesn't care for dignity of Pakistan he is only interested for himself and his political gains.

Then recently, alleged diary of Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Movement for Democracy, has

come to light in which shocking and eye-catching revelations have come out. In the alleged diary, Bushra Bibi is giving political dictation to Chairman PTI, Bushra Bibi is even telling when and what will be the political strategy of PTI, Bushra Bibi is also telling that Who will put pressure on the judiciary, the army and the government? In the alleged diary of Bushra Bibi, it has also been revealed that if the governor imposes the rule, then preparations should be made for legal proceedings and closing the city, if the governor imposes the rule, then the wheel jam strike should be carried out. It has also been revealed in the alleged diary that there is so much

pressure that the court cannot give a negative decision, i.e. there are many people, not announcing first and not telling the party how many days you are coming, on the day of the court decision. It is necessary to create a public atmosphere from morning so that the court cannot make any negative decision, it is better to get a statement from big lawyers, just to keep a pressure. In the alleged diary of Imran Khan's wife, it has also been revealed that some important questions that the lawyers have to ask and Khan did not speak are: Why is every request we bring for justice not heard?

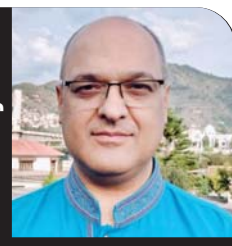
Bandial has come, Nawaz had said that now let's see how this government will last. Pakistan is facing a wave of terrorism from TTP and on the other side is PTI which is playing the role of an enemy from within the country. They are ready to go to any extent for their personal and political interests.

Readers, Pakistan Day, celebrated on the 14th of August, is a day of immense pride and significance for all Pakistanis. It marks the hard-fought freedom from British colonial rule and the creation of an independent Muslim state. The day is celebrated with great fervor and patriotism, reinforcing the spirit of unity and progress. As Pakistan looks back on its journey since independence and sets its course for the future, it is crucial to remember the sacrifices of the past and work together to build a strong, prosperous, and harmonious nation. Pakistan Day serves as a constant reminder of the values and principles that form the foundation of this great nation, inspiring generations to come. The day also demands to take strict actions against the internal enemies of the country and its remarkable army who are continuously engaged in malicious attacks against the country and its institutions. The nation also demands that the real Independence should be ensured also by teaching strict lesson to internal anti-state elements.

Concluded

Writer is senior analyst.

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

Are we experiencing a phase of intellectual obscurity in the Muslim world? - I

It is a widely acknowledged reality that among the 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide, their contribution to global knowledge is disproportionately modest. Despite being the majority populace in 57 nations and having a presence in nearly every country, only three Nobel laureates in science have emerged from this community throughout the history of the esteemed Nobel Prize. The representation of universities from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states within the top 500 global universities is marginally better, though not by much.

Beyond clichés, there exists a widely held perspective that the advancement of science in the

Muslim world significantly trails behind the progress seen in other parts of the globe. This belief is partly grounded in indicators such as worldwide university rankings, investment in research, the ratio of researchers per million inhabitants, and the performance of students before university. The reasons for this underperformance and potential strategies for improvement are subjects of vigorous debate.

In recent times, numerous countries with Muslim-majority populations have taken significant strides to allocate their limited resources towards enhancing scientific advancement in general, and specifically, in improving their universities. These efforts aim to bring about a transformative change in a situation that has persisted for decades, if not centuries. Universities serve as the cornerstone of a knowledge-based society. In developed regions, these institutions have evolved over several centuries,

specializing in the creation and dissemination of knowledge.

In the Muslim world, especially within the Arab nations, universities have emerged relatively recently. A significant portion of Arab universities, about 75%, were established during the last 25 years of the 20th century.

Universities in Muslim-majority countries have generally ranked poorly in global university rankings. For instance, in the 2014-15 QS World University Rankings, no Muslim-majority university made the top 100, and only 17 were in the top 400. The need to improve rankings and establish world-class universities has been emphasized, with limited success. A notable discovery is the limited scope of scientific education in many universities across the Islamic world. In numerous

OIC nations, students typically choose their scientific path between the ages of 14 and 18, after which their studies become highly focused within their selected field. This approach hinders the cultivation of diverse interests and poses obstacles to a successful and fulfilling scientific career.

Another area of deficiency in the science education within the Muslim world pertains to the absence of philosophy and the history of science in university curricula. Consequently, proficient scientists often miss out on delving deeper into this captivating realm of knowledge, impeding their ability to pose essential critical inquiries. The concept of a contemporary university that interweaves science with history and philosophy can potentially address this gap.

To be continued

Analysis



Malaika Sarwar

ISSI's Web celebration on Independence Day 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Abiding commitment to the vision of founding founder Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah is the best path forward for Pakistan on its way to sustainable peace, progress and prosperity. This was stressed by Amb Sohail Mahmood, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), at the Institute's web celebration of Independence Day 2023.

Hosted by ISSI's Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC), the web celebration was moderated by Director ACDC Malik Qasim Mustafa and attended by the research faculty and staff of ISSI.

A presentation on the theme "Peace Within and Peace Without," was given by ACDC Research Associate Ms. Aamna Rafiq. She stated that despite

complex and difficult geopolitical, geoeconomic, and geostrategic dynamics in the regional and global landscape, Pakistan has faithfully adhered to the Quaid's vision of peaceful coexistence with all states.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that independence anniversaries are always special occasions — as they entail both celebration as well as reflection. But, first and foremost, they are the occasions for remembrance and expression of gratitude. It is important to remember all the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice so that the succeeding generations could live as a free, independent and sovereign nation.

Over the past 76 years, the DG ISSI added, Pakistan has achieved so much that it should be proud of. A country, being

written off due to complex social, political, and economic problems at the outset and lacking basic infrastructure and vital resources, has not only survived well but also has become a formidable member of the comity of nations with nuclear capability — only through sheer grit, tenacity and resilience. These are the attributes of living nations.

Amb Sohail Mahmood stressed that the key in this regard is an abiding commitment to the Quaid's vision of Pakistan as an economically strong, socially progressive, democratic, Islamic welfare state. "Peace Within, Peace Without" was a cardinal principle of Quaid's vision for Pakistan as a polity and nation-state. Faithful implementation of this vision would enable Pakistan to attain sustainable peace, progress and prosperity, he emphasised.



"Abiding commitment to Quaid's Vision is the best path forward for Pakistan" — ISSI's Web Celebration on Independence Day 2023

The research faculty from the centers of excellence and staff officers, while expressing their

views, noted the challenges being currently faced and underlined the imperatives of unity, faith, discipline, continued hard work, patience, tolerance, perseverance and resilience. They shed light on the need for a positive attitude, a forward-looking approach, sacrifice, and valuing the freedom achieved several decades ago and working hard for the fulfillment of the vision of Pakistan.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood Chairman BoG, ISSI stated that Independence Day is not only a day of celebration but also a day of introspection. The people of Pakistan should always remember and respect the struggles and sacrifices made by their forefathers. Furthermore, think tanks like ISSI are playing a positive part in building the narrative of Pakistan and this important role should continue.

Pakistan's 76th Independence Day marked in Canada

Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: The 76th Independence Day of Pakistan was marked in Canada with elaborate flag hoisting ceremonies held at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa and the Consulates General of Pakistan in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

The main event of the day was the flag hoisting ceremony held at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa where High Commissioner for Pakistan Zaheer Janjua hoisted the national flag to the accompaniment of the National Anthem. The Messages of the President and the Prime Minister were read out. Later, a beautiful specially made cake in green and white Pakistani flag colours to fit the occasion was cut in the presence of a large number of Pakistan expatriates gathered at the chancery.

In his message on the occasion, High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua felicitated the Pakistani diaspora in Canada and across the globe on the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. He paid



glowing tribute to the founding fathers of Pakistan for their heroic struggle in attaining the goal of an independent motherland.

He said Pakistan was a country of

young nation which had surmounted challenges and overcome many difficulties in the past 76 years. With mutual unity and determination, we can achieve the goal of a strong and

prosperous Pakistan as envisioned by our founding fathers, he said.

He described Pakistan's relationship with Canada as cordial, friendly and based on commonality of interests. We have expanded our ties and enhancing cooperation and collaboration in many fields, including trade, commerce, educational and cultural linkages, he added.

He also paid rich tributes to the Pakistani diaspora in Canada for their role in strengthening bilateral relationship and contributing to the development of their adopted home and the country of their origin. He hoped and prayed the Kashmiris suffering under the Indian yoke would win their freedom soon.

Earlier, the High Commissioner also attended "Pakistan Festival", a cultural fest featuring a host of attractions, including food and clothing stalls, shoes, jewellery, paintings, artifacts etc, at a local park in the Canadian capital. The event was organised by Salam Pakistan Canada, a local organisation of Pakistani Canadians.

Shafqat Ali Khan hails role of Pakistani community in furthering relations with Russia



Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Relations with the Russian Federation are an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy, said HE Mr Shafqat Ali Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia addressing an event to mark 76th anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

The Ambassador said that relations between Pakistan and Russia are on very positive trajectory. He expressed confidence in further strengthening relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador praised the invaluable role of the Pakistani community in Russia in enhancing cooperation and bringing the two countries closer to each other.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow hosted an event to celebrate the 76th anniversary of independence of Pakistan today, on 14 August 2023.

The ceremony started with the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by a flag hoisting ceremony. The messages of the President and the Prime Minister were read out by Third Secretary Muhammad Tayyab and Third Secretary Mr. Jetha Nand respectively.

A Russian string quartet of Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory-Home performed classical adaptations of Pakistani songs 'Jeevay Jeevay', 'Sohni Dharti' and 'Dil Dil Pakistan'.

Pakistanis residing in Russian Federation also presented national songs and children performed on stage. The performance was greatly appreciated by the audience, which included the members of the Pakistani community in Russia, employees of the Embassy, as well as Russian friends of Pakistan.

Chinese mainland announces anti-dumping measure on PC imports from Taiwan

Xinhua

BEIJING: The Chinese commerce ministry on Monday announced that deposits will be levied on polycarbonate (PC) imports from the Taiwan region starting from Tuesday as an anti-dumping measure.

PC imports from Taiwan have engaged in dumping activities, causing concrete damages to the mainland's PC industry, the commerce ministry said in a statement, citing a preliminary investigation.

Last year, the commerce ministry announced the launch of an anti-dumping investigation into PC imports from Taiwan.

PC can be used in many fields such as electronic appliances, automobiles, optics, packaging and medical devices.

Women community celebrates the Independence Day of Pakistan



Arif Chaudhary

ASHTON, UK: The active women of the community, Zunira Afzal, Nargis Ali and Nabila Akram organized a colorful ceremony in the community center of Ashton Central Mosque with reference to the Independence Day of Pakistan. Special participation of Team Side Council Mayor Faheeh Sharif. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. The tunes of the national anthem of Pakistan warmed the atmosphere and the beautiful green dresses of women and children added to the splendor of the ceremony. Mayor Team Side Council Farhi Sharif is celebrating the Independence Day of Pakistan in a magnificent manner. Women are wearing green clothes. Children's participation made the atmosphere more colorful. We will also celebrate Kashmir in the same way. Zunira Afzal said that we were eager to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan so that we could educate our children about the independence of Pakistan. And make an ideal country. Happy Independence Day to all Pakistanis-Community leader Nabila Akram and Iskina Bibi from London said that in the Independence Day ceremony, we pasted the pictures of the fathers of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal to show our children can tell that because of them we got Pakistan. Green flags and balloons made the ceremony memorable.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony on Pakistan's Independence Day

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan High Commission, Dhaka this morning to mark the Nation's 76th Independence Day Anniversary. Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui hoisted national flag at the Chancery to the tune of the national anthem. The ceremony was attended by the members Pakistan community in Bangladesh, local media persons and staff of the High Commission. Messages of the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister were read out on the occasion.

In their messages, the leadership of Pakistan congratulated the nation on this auspicious occasion and paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of Pakistan's founding fathers. They renewed commitment to transform Pakistan as envisioned by the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. They urged the countrymen to stand united and work for the progress and development of Pakistan. The Pakistani leadership in their messages also expressed solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), who are facing Indian atrocities for decades. They reaffirmed Paki-



stan's unwavering political, moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris just struggle.

The High Commissioner, while felicitating the Pakistani community in Bangladesh and Bhutan on this auspicious occasion highlighted the significance of the national day. Reiterating the messages of the leadership, he emphasized that this day served as a reminder to all Pakistanis of the momentous struggle undertaken by our forefathers, aiming to establish a sovereign homeland where we could enjoy religious, cultural, and social freedoms in our lives.

Honoring the sacrifices made by our forefathers, Mr. Siddiqui underlined the significance of the vision of Poet-Philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal and the principles of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who envisioned Pakistan as a progressive and moderate welfare state.

A photographic exhibition of rare photographs of the Founding Father and eminent leaders of Pakistan movement was also organized on the occasion with the aim to provide an opportunity to the participants to reflect on the historic struggle for independence.

Special prayers were offered for the well-being of Pakistan, its people and the emancipation of people of IIOJK from Indian occupation.

Mainland firmly opposes Lai Ching-te's US 'stopover': spokesperson

Xinhua

BEIJING: A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Sunday voiced firm opposition to visit by Lai Ching-te to the United States in any name or under whatever pretext.

Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the remarks when asked for comments on Lai's arriving in New York for a "stopover."

We have stated our position clearly on Lai's U.S. "stopover" on many occasions, Zhu said, adding that the Chinese mainland firmly opposes Lai's acts to harm Taiwan by soliciting U.S. support for his independence agenda. She expressed firm opposi-



tion to any form of U.S. connivance and support for "Taiwan independence" separatists and their separatist activities.

Describing himself as "a pragmatic 'Taiwan independence' worker," Lai clings stubbornly to the separatist posi-

tion for "Taiwan independence," Zhu said.

Under the pretext of "stopover," Lai is selling Taiwan away

to grab selfish gains for his own election, which will ultimately damage the interests of the people of Taiwan and undermine the peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, said Zhu, noting that he is a troublemaker through and through.

"Cross-Strait peace and stability and 'Taiwan independence' are as irreconcilable as water and fire," Zhu said.

These moves made by "Taiwan independence" separatist forces run counter to the dominant will of Taiwan people for peace, development, exchanges and cooperation. "In the end, they will only drag Taiwan into a treacherous zone of war and bring disaster to compatriots in Taiwan," Zhu said.

PRCS celebrates 76th Independence Day with Zeal and Zest



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) commemorated the nation's 76th Independence Day with enthusiasm and fervor, highlighting unity and patriotism in a series of vibrant celebrations.

The event commenced at the National Headquarters (NHQ) of PRCS on Monday, where the atmosphere was adorned with the national colors of green and white, resonating the spirit of freedom. Distinguished guests, including Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Secretary General Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, PRCS Treasurer and member managing body Dr. Irshad Muhammad and representatives of IFRC, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross, and German Red Cross, as well as officers, volunteers, and students from various educational institutions of Islamabad, graced the occasion with their presence.

Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, in a media interaction during the event, reflected on the significance of Independence Day. He stated, "Independence Day stands as a testament to our nation's resilience and unity. It is a time to honor the unwavering spirit that unites us in our collective pursuit of progress and prosperity. We pay homage to the dedicated individuals who have tirelessly served and safeguarded our nation."

Highlighting the relentless dedication of PRCS volunteers and staff, Chairman Laghari expressed immense pride in their ceaseless efforts to provide assistance, relief, and support to those in need. "As Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society," he affirmed, "I take immense pride in the ceaseless endeavors of our volunteers and staff, who work tirelessly day and night to extend aid, alleviate suffering, and catalyze positive change in the lives of our fellow citizens. Our commitment to the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality remains steadfast."

During the event, Secretary General Muhammad Abaidullah Khan also addressed the audience and expressed deep respect for the sacrifices and hardships endured by our predecessors, who laid the foundation for a self-reliant and autonomous Pakistan.

Coinciding with the celebrations, PRCS unveiled its new YouTube Channel, a significant milestone that underscores PRCS's commitment to bolstering communication, engagement, and outreach within the community and beyond.

Institute of Nation Building celebrates 14 August



KARACHI: The Institute of Nation Building, Quaid e Azam House Museum (formerly Flagstaff House, Karachi) organized a celebration of 14th August with 140 teachers, parents and school pupils to march, sing and recite poems about Quaid e Azam.

The programme began with the hoisting of the flag by Liaquat Merchant and Ikram Sehgal, Co-chairmen of the Quaid e Azam House Museum Institute of Nation Building. Ameena Saiyid, board member and managing director of Lightstone Publishers, was present. Copies of Our Quaid, a children's book on Jinnah, written by Amina Azfar and published by Lightstone Publishers, were distributed to the children present.

Amina Azfar and Shanaz Wazir Ali, Trustee of Nasra School, also addressed the gathering. Nadira Panjwani of Ida Rieu School and Sister Elizabeth, Principal of St Joseph's Convent School, were present. The pupils of various Karachi schools sang songs and recited poems about the Quaid.

Commodore Sadeed gave the vote of thanks.

NBP Celebrates Pakistan's 76th Independence Day

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) celebrated Pakistan's 76th Independence Day by organizing a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Head Office. The National flag was hoisted by Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President & CEO, NBP along with executives, employees, and their families.

Paying tribute to the national heroes of Pakistan, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie said, "At National Bank of Pakistan, we take immense pride in playing our part in driving the nation's economic progress. With an unwavering commitment to excellence in banking, we shall continue to foster growth and prosperity, empowering businesses and individuals alike to reach new heights of financial success. Through innovative solutions and dedicated services, we aim to be the cornerstone of Pakistan's economic development, supporting dreams and aspirations on the path to a brighter future. I am glad to share that Nation's Bank will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee next year"

Sharing his thoughts on the auspicious occasion, Mr. Hasnie said, "As the President and CEO of the nation's bank, I am committed to providing enhanced opportunities and facilitating growth opportunities for both our institution and the nation we serve. Together, we shall forge a path towards a brighter future, where prosperity and success are shared by



every citizen of Pakistan."

Throughout the years, the bank has garnered numerous accolades, reflecting its unwavering commitment to excellence. Notably, it received the esteemed GDEIB Awards in 2023, followed by the Asian Banking Award in 2022 as well as ranking No. 1 in agriculture financing by the State Bank of Pakistan in 2023.

National Bank of Pakistan has always

focused on developing financial products to cater to the rapidly changing demands of Pakistani consumers. To enhance accessibility and convenience, the Bank is integrating non-banking sectors into the financial realm, promoting nationwide adoption of Digital Banking.

Proactive strides are taken towards impactful CSR by involving local communities, and fostering collaborative initiatives for sustain-

able change. Through continuous engagement, the bank bridging social gaps, enriching lives and strengthening its bonds with the society it serves.

At the end of the ceremony, the President National Bank of Pakistan thanked all the employees for attending the event. All the participants prayed for the progress, peace, and prosperity of the country and the well-being of the nation.

Speakers call for making Pakistan a prosperous and welfare state

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), in collaboration with Pakistan Cultural Forum, organized a Jashan-e-Azadi Mushaira to celebrate the country's 76th Independence Day. Prominent poets including Iftikhar Arif, Professor Jalil Ali, Ali Akbar Abbas, Naseem Sahar, Hasan Abbas Raza, Mehboob Zafar, Qayyum Tahir, Tariq Naeem, Wafa Chishti, Salman Basit, Rana Saeed Doshi, Dr. Junaid Azhar, Darshehwar Tauseef, Shazia Akbar, Abbas Hashmi and Shahbaz Chauhan participated. IG Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan was the chief guest of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, IG Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal had dreamed of a separate country for the Muslims of the subcontinent where they would have the freedom to live according to their religion and his dream was realized by the Founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that the founders of Pakistan had envisioned an independent country where the basic needs of life of people are easily met and they live a peaceful life. He stressed that every member of society should play a role to translate their vision into a reality.

Distinguished poet Iftikhar Arif said that Independence Day reminds us to work hard to make Pakistan a prosperous country. He said that while Pakistan has made unpre-



cedented progress in many fields, still 40 percent of the population in Pakistan is living in poverty while 20 million children are out of school. He said that such issues have to be addressed to reap the full benefits of independence.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry congratulated the nation on celebrating the 76th Independence Day. He said that the true meaning of life is incomplete without the great blessing of freedom. He said that Pakistan is the result of the great sacrifices of our forefathers and we all have to work together to make this country the great nation of the world. He urged all the political parties to agree on a Charter of Economy to set a right direction for

the country and to promote business and investment in Pakistan by making long-term economic policies.

Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari paid tributes to the founders of Pakistan who made great sacrifices to get a free homeland for us. He said that today we pledge to make Pakistan a great country in the world by following the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that on Independence Day, we should also remember our Kashmiri brothers who have been fighting for freedom for many decades.

On this occasion, poets presented blood-warming poems regarding Independence Day and received applause from the audience.

Petrol, Diesel prices likely to increase amid oil market pressure

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The prices of petroleum products are likely to surge by Rs 20 per liter across the country, following the global market dynamics.

According to the details, crude oil prices have surged from \$86 to \$91 per barrel due to the rise in petroleum products' global prices. Additionally, a separate premium charge of \$2 per barrel has been applied to crude oil.

The per-liter prices of both petrol and diesel have already escalated from \$97 to \$102, signifying an upward trend. If these prices persist, the cost of petrol could potentially increase by Rs. 15 per liter, while diesel might see an increase of Rs. 20 per liter, across the country.

The Pakistan Democrat-

ic Movement (PDM) coalition has imposed an unprecedented burden on consumers with substantial hikes in electricity and gas tariffs. This move has imposed an additional burden of over Rs. 1.8 trillion on consumers.

During its tenure, the previous government significantly raised the prices of petroleum products, reaching as high as Rs. 129.25 per liter for petrol, while the basic electricity tariff saw an increase of up to Rs. 15.41 per unit. Similarly, gas rates witnessed an increase of up to 112%, leading to historical highs.

Last year, an additional surcharge of Rs. 3.39 per unit was levied separately on electricity consumers. Gas consumers were burdened with an extra load of over Rs. 310 billion.

The 76th Independence Day celebrated at FPCCI capital office

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 76th Independence Day was celebrated on Monday with traditional and patriotic zeal and zest Federation Of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry. To mark Independence Day, special functions, flag hoisting, and cake Cutting ceremony are organized by FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad.

The Chairman of the Coordination Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman hoisted the national flag in the building of the FPCCI Capital House. Sabohi Hussain SVP RWCCI, Almas Akhtar GB Member FPCCI, Ms. Foiza Tabasm, Ayesha Javeid, Amara Amjed, Arifa Asghar, Noreen Tariq, Munteha Sahrukh, and others cut a cake to celebrate the 76th Independence Day. The participants offered prayers for the integrity, solidarity, and peace of the country. They especially condemned the Indian atrocities against the innocent people in India's Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).



On the occasion, the Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman congratulated the entire nation and said that the 14th of August is a day to reaffirm our commitment to our country and play our individual and collective role for its progress and prosperity as per the vision of our forefathers adding that undoubtedly, independence is a great blessing.

FPCCI will continue to raise issues of small traders in assemblies, relevant govern-

ment departments, and forums for their amicable resolution.

The participants offered prayers for peace, prosperity, and development of the country. We, as a nation, owe our independence to the struggle and sacrifices of our forefathers and it is an occasion to pay tribute to those sacrifices, the participants said. They further said that 14 August also reminded us of the sacrifices of those sons of the soil who laid their lives while defending the territorial and ideological frontiers of our country.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has temporarily halted its imports of Russian crude oil as the refining process yielded more furnace oil than petrol, simultaneously, making arrangements of negotiating a long-term agreement with Russia for the import of oil at 'discounted rates'.

According to sources in the energy sector, it is stated that the quantity of jet fuel and diesel extracted from Russian oil was relatively low, resulting in less beneficial outcomes for the country.

Sources further revealed that Pakistani refineries have declined further processing of Russian oil, resulting in 20



percent less petrol obtained compared to Arab crude oil during refining.

The sources stated that Pakistan had imported around 100,000 tons of crude oil from Russia; however, Pakistan Refinery has refuted these claims.

The energy sector sources expressed that the endeavor with crude oil imported from Russia was successful and will again process Russian crude oil when it becomes available on 'favorable trade terms'.

RCCI celebrates 76th Independence Day of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to mark the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

In his message President RCCI Saqib Rafiq said that on this day, the business community pledges that they will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice for the sake of their dear homeland Pakistan and will continue to play their full role in the progress and development of the country.

He said that it is also a day of happiness; a day of bowing down

our heads before Almighty Allah in thankfulness and a day of renewing our pledge that we will continue to struggle with unity and oneness for the objectives, for which Pakistan was created.

RCCI President Mr. Saqib Rafiq, Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altuf along with Dr. Jamal Nasir, Interim Provincial Minister, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatha, Deputy Commissioner Hassan Waqar Cheema, DG RDA Saif Anwar Jappa attended the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan and hoisted the flag of Pakistan. Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice

President Mr. Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, members of the executive committee and a large number of traders attended the ceremony.

Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, President Small Chamber Tariq Jadoon, members of the executive committee and a large number of traders attended the ceremony.

A cake cutting ceremony was also held to mark the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

H. E Totuiaev Ulanbek Asankulovich Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan & Defense Attaché Embassy of



Egypt were also present on the occasion.

Independence Day celebrated at Pakistan embassy in Belgium

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Independence Day of Pakistan was observed with patriotic zeal and spirit in a graceful ceremony at the embassy of Pakistan here on Monday.

The national flag of the country was hoisted by Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, Amna Baloch at the Chancery building.

The messages of the President and Prime Minister on the occasion of Independence Day were read out during the ceremony. The Pakistani leadership in their separate messages paid glowing tributes to the sacrifices of Pakistan's founding fathers. They reaffirmed their commitment to make tireless efforts to realize the vision of the founding fathers.

In her message on the occasion, Ambassador Baloch stressed the importance of the vision of Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and poet-philosopher, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who envisaged Pakistan to be a peaceful and



prosperous country. Independence Day celebrated at Pakistan embassy in Belgium

The embassy also hosted a delightful

Mango Festival on Pakistan's 76th Independence Day. Ambassador Baloch inaugurated the Mango Festival. The festival showcased the nation's prized export

– the succulent and flavorful mangoes. The attendees were treated to a sensory journey through the vibrant world of Pakistani mangoes, savoring a diverse array of varieties known for their exquisite taste and aroma.

The Mango Festival not only celebrated the nation's independence but also highlighted the agricultural prowess and cultural significance of this beloved fruit.

A variety of interesting activities were also organized by the embassy, including a photographic exhibition about the cultural heritage, history and tourism potential of Pakistan and a poster/painting competition with the theme of Independence Day of Pakistan. The ambassador awarded certificates to the participants of the poster/painting competition.

A wide segment of the Pakistani community living in Belgium and Luxembourg including women and children participated in the celebrations. The participants were treated with a traditional Pakistani brunch after the event.

Ethiopian Envoy felicitates Pakistan on 76th Independence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Jemal Beker Abdula on Monday extended warm and heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan on their 76th Independence Day.



"As we join in your celebrations, we reflect upon our shared cultural and political values and common goals that bind our two great nations together," the ambassador remarked in his message on the Independence Day.

"During my stay in Pakistan, I have been deeply impressed by the rich tapestry of history and culture that defines this resilient nation. The strong bond anchored in history and culture between Pakistan and Ethiopia has been evident in the warm hospitality and camaraderie extended to me and my team during my stay," the ambassador said.

He assured the Pakistani nation of his unwavering commitment to further strengthening and deepening the bilateral relations between the two countries. "By taking special initiatives and fostering robust cooperation in various fields, we can propel our nations towards a new era of enhanced partnership and mutual prosperity," he added.

"The exchange of knowledge, experiences, and appreciation of each other's cuisine and culture has been an enlightening journey for me. Pakistanis are a lovely nation, and I am grateful for the friendship and cooperation extended to me during my tenure here," the ambassador remarked.

76th anniversary of Independence Day celebrated in New Delhi

Spokesman Report

NEW DELHI: High Commission for Pakistan here celebrated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan with national zeal and patriotic spirit on Monday.



Aizaz Khan, Chargé d' Affaires, hoisted the national flag on the occasion. Officers and staff of the High Commission along with their families were present. Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out to the audience.

The Chargé d' Affaires in his remarks paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other leaders of freedom struggle, who carved out a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent, where they could live in accordance with their own values and traditions. He stated that supreme sacrifices rendered by our founding fathers could not be forgotten. He added that we could achieve new heights of greatness and prosperity for our country, if we remain united as a nation and focus our efforts towards economic progress and social justice.

Independence Day celebrated in Tokyo

Spokesman Report

TOKYO: The embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo commemorated the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan on Monday here with a fervent celebration that echoed the spirit of freedom and unity. The event took place at the embassy premises, where ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar unfurled the Pakistani flag at 9:00 am amidst a gathering of enthusiastic Pakistani nationals residing in Japan.



Ambassador Tarar read out the messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, which highlighted the nation's accomplishments and aspirations for the future.

Adding a musical touch to the occasion, a soul-stirring Qawwali performance captivated the audience and resonated with the essence of Pakistan's cultural heritage. The Qawwali not only entertained but also brought to life the rich artistic traditions that define the nation's identity.

Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for their unwavering support and shared enthusiasm in commemorating this significant day.

Pakistan High Commission, London celebrates 76th Independence Day

Spokesman Report

LONDON: The Pakistan High Commission in London marked Pakistan's 76th Independence Day with a dignified flag hoisting ceremony on Monday.

Pakistan High Commission, London celebrates 76th Independence Day

The High Commissioner Dr. Mohammad Faisal raised the national flag. The ceremony was attended by the diaspora community and British friends of Pakistan, showcasing unity and friendship, transcending boundaries.

In his address, the High Commissioner extended heartfelt felicitations to Pakistanis on this auspicious occasion,



paying homage to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Pakistan Movement heroes, who created an independent homeland for Muslims of the sub-continent.

Highlighting Pakistan's journey, the High Commissioner praised its resilience against all challenges. He highlighted Pakistan's abundant human and natural resources, with a

youngful demographic dividend constituting 60 percent of the population, a driving force for economic growth. Dr. Faisal noted the ongoing economic reforms, fostering a business and investment-friendly environment.

Regarding Pakistan-UK relations, the High Commissioner highlighted the historic warmth of bilateral ties, a legacy that bound the two nations. He applauded the burgeoning trade and economic ties, and cooperation in addressing climate challenges, as manifestations of this enduring relationship.

The High Commissioner conveyed heartfelt appreciation to the Pakistani diaspora, recognizing their role as the architects

of strengthened ties between Pakistan and the UK, fostering cooperation and understanding.

Dr. Faisal paid tribute to the unwavering spirit of the Kashmiri populace living under Indian occupation. Pakistan's steadfast moral, diplomatic, and political support for the legitimate self-determination struggle was reaffirmed. The Indian atrocities in IIOJK were highlighted and the international community was urged to put an end their human rights violations.

Parallel celebrations took place at Pakistan Consulates in Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford, and Glasgow, unifying the Pakistani community from across the UK.

Independence Day celebrated in Ankara

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 76th Independence Day anniversary of Pakistan was celebrated with traditional zeal and enthusiasm, bringing together the vibrant diaspora at Pakistan embassy residence in Ankara on Monday.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Türkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid hoisted the national flag to the tune of national anthem in the presence of the dignitaries from all spheres of life. The event was well attended by Pakistani community residing in Ankara.

Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. Pakistani leadership in their messages paid tribute to the sacrifices of

ancestors and vowed to transform Pakistan in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Pakistani leadership also expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and reassured Pakistan's political, moral and diplomatic support for their legitimate right to self-determination.

Felicitating the nation particularly Pakistani community in Türkiye on Independence Day, Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid stated that August 14 is a day to honour great sacrifices made by our forefathers, reaffirm our resolve to work wholeheartedly for inclusive and sustainable development of the country, in



line with the vision of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam. Being a thriving nation of over 240 million people, Pakistanis have

shown their brilliance in every walk of life from winning nobel prizes, to triumphing summits, to developing indigenous technolo-

gies, to state-of-the-art defence production, to running world's largest ambulance service, to producing high quality export goods – Pakistanis have excelled in every field, he added.

While appreciating the contribution made by Pakistani diaspora in Türkiye's development, ambassador Junaid stated that brotherly Türkiye's progress is Pakistan's progress and vice versa.

Reiterating Pakistan's political, diplomatic and moral support for the legitimate right to self-determination of Kashmiris, ambassador Junaid urged the international community to take note of ongoing gross human rights violations in IIOJK and play its due role in resolution of Kashmir Dispute.

It is important to ensure that the historic opportunity for durable peace is not missed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today, the efforts for durable peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia have become the hostage of Armenia's policy of deliberate tension and revanchism, and face serious challenges.

Despite its first failure in December 2022, Armenia once again attempts to instrumentalize the UN Security Council for its political, military and informational manipulation campaign.

Moreover, Armenia is a country that had for almost 30 years brazenly disregarded the four resolutions of 1993 and series of Presidential Statements of the Security Council demanding full, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from the territory of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's appeal to the Security Council on groundless allegations of "worsening humanitarian situation" and "continued blockade" in the region yet again comes at a time when Armenia itself deliberately and intentionally obstructs all the efforts made through international partners to find a balanced, law-based and reasonable solution on the ground.

As it is well-known, wide-range abuse of the Lachin road by Armenia over past three years

necessitated Azerbaijan's legitimate and legal action of establishing a border check-point to ensure security and order on its border. While Armenia attempted to portray this efforts as a "blockade" and requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue an order on removal of the checkpoint, the ICJ in its order of July 6 has unanimously rejected this request.

Armenia did not reconcile with the reality of being deprived of the means to supply and sustain its not fully withdrawn armed forces in the territory of Azerbaijan, and illicitly extract Azerbaijan's natural resources. Therefore, Armenia has started propaganda campaign worldwide, imposed series of military and other obstructions for the normal functioning of the border check-point, as well as for the use of other routes, such as Aghdam-Khankendi road for the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan.

Recently, following the series of intensive consultations and shuttle diplomacy efforts, agreement was finally reached with respect to delivery of humanitarian cargo to the Garabagh region through various routes, as well as the organization of the meeting between the Special Representative of Azerbaijan and representatives of local

Armenian residents.

On the first case, concrete blocs and all other physical barriers imposed by the Armenian side on the use of Aghdam-Khankendi road should have been removed to allow the delivery of humanitarian cargo by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet the needs of local residents. This should have been followed by intensification of usage of the Lachin road by the ICRC within 24 hours. All the involved parties, including the Russian peacekeeping contingent and the ICRC, were prepared to realize this deal in practice.

On the second, a meeting between Azerbaijan's Special Representative and representatives of local Armenian residents was agreed to take place in Yevlakh.

Regrettably, on August 5, 2023, Armenia, through its illegally installed puppet regime, backstepped from both agreements at a last moment by introducing politically motivated and illegitimate preconditions and various pretexts.

In other words, what Armenia cynically seeks from the international community in general, and the UN Security Council in particular, was indeed within reach days ago in the result



of active support of partners, including the members of Security Council. This did not materialize only due to the refusal by Armenia itself.

Had Armenia and its subordinate illegal structure honor the agreement, the situation would have been solved in early August providing a reasonable framework for the delivery of humanitarian cargo to the residents of the Garabagh region, and facilitation of routes for the passage of persons, goods and vehicles.

Therefore, there should be no doubt that notwithstanding the intensive engagement by Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation, the United States, European Union and ICRC for finding ways out of the situation, Armenia is deliberately obstructing diplomatic efforts.

of the Azerbaijani Airlines, but also those of foreign countries have been target to radio-electronic interference over past weeks, posing serious risk for their safety.

In parallel to illegal military build-up and activities in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan where the Russian peacekeeping contingent has been temporarily deployed, large-scale accumulation of weaponry and other military equipment and personnel along the unlimited state border has also been observed over past days in an apparent effort to go into another military adventure.

The above-mentioned fully resembles the pattern that had been typical to Armenia throughout almost 30 years until September 2020 to imitate talks, escape from previously undertaken commitments at last minutes, and commit political, military and other provocations at every stage of negotiation to evade from taking concrete decisions.

Moreover, such actions of Armenia testify to the fact that Armenia didn't cease its territorial claims against Azerbaijan and her verbal recognition of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is different from her deeds on the ground.

Following the 2020 war, Azerbaijan offered a peace to Armenia based on equal and recipro-

cal respect for legitimate interests of both sides through mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. On another track, Azerbaijan pursues the policy of reintegration of ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region as equal citizens guaranteeing all the rights and freedoms envisaged in the Constitution of Azerbaijan and all relevant international human rights mechanisms that Azerbaijan is signatory. At the same time, Azerbaijan's adherence to both these tracks is without prejudice to its right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity by all legitimate means safeguarded in the UN Charter and other universal international law instruments.

At this critical juncture, sober apprehension of existing risks and adequate response by international community to Armenia's brazen provocations are necessary than ever to overcome the challenges facing the inter-state Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization process and the reintegration of local ethnic Armenian residents into Azerbaijan's political, legal and socio-economic framework.

It is important to ensure that the historic opportunity for durable peace is not missed.