

Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



Attempts to weaken army tantamount to undermine country: COAS

Army Chief General Asim Munir has stated weakening the armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country, pledging that the military will not allow let its sacrifices to go in vain. "We emerge as a strong nation after trial and tribulations. To weaken Pakistan's armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country itself."



Petrol price slashed by Rs8.47 per litre for next fortnight

In a significant relief to inflation-weary masses, particularly those who rely on two-wheelers for commuting, the federal govt has reduced petrol prices by Rs8.47 per litre for the next fortnight, owing to a notable drop in global fuel prices. As per the latest notification, the petrol price has been reduced from Rs269.43 to Rs260.96 per litre. The federal government also decreased the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) from Rs272.77 per litre to Rs266.07 after a cut of Rs6.7.

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Affordable electricity, economic stability among govt key priorities: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government and all of its relevant departments were purely focused on providing low-cost electricity to domestic and other consumers besides bringing in reforms to achieve economic stability.

"Our sole focus is to reduce power prices to provide relief to domestic consumers, agriculture, industry, exports and business sectors. This is inevitable to steer the economy of prevailing issues. The competitiveness of exports is linked with the cheap electricity," the prime minister said addressing the newly appointed chairmen and board members of the power distribution companies (DISCOS).

Calling the low-cost electricity and efficient power transmission system the major factors for a stable economy, he said he and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) were focused on achieving the said targets.

He told the participants that the



government would publicly recognise the DISCOS members and heads who would put in their maximum efforts to bring improvements, but those failing to do so would neither be spared nor would remain part of the team.

The prime minister said through a lengthy process, the government had appointed highly competent and experienced people in DISCOS purely on merit by doing away with the political appointees. He said the newly appointed chairmen and members had

great challenges ahead which necessitated working hard day and night to purge the DISCOS of mismanagement and corruption.

The prime minister recalled the installation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants during Nawaz Sharif's tenure almost a decade ago with 63% efficiency and almost on half of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) tariff which manifested the government's commitment and willingness to bring improvement.

Messages on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan



Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I felicitate the entire Pakistani nation on the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. This day marks the culmination of the historic political struggle of the Muslims of India for their right to self-determination. The creation of Pakistan through a peaceful and democratic struggle marks an unprecedented and unparalleled chapter in history. On this day, we pay homage to leaders and workers of the Pakistan movement as well as our

Continued on Page 3

PM vows for an inclusive, prosperous Pakistan



Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowing to work collectively for an inclusive and prosperous Pakistan, said that the government's efforts for economic growth and stability had started yielding positive results.

"In a short span, our efforts have started yielding positive results. The economy is on its path to stability. The high inflation of 38% has come down to 11.1% (July) and shall be brought down to single digit

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Visa fee for 126 countries waived under new visa policy, says Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday announced launch of a new visa policy under which visa fee for the nationals of 126 countries would be waived to boost tourism and attract foreign investment in the country.

Addressing a news conference, the minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would launch the new visa policy tonight which would allow 126 countries' residents to visit Pakistan in hassle-free manner.

The new visa policy which is aimed at simplifying the visa process would come into effect tonight, he added.

According to him, the nationals of these countries would get their visas within 10 minutes after filling an online form which had only 30 questions. The visa would be valid for 3 months and could be renewed in no time, he added.

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Former ISI chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed's arrest army's internal matter: Khan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan has that the arrest of former Inter-Services Intelligence director general Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Faiz Hameed was an internal matter of the military and the PTI had nothing to do with the development.

"Khan sahib said just this that 'it is the army's internal matter' and that whatever action the army has taken has nothing to do with the PTI or Khan sahib," PTI lawyer Intezar Panjutha told reporters after having a meeting with the incarcerated party founder in Adiala Jail on Tuesday.

PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan spoke on a similar wavelength after the development, saying that the army has its structure and the institution can take action against anyone it wants, as per "its own will".

تمام اہل وطن کو

77 واں یوم آزادی مبارک

تحریک آزادی کشمیر دراصل تحریک تکمیل پاکستان ہے

پاکستان اہل کشمیر کی آرزوؤں اور امنگوں کا مرکز ہے، جموں و کشمیر کے عوام اور پاکستان کا لازوال رشتہ ہمیشہ قائم و دائم رہے گا۔ انشاء اللہ وہ دن دور نہیں جب ساری ریاست جموں و کشمیر آزاد ہو کر پاکستان کا حصہ بنے گی اور وطن عزیز پاکستان کی تکمیل ہوگی۔

بینک آف آزاد جموں و کشمیر
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Hamdard Pakistan celebrates 77th Independence Day with cake-cutting

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading herbal healthcare and food and beverages manufacturer Hamdard Pakistan marked Pakistan's 77th Independence Day with a lot of patriotic fervour and enthusiasm yesterday in a 14th August Independence Day celebratory cake-cutting event held at Hamdard's Corporate Head Office. Ms. Sadia Rashid, Chief Mutawalia attended the event as chief guest. She was accompanied by Managing Director & CEO Fatema Mumir Ahmed, Chief Operating Officer-Faisal Nadeem, along with directors and staff members.



The event commenced with the National Anthem, after which Ms. Sadia Rashid cut the cake. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sadia Rashid said that August 14th is a historic milestone.

Pakistan is a blessing of Allah, and it is our collective duty to protect it. As a nation, we should observe Independence Day as a day of commitment and gratitude, remembering the countless sacrifices made by our elders to ensure the blessings of independence.

We must renew our commitment to building and developing our country and nation, and we will strive with all our efforts to achieve this goal.

Reception

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Netherlands Henny de Vries, posing for a group photograph along with Captain of the Women Legacy team Malika-e-Noor and Dutch-Pakistani football player Kayanat Bokhari with the runner-up trophy at a reception hosted by the Dutch ambassador at her residence in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Saraiki leaders say exports of Mangoes can earn valuable foreign exchange

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The solution to the problems is the province of Saraykistan. Export of mangoes can earn valuable foreign exchange, but the government will not pay attention to the fact that the throne of Lahore wants to keep Saraiki Wasib marginalized and enslaved. These views were expressed by Saraiki leaders Zahoor Dharija, Malik AD Pappoo Raan, Rana Muhammad Fara Zanoon, Zahid Gurdizi and Syed Athar Bukhari at the Saraikistan Mango Conference organized by the Saraikistan National Council at Multan Press Club. On this occasion, Saraiki leaders Inayatullah Mashriqi, GMPTV Yunus Chishti, Aamir Shahzad Siddiqui, Malik Arshad Bhatta, Zohaib Gilani, Mazhar Javed Syal, Ehsan Khan Saduzai, Roshan Zamir Mahota, Dr. Ali Shah, Malik Javed Chanar, Sharif Khan Lashari, Malik Iqbal Nandla, Engineer Shahid Waqar Khan, Ali Ijaz Khan, Shahid Ansari, Prof. Parvez Qadir Khan, Rashid Khan, Anwar Mughal, Malik Akram Phalwan, Saleem Darbari, Student Lead-



er Malik Sikandar Khakhal, Meher Shah Nawaz Jangla and others also spoke. What did Zahoor Dharija said that mango orchards are being cut due to the establishment of housing schemes in Multan. The killing of mangoes should be stopped and export of mangoes from Multan should be facilitated.

He said that the solution to all problems is the province of Saraykistan. The

rulers should fulfill their promise and establish the province of Saraykistan. The Central Vice Chairman of the Sri Lanka National Council and the host of the event Malik AD Pappoo said that Wasib is being exploited step by step. Mango plantations are falling apart, no attention of the government, all resources are being spent on Lahore. The people of Wasib have to be given their right. Rana Muhammad Faraz

Noon said that legislation should be enacted to save mango orchards. He said that due to Wasib not having its own province, problems are piling up. All our problems are taken to the center and the province and are brutally spent on Lahore and Islamabad. If we had a province, we would not have to see these days today. Zahid Gardizi said that my elders have services for the province of Saraykistan. They have been struggling for fifty years.

Lawyers community of Saraiki Wasib is united for the province of Saraikistan, we will come to the streets and carry the province of Saraikistan at all costs. On this occasion, Saraiki poets Zafar Maskin, Anwar Mahota, Bilal Bazmi, Hashim Chaman, Sujhal Bukhari, Saeed Akhtar Venus, Riaz Hamid Faridi and Saraiki singers Haji Ghulam Farid Kanira, Ashraf Pathane Khan, Sajjad Malik, Sajid Multani, Thobia Malik, Pinal Sial, Hasnain Sanul and others recited their speech. On this occasion, on a resolution moved by Mazhar Javed, Wasib's Spout Arshad Nadeem was congratulated for receiving the Paris Olympics World Award

Plant trees to protect Pakistan from natural disasters: Yaqoob Shera

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Member of Cantt Board and District Peace Committee Member Muhammad Yaqoob Shera has said that the only solution to protect against changing weather conditions and sudden natural disasters is the creation of a lush and green Pakistan. Play an active and positive role for maximum planting, due to lack of trees and forests, both the duration and intensity of heat are increasing in World. If the time of cultivation of Trees and crops is affected, there are also problems for humans, birds and Animals. This country Pakistan was given to us as a gift, now we should also give



a gift to this holy country. And what can that gift be more than leaves and trees? Do not suffer for yourself but for your country. Plant trees, replace artificial greenery with real green-

ery by planting as many plants as possible. For the protection of our future generations, go ahead for natural breezes, plant trees, he expressed these ideas while distributing saplings among the citizens and children during the plantation campaign in reference to the Independence Day, he added. And on the direction of Cantonment Executive Officer Syed Farast Ali Shah, door-to-door campaign Multan Cantt Area has been started to highlight the importance of plantation and to create awareness and the citizens are distributing Independence Day saplings. Abid Khan and Ghazan Far Malik and others were also participants

Sardar Attique says Pakistan is an ideology, proud of its martyrs

Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Pakistan is the result of the long struggle of the Muslims of subcontinent and the gift of God Almighty, whose foundation has thousands of martyrs. In his message issued on August 14 Pakistan Day, he said that Pakistan is the name of an ideology. Under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, the Muslims of the subcontinent accomplished this great goal by making a historic struggle for a separate homeland. Knowing this ideological status and importance of Pakistan, the Muslims of Kashmir are making historic sacrifices for the completion of Pakistan.

Meanwhile All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference will celebrate the 14th August Independence Day in a grand manner today under the direction of President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. Preparations are complete. The celebrations were started by Kashmiris living in Pakistan and abroad in Azad Kashmir. The air echoed with Pakistan flags and national anthems throughout Azad Kashmir. The flags were unfurled. The biggest rally of Jashan Azadi will be taken out from Mujahid First House Ghaziabad, which will be led by the President of Muslim Conference, Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan. The Jashan Azadi festival organized by Pakistan Army was celebrated at Kohala. On the instructions of the Muslim Conference, rallies will be held today. Preparations have been completed in this regard. Under the auspices of the Women's Wing, the Women's All-Parties Conference will be held at the residence of the Chairperson Women's Wing, Samia Sajid Raja, on the occasion of Independence Day, in which all Women of political parties will participate, besides MSF, Youth Wing, Left Wing will organize events on their own under the direction of President Muslim Conference.

August 15 Black Day for Jammu Kashmir People: JKDFP

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: The people of Jammu Kashmir are not opposed to the independence of India nor they have any enmity with it, they only want that their political rights should be accepted. They observe August 15 every year as black day to protest against India which has stolen their freedom. This was stated by the Spokesperson of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) ahead of the Indian Independence Day.

The JKDFP Spokesperson said in a statement that incarcerated chief of the party Shabir Shah always used to say that Jammu Kashmir People respect the freedom of every country but India has deceitfully curbed the freedom of Jammu Kashmir people so they must protest on every August 15 to stress upon New Delhi and the world that they cannot surrender their rights before Indian military might.

JKDFP Spokesperson remembered India how it fought against Britain for her freedom. The irony is that same India has now curbed the freedom of Jammu Kashmir people using deceitful politics. The Jammu Kashmir people are fighting for their freedom the same way as India was fighting against British.

BISP Disbursements underway in Hyderabad, Matiari, and Rahim Yar Khan by JazzCash

Correspondent

HYDERABAD: In a significant step towards social empowerment, the first tranche of disbursements for the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is underway by JazzCash in collaboration with Mobilink Microfinance Bank. So far, over PKR 1 billion has been disbursed in campsites in Hyderabad, Matiari and Rahim Yar Khan.

Under this partnership, JazzCash and Mobilink Microfinance Bank are utilizing their extensive network of agents to disburse funds to 1.3 million BISP-registered women beneficiaries across Pakistan. To ensure responsible and dignified disbursements, special camps have been established at the disbursement centres to also raise financial literacy among women, ensuring they are well-informed and empowered to use the funds effectively.

In a message, Rubina Khalid, the Chairperson of BISP, emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in uplifting marginalized communities. She highlighted the significant role that such collaborations play in ensuring that financial aid reaches those who need it the most.

Visa fee for 126 countries ...

Continued from Page 1

The minister said the residents of gulf countries would get visa on arrival, while pilgrims would also be facilitated in this regard to boost the religious tourism in the country.

The beauty and infrastructural development of Pakistan stunned the foreign tourists who left the country with sweet memories, he said, urging them to visit Pakistan which has been opened its doors to the world including travelers, businessmen and investors.

President's message

Continued from Page 1

forefathers who rendered innumerable sacrifices for Pakistan.

Today, we need to set aside our differences and work committedly for the unity, integrity, and economic stability of the country in the face of current challenges. Our country has been blessed with abundant human and natural resources and it is our responsibility

to utilize these for the welfare of our people. We need to uphold the rule of law, strengthen democratic institutions, and work wholeheartedly in the public interest. Our nation has great hopes from us, and we must strive to meet their expectations.

Let's pledge to work for the uplift of our people and make Pakistan a prosperous country. May Allah be with us all. Amen!

Prime Minister's message

Continued from Page 1

soon Inshallah," the prime minister said in his message to the nation on the 78th Independence Day being observed on Wednesday.

Extending heartfelt felicitations to the countrymen, the prime minister paid homage to the immense sacrifices of forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement which led to the creation of Pakistan as an independent and sovereign state on August 14, 1947 through the unwavering and steadfast leadership

of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and unmatched sacrifices of our ancestors.

He said that over the decades, Pakistan had achieved significant milestones as the resilience of Pakistani people had been tested through natural disasters and economic and social challenges, yet the spirit of determination and unity has always prevailed.

He expressed confidence that the nation would make collaborative efforts with the spirit of independence for the benefit and welfare of the citizens.

Significance of Independence

Abdul Basit Alvi

On August 14, 1947, at midnight, Pakistan was born—a nation carved out of the Indian subcontinent in a historic moment that transcended mere border demarcation. It represented the culmination of decades of struggle, sacrifice, and steadfast determination by millions who envisioned a homeland where they could live in peace and freedom. The genesis of Pakistan began long before the partition itself, originating from the struggle of the Muslim community in South Asia for political representation and autonomy under British rule. Leaders such as Muhammad Ali Jinnah emerged as key figures in this movement, advocating for Muslim rights amidst escalating communal tensions. The All-India Muslim League, established in 1906, became the principal political platform through which Muslims sought separate electorates and protections against perceived Hindu-majority dominance within the Indian National Congress.

A pivotal moment arrived with the Lahore Resolution of 1940, which called for the creation of separate Muslim-majority states in the north-western and eastern regions of British India. This resolution laid the foundation for India's eventual partition and the establishment of Pakistan. The journey to independence was marked by immense sacrifices and challenges that tested the determination of millions who believed in the vision of a distinct homeland. The partition itself brought widespread violence and communal riots, resulting in the displacement of millions of Muslims. Families were forced from their homes, enduring arduous journeys to their new nations. Leaders like Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Liaquat Ali Khan, and others played pivotal roles in negotiating with British and Indian leaders while guiding their people through turbulent times. Countless individuals and families sacrificed their lives, livelihoods, and comforts for Pakistan's independence. Amidst the chaos and bloodshed, Pakistan emerged as a new nation—a beacon of hope and opportunity for its people.

The newly formed country undertook the task of drafting a constitution and establishing governance structures reflecting its values of democracy, justice, and equality. Pakistan immediately faced challenges in economic development, social cohesion, and institution-building. Efforts were made to unify diverse ethnic and linguistic groups into a cohesive national identity while honoring cultural diversity. The creation of Pakistan underscores the power of unity, determination, and sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom and self-determination. It serves as a reminder of the importance of upholding fundamental rights and respecting diversity in a pluralistic society.

Pakistan, with a rich history spanning decades, boasts a wealth of strengths that define its global identity. From cultural heritage to economic

potential, Pakistan exemplifies resilience, diversity, and untapped opportunities.

Pakistan is a melting pot of cultures, languages, and traditions. With a history tracing back to the Indus Valley Civilization, the region has been a cradle of ancient civilizations. This diversity is evident in its vibrant festivals, music, art, and cuisine, making Pakistan a treasure trove for cultural enthusiasts worldwide.

Geopolitically, Pakistan holds a strategic position at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. It serves as a pivotal point for trade routes and energy corridors, fostering international partnerships and economic alliances. This geographical advantage enhances Pakistan's role in regional stability and global affairs.

Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, employing a significant portion of its workforce. Blessed with fertile lands and diverse climates, Pakistan supports a range of crops including wheat, rice, cotton, and sugarcane. Agricultural exports make substantial contributions to Pakistan's economy and the global food supply.



Pakistan benefits from a youthful demographic dividend, with a large population under the age of 30. This demographic potential provides a robust workforce and a reservoir of talent poised to drive innovation and economic growth. Investments in education and skill development play a crucial role in effectively harnessing Pakistan's youthful demographic dividend. Despite challenges, Pakistan's economy has demonstrated resilience and significant growth potential. The country presents appealing investment opportunities across diverse sectors, including telecommunications, energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing. Efforts to enhance the ease of doing business and attract foreign investment are paving the way for expanded economic activities.

Pakistan is rich in natural resources, including minerals, oil, and gas reserves. Additionally, the nation possesses substantial potential in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower. Investments in renewable energy projects aim to tackle energy shortages, promote sustainability, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Pakistan features stunning landscapes, from majestic mountains to pristine beaches and historical landmarks. The warmth and hospitality of its people enhance the allure

of exploring its cultural and natural wonders. Efforts to develop tourism infrastructure and preserve cultural heritage sites aim to attract global tourists, unlocking the country's vast tourism potential.

Entrepreneurship thrives in Pakistan's vibrant business environment, characterized by a culture of innovation and enterprise. Startups are burgeoning in technology, e-commerce, and social enterprises, supported by government initiatives that promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to foster economic diversification.

Despite these strengths, Pakistan faces a range of complex challenges that shape its socio-economic landscape. Addressing these issues requires strategic solutions and collaborative efforts.

Security challenges, including terrorism and insurgency in certain regions, remain a critical issue. While progress has been made by the government and security forces in combating extremism, sustained vigilance and robust security measures are essential to maintain peace and stability across the country.

Pakistan faces numerous challenges, but concerted civil-military efforts are underway to navigate crises and address problems. Civil-military relations have historically played a pivotal role in shaping governance, security, and development in Pakistan. Addressing the country's multifaceted challenges demands robust collaboration between civilian institutions and the military establishment.

Pakistan has grappled with persistent security threats, including terrorism, insurgency, and external risks. The military has played a crucial role in safeguarding national security, working in tandem with civilian authorities to align security policies with broader national interests, ensure accountability, and incorporate civilian perspectives. Collaborative efforts in intelligence-sharing, counter-terrorism operations, and border security are essential for maintaining peace and stability nationwide.

Infrastructure development is critical for economic growth and enhancing quality of life. Civil-military cooperation can expedite infrastructure projects by leveraging the military's expertise in engineering and logistics. Additionally, the military's involvement in disaster response and relief operations during natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods underscores the importance of coordinated efforts to minimize loss of life and property.

Effective governance hinges on strong institutions, transparency, and accountability. Civil-military collaboration can bolster institutional capacity through shared expertise in administration, public policy formulation, and implementation. Joint initiatives in capacity building, training, and institutional reforms contribute to improved governance effectiveness, fostering inclusive development and citizen

welfare.

Economic challenges, including fiscal deficits and unemployment, necessitate strategic investments and economic reforms. Civil-military cooperation can facilitate economic development by fostering an enabling investment environment, supporting critical infrastructure projects, and promoting industries vital to national security and economic stability. Collaborative efforts in promoting entrepreneurship, job creation, and rural development contribute to sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The proactive engagement of Pakistan's Army Chief in addressing financial crises and other national issues is commendable and resonates positively with the nation. Pakistan's diverse social landscape requires efforts to promote national unity and cohesion, where civil-military collaboration plays a pivotal role in nurturing a shared national identity and fostering solidarity among its people. Collaborative efforts in cultural exchange programs, youth engage-



ment, and community development initiatives work to overcome regional and ethnic divisions, fostering unity and fortifying resilience against both internal and external challenges. Enhancing access to high-quality education, healthcare, and social services is crucial for advancing human development and achieving social justice.

Civil-military cooperation can play a pivotal role in improving service delivery by utilizing military resources for infrastructure development, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions in remote and underserved regions. Joint endeavors in disaster preparedness, public health campaigns, and community outreach programs serve to bolster resilience and enhance overall community well-being. As Pakistan charts its course ahead, a collaborative partnership between civilian authorities and the military remains essential to overcoming challenges and paving a brighter future for all Pakistanis.

Pakistan has embarked on transformative initiatives aimed at boosting economic growth, improving connectivity, and fostering regional cooperation. Key among these initiatives are projects such as the CPEC and SIFC.

CPEC, a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), focuses on enhancing

connectivity and economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. It encompasses infrastructure development, energy projects, and industrial cooperation, promising to reshape Pakistan's infrastructure landscape and stimulate economic development. This includes constructing highways, railways, ports, and airports that link major Pakistani cities and facilitate trade routes with China and beyond. Enhanced infrastructure boosts logistical efficiency, lowers transportation costs, and attracts foreign investment.

Addressing Pakistan's historical energy shortages, CPEC invests in diverse energy infrastructure such as coal, hydro, solar, and wind power projects. These endeavors aim to alleviate power deficits, promote sustainable energy sources, and support industrial expansion. The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) encourages industries to relocate and expand within Pakistan, fostering technology transfer, job creation, and skills development, thereby enhancing manufacturing capabilities and economic diversification.

Meanwhile, SIFC aims to facilitate international investments by promoting financial inclusion, access to capital, and innovative financial solutions. It enhances Pakistan's capacity to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and integrate with global financial markets. By providing a conducive environment for international investors and financial institutions, SIFC strengthens Pakistan's competitiveness in the global economy, encouraging economic growth and employment through joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions, and cross-border transactions.

India celebrates its independence on August 15, while Pakistan boasts true independence with full rights and freedoms for all minorities. Human rights are well-protected in Pakistan, whereas India has been widely criticized for human rights violations against minorities. The safety of lives and properties of minorities in India is a concern, and Indian atrocities in IIOJK are an international issue. For many minorities and Muslims in India, Indian Independence Day is seen as a dark day. This raises questions about the satisfaction of India's own people with their country.

Despite challenges, Pakistan is fortunate to be an independent nation with immense potential and a strong resolve for progress. Independence allows freedom to live and work anywhere within the country, a liberty cherished particularly in contrast to the struggles faced by people in IIOJK and Palestine. On Independence Day, it is crucial to acknowledge and celebrate this freedom, working collectively and tirelessly for the nation's advancement. Unity among Pakistanis, setting aside differences, and rejecting divisive propaganda are vital steps toward building a stronger, more prosperous Pakistan.



Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, message on the occasion of Independence Day

stan and the incredible journey of SM Foods. This day is not just a marker of our nation's freedom; it also represents our commitment to quality, community, and cultural heritage in every bite we produce.

Being the chairman of SM group of companies I focused on fostering a spirit of teamwork and open dialogue between the employees creating an environment where ideas could flow freely, sparking innovation and reigniting our passion for what we do.

With the time we have intro-

duced exciting new product lines that cater to the evolving tastes of our customers while remaining dedicated to quality. Our marketing campaigns now celebrate the rich tapestry of Pakistani culture, showcasing the vibrant flavors and ingredients that define our culinary landscape. This approach has positioned SM Foods as a proud ambassador of Pakistan's heritage, allowing us to connect with consumers on a deeper level. This success has empowered us to reinvest in our infrastructure and

workforce, creating new job opportunities and fostering economic growth in local communities. We are more committed than ever to ensure that every household in Pakistan has access to our products.

In honor of Independence Day, we are thrilled to unveil several exciting new projects. We will launch a special product line that pays tribute to beloved traditional Pakistani recipes, ensuring our culinary heritage is celebrated and cherished. Additionally, we will host vibrant community events

aimed at uplifting local artisans and farmers, giving them a platform to showcase their talents and products.

Looking ahead, our vision is ambitious and clear. We aim to expand our reach not only within Pakistan but also on the global stage, showcasing the rich flavors of our country to the world. By doing so, we hope to enhance Pakistan's reputation in the international food industry. Our dedication to excellence will help strengthen our brand and contribute to the

economic growth of our nation.

On this Independence Day, let us come together to celebrate the resilience, creativity, and vibrant spirit that define Pakistan. At SM Foods, we are committed to excellence and making meaningful contributions to our economy and society. We are proud to be a part of this great nation, and we look forward to continue to shine a light on the endless potential of Pakistan.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!

PAKISTAN ZINDABAAD!!

Message to the People of Pakistan "Remember that August 14 is Pakistan's Independence Day" On this beautiful occasion of Independence, my heart swells with pride for our beloved Paki-

SM Foods Group Chairman SM Food and Volka Food International Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum

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14th August Pakistan's Independence: A Legacy of Resilience and Determination

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

The 14th of August marks a date of profound significance in the history of South Asia: it is the day Pakistan gained independence from British rule in 1947. This moment marked the birth of a nation and it represents the peak of Muslims struggle. Persistent determination by the people who sought to carve out a distinct identity and homeland for themselves. The legacy of Pakistan's independence has continued to resonate throughout its history, yielding narratives of resilience and commitment.

To understand Pakistan's journey to independence, it is essential to contextualize the socio-political landscape that influenced the emergence of a separate nation. The Indian subcontinent was under British colonial rule for nearly two centuries. By the early 20th century, political awareness and sentiments for self-determination grew among various communities, including the Muslim population, which felt increasingly marginalized in a Hindu-majority India.

The demand for a separate nation represented by the All-India Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, gained momentum, particularly after the Lahore Resolution in 1940, which called

for independent states for Muslims in the northwestern and eastern zones of India.

The struggle for independence was not just a political movement; it was deeply rooted in the cultural and religious identity of its people. The narrative of Pakistan's beginning is connect to complex social dynamics, wherein millions of Muslims aspired for a political entity that would ensure their rights, safeguard their interests, and foster their religious identity. This ideal prompted widespread mobilization that galvanized support among the populace, culminating in large-scale demonstrations and civil action ahead of independence.

As the deadline for achieving independence approached in 1947, the situation became fraught with tension. The British decision to partition India was spoiled by communal riots, violence, and a massive population exchange that resulted in unprecedented displacement; millions were uprooted from their homes as they crossed new borders created by the Radcliffe Line. Amid this turmoil, Pakistan emerged as a reality, forged in the struggles and sacrifice of its people. August 14, 1947, remains stamped in the collective memory of Pakistanis as the day their dream transformed into reality an assertion of their resilience and determination.

The legacy of Pakistan's independence is a testament to the challenges frequently faced in its succeeding years. The budding state grappled with difficult obstacles,

including the integration of a fragmented society, governance issues, and economic constraints. However, the determination displayed by its leaders and citizens alike became the driving force behind the nation's efforts to establish itself as a viable, sovereign entity. They tackled these challenges head on, demonstrating an unwavering spirit even within trials.

Since its beginning, Pakistan has embarked on various developmental and nationalist agendas that seek to establish a coherent national identity amidst diverse ethnic and cultural divisions. Nationalism as a force in Pakistan swayed between aspirations of religious unity and regional consciousness, further complicating its historical flight. Despite these nuances, the spirit of independence largely persists as a shared franchise among its citizenry, symbolizing hope, determination, and the fight for self-governance.

Pakistan, Independence Day serves as more than just a public holiday; it stands as an annual reminder of the sacrifices made in pursuit of liberty. Celebrations often feature parades, cultural festivities, and reflections on the nation's journey each marked with an affecting appreciation for the freedoms enjoyed and acknowledged conflicts still inherent within society. Pakistan continues to reinforce its identity, drawing upon the values of introspection, resilience, and optimistic vision for the future.

The legacy of Pakistan's independence

is thus multifaceted, stitched together by narratives of struggle, bravery, and unity. It serves as an enduring symbol of what collective determination can achieve and underscores the importance of holding steadfast to national ideals. As Pakistan navigates the complexities of modernity, the resilience that birthed the nation remains the cornerstone of its pursuit for progress, unity, and enduring sovereignty. Such a reflection resonates within the heart of every Pakistani an embodiment of past trials, illuminated by the long-pursued promise of hope and self-determination.

The historical narratives restricting from the independence movement serve as vital components of national identity and highlight the aspirations underpinning the formation of Pakistan. While the past poses challenges in nurturing unity amid diversity, it also presents a powerful chronicle of resilience. As Pakistan navigates contemporary societal and geopolitical issues, the lessons drawn from its intricate history of struggle, bravery, and unity remain relevant and essential for continual growth as a nation. Understanding this legacy is critical for future generations, as it displays the foundational principles on which Pakistan was established and the enduring human spirit in pursuit of a common goal.

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Acute Gaza clean water crisis

Amid further evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military in Gaza, UN humanitarian officials issued a fresh warning Monday over the dire sanitary emergency there and the urgent need for a mass polio vaccination campaign in the enclave wracked by deadly Israeli attacks.

UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, issued a statement from Deir al-Balah in Gaza's central area, where untreated sewage run-off formed large pools on the road next to shelters for forcibly displaced people.

"Sewage water is all over the streets," said UNICEF spokesperson Salim Oweis, who highlighted the destruction of Gaza's water and sanitation network, and its sewage treatment plants, since 7 October.

Diarrhoea and skin rashes continue to impact Gazans forced multiple times from their homes and shelters, according to UNICEF, amid increasingly urgent calls for a ceasefire to allow the delivery of oral polio vaccines after traces of the disease were discovered in sewage water in June and confirmed in July.

It is understood that no one in the enclave has yet been vaccinated for polio.

The development came as the Israeli military ordered the evacuation of parts of the southern city of Khan Younis on Sunday, citing "significant terrorist activity and exploitation" of its self-designated "humanitarian zone", including rocket fire towards Israel from the Aljalaa area.

UNRWA, the UN relief agency for Palestine refugees, highlighted the impact of "multiple" evacuation orders issued since last Thursday on Gaza's most vulnerable individuals in Khan Younis, some of the approximately 75,000 people believed to have been displaced.

"There was one elderly man who was desperately trying to push his mobility scooter, which kept getting stuck in the sand," Louise Wateridge, UNRWA senior communications officer, told UN News, a media news site.

"He had very few belongings on the scooter... He is pushing it through this horrible sandy road and some young men kept coming to help him dig it out of the sand to continue pushing it. But you could just see the exhaustion and the struggle that he was going through."

More than 10 months into the war, Gazans remain desperate for clean water, food and medical help, while temperatures remain dangerously hot, Ms. Wateridge said.

"These people, they've lost absolutely everything. They don't seem to be carrying much at all. Children were dragging empty water canisters because that's one of the most precious items. Now anything that you can put water in, it is one of your most precious valuables... There were mattresses being carried, jerry cans and empty water cans and not much else, because people can only really carry what they can, in their hands."

The UNRWA officer explained that families continue to seek shelter in parts of Deir al-Bala in central Gaza and Western Khan Younis further south.

"Both areas are already heavily overcrowded, they have very limited shelters and services available and can barely accommodate the additional influx of displaced people," Ms. Wateridge added.



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

Does May 9 streamline Imran Khan?

An incident happened on 9th May in response of founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan arrest in Islamabad High Court. Imran Khan reached the Islamabad High Court to contest his cases in the relevant court. Khan was arrested on the premises of Islamabad High Court by the Rangers in the Toshakhana case. Rangers claimed that they helped National Accountability Bureau (NAB) officials arrest

Imran. Lawyers and court officials were injured during the arrest. In addition to that, Imran Khan was in the custody of NAB Rawalpindi in the Toshakhana case. The petition was filed by Khan's lawyers in the Supreme Court on an urgent basis, and the application was hired by the Supreme Court, and the existing Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Atta Bandial, ordered the Islamabad Police to produce the PTI Chairman within the set timeline in the Court. The Supreme Court released him and nullified and void the NAB stance.

Imran Khan has a strong stance on the May 9 incident and has demanded a neutral investigation to point out the actual details and culprits. It is a day-one demand of Imran after an incident. He claimed that it was the London plan formula and that PTI workers were not involved in it. The name of Khan is Sensor, and he is banned by all the media, but nobody reports him. He plays a mind game to remain under discussion regarding politics and in contact with people and the media. He stated that substantial footage of workers had to be presented in front of people involved in the strike. If people belong to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, he will rule them out of the party and present them to punishment. He defends his political workers, stance, and campaign categorically. People rejected the May 9 slogan in the

general elections, and Khan secured the highest vote. However, the Supreme Court withdrew the party symbol of Pakistan, Tehreek-e-Insaf, just before the election. Furthermore, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was on the sidelines, and a brutal crackdown was initiated against the party and its supporters. They arrested nearly ten thousand supporters of the party. The aim was to weaken the party and minimise the number of supporters in the coming elections. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan asserted that he would surrender till his last drop of blood and was ready to compete with his opponent. His opponent's political parties were in danger, posed by Khan's popularity. They knew that they would not win their elections, and they started election engineering to defame his popularity. Unfortunately, he was out of control for his opponent's political parties.

Khan was a former cricketer who used cricket theories in politics and grabbed the ball to clean up their opponents politicians with mind games. He knew that he couldn't contest the elections on the ground physically. He used to play psychological games with political statements and keep close eyes on people's pulses. The aim was to get people's support for the slogan campaign. The unpopular decision of PDM made him popular in the country, and he adopted a strong policy against Imran Khan, which was an immature decision to tackle popularity. Political popularity needs political answers, not to open up the front directly. A leader will be famous when he faces hardship, unconstitutional behaviour, false cases, and an immoral attitude.

Additional, Democracy allows freedom of speech and the expression of opinions, which are more important for politicians. Politics is all

about speech, expression, opinions, and moral standards. When morality ends, democracy will not survive in the country. It is based on the moral principles of tolerance and compassion for prosperity and development. It is important to understand that democracy is the true face of people who transfer power to representatives peacefully. In the past, they fought for power, and thousands of people were homeless and killed to take power. People had to obey their rulers, whether they liked them or not. In the modern era, people vote for those who have capable and loving personalities. Now, the masses don't accept dictatorship. Political instability hinders progress and prosperity in Pakistan. Unfortunately, Pakistan failed to achieve its objectives and desired results after Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Lastly, political instability leads to major crises in the country, and there are many notable examples in the countries of Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The escalation of conflicts could not be handled when they erupted. Bangladesh was part of Pakistan and separated in 1970 due to political failure. The history of the downfall of countries and nations is an example of Pakistan, and we learnt a lesson from the history. Sometimes, political failure leads to ethnic cleansing and unending problems, which are harmful politically, socially, and economically. It is important to understand that this is a challenging situation and that you have the right to solve problems. Democratic governments are accountable, answerable in front of people. Those parties are not prepared to fulfil their constitutional and moral objectives and will fail in the country. People will transfer power to other parties, which is a true way to hinder their popularity. The use of power to suppress political parties will become more chronic in the country. Political matters should be resolved politically.

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The Tax Nightmare: How High Taxes Are Crippling Pakistani Businesses

Shoaib Aijaz

As the clock strikes midnight, many Pakistani business owners are kept awake by a relentless worry about the oppressive burden of taxes. This anxiety, far from being an irrational fear, mirrors the harsh economic reality that businesses face daily. With the country's fiscal policies becoming increasingly stringent amidst economic uncertainties, the fear of taxation has become a profound concern, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive tax reforms and economic stabilization measures.

Recent industry surveys and economic analyses reveal a troubling trend: escalating tax rates are eating into profits, forcing many businesses to close or scale back operations. Over the past few years, tax rates in Pakistan have significantly increased, placing a substantial burden on the business sector. To keep their doors open, many companies have turned to bank financing. However, with the Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (KIBOR) hovering around 22% as of mid-2024, the cost of borrowing has become prohibitively expensive, leaving businesses financially crippled.

This high KIBOR rate, which serves as a benchmark for lending, exacerbates the financial struggles of businesses already contending with double-digit inflation. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, inflation surged past 24% in 2023, making it increasingly difficult for industries to generate the revenue needed to cover borrowing costs and maintain profitability.

Electricity tariffs for the industrial sector have also reached unprecedented levels. As of 2024, industrial users are paying upwards of Rs 50 per unit, with some variations depending on the region. This sharp increase in energy costs has sent operational expenses soaring, placing an additional strain on businesses. A recent survey by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) indicates that

more than 30% of manufacturing units have either shut down or postponed expansion plans, citing the unsustainable costs of financing and electricity as primary reasons.

Moreover, the business environment is further strained by rising import and export duties. The current duty on certain imports stands at around 20%, while export duties and other associated taxes are compounding the cost of doing business. The general sales tax (GST), currently at 18%, further erodes profit margins, particularly in an economy where operational costs are already inflated.

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has repeatedly warned that Pakistan is trapped in a cycle of increasing taxes without adequately considering the impact on investment and economic growth. Studies suggest that while governments globally often rely on strategic debt to finance development, Pakistani businesses find themselves burdened by what essentially amounts to hidden taxes debt repayments that stifle their ability to reinvest and expand.

To foster business growth and attract new investment, Pakistan urgently needs comprehensive tax reform. Lowering the tax burden on businesses could stimulate economic activity, allowing companies to grow, create jobs, and contribute more robustly to the economy. Additionally, targeted financial support and incentives are crucial to restoring investor confidence and positioning Pakistan as a competitive market for both domestic and international investors.

The tax nightmare that haunts Pakistani businesses is not merely a psychological burden but a reflection of severe economic challenges. By addressing these issues through comprehensive tax reform and supportive economic policies, Pakistan has the opportunity to turn this nightmare into a chance for revitalization. The time for change is now, and the business community's survival depends on it.

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Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
77,877.41	77,980.29
Day's High	Day's Low
78,275.97	77,817.32
Index Value	Change
7,386,535,429	-102.88
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	13 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,235.23	+24.98
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	13 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,635.31	+278.30
Percentage	Time
+0.71%	13 Aug, 12:32 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,232.51	+1,207.51
Percentage	Time
+3.45%	13 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.9	187.50
Bahrain Dinar	738	743.50
Canadian Dollar	202.65	207.00
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	303.70	305.90
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.35	910.50
Malaysian Ringgit	58.75	59.55
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	723.4	728.5
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.55
Singapore Dollar	202	204.00
Swedish Korona	26.27	26.57
Swiss Franc	319.5	324.50
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.80	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	355.5	357.5
US Dollar	279.40	280.50

Governor GB, ambassadors, business leaders declare in 'ICCI 2nd Tourism Summit', FDIs essential for tourism in GB

Spokesman Report

GILGIT: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan, foreign ambassadors and business leaders declared internal and external investment as essential for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and explore the new potential of indigenous culture of Pakistan.

On this occasion, they said that Gilgit Baltistan is the Jewels of Pakistan, where there is full potential of all major forms of tourism including traditional, agricultural, medical and cultural tourism, which can attract the foreign tourists with its unique indigenous culture and real heritage of Pakistan.

Meanwhile addressing the Pre-Tourism summit session and luncheon hosted, by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan, Syed Mehdi Shah said that the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan is the top priority of the provincial government and Islam Chamber of Commerce and Industry has taken a pivotal step in the Gilgit-Baltistan region by organizing the Tourism Summit.

Governor GB said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce President Ahsan Bakhtawari is a young and dynamic business leader whose efforts for this region of GB will always be remembered.

He said that last year a direct flight started from Dubai to Pakistan, which should now also start from China, Iran, Azerbaijan and Central Asian states.



Meanwhile, while speaking on the occasion, the European Union Ambassador, Dr Riina Kionka said that the European Union is committed to start many projects for the promotion of tourism and energy projects in GB.

The Ambassador said that Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most famous regions of Pakistan for tourism, which has its own indigenous culture, which can create a soft image of Pakistan in front of the world.

She said that by increasing tourism facilities in Gilgit-Baltistan, this region can be made a center of international tourism.

Meanwhile, the ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Ihab Abdel Hamid Hasan praised the steps taken by Islam Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the promotion of

tourism in Pakistan and said that Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most beautiful regions of the world.

He said that he is working for the VISA on arrival for the business community in Pakistan, which will strengthen the economic relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov said that there is a lot of potential in agriculture in Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan is a beautiful country and Azerbaijan and Pakistan can do a lot to promote tourism and also enhance the bilateral economic trade ties.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yezran Kistafan said that he intends to resume direct flights between Kazakhstan and Pakistan to enhance the

connectivity between both brotherly countries.

In his address on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President Ahsan Bakhtawari said that there are vast tourism opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan which need to be explored.

The President ICCI said that there are also ample opportunities in tourism, hydropower, gems and stones and marble for local and foreign investors in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Ahsan said that today's tourism summit is significant for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and also explore the new avenues for regional economy.

He said that local investors should invest in local GBs economy, then "We can attract the foreign investors to invest in the potential sector of the region."

Meanwhile, Secretary General, United Business Group, FPCCI and former President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari said highlight the dynamics of the tourism potential in GB.

He said that Gilgit Baltistan is the most beautiful region of the world where foreign investors should invest in potential areas.

Vice President, FPCCI Ms Quratul Ain said on the occasion that tourism can change the local economic landscape and contribute to the country's economy in this economic crisis.

Ambassador of Malaysia to Pakistan, Azher Malan, Ambassador of Myanmar and Ambassador of Yemen also present on the occasion.

Senior trade leader Ajmal Baloch also addressed the occasion.

PTCL Group to provide Managed WAN and All-In-One Desktop Project for ZTBL sites nationwide

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), and the largest agriculture bank of Pakistan, Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) have signed an agreement for Managed WAN and All-In-One Desktop project for ZTBL sites nationwide.

Group Chief Financial Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Nadeem Khan, and President & CEO ZTBL, Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti signed the agreement at PTCL office in Islamabad, in the presence of senior officials from both organizations.

Under this agreement, PTCL Group will provide a Managed WAN solution for 500+ ZTBL Nationwide sites along with All-In-One desktop computers.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Nadeem Khan, Group Chief Financial Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said "PTCL Group is proud to be a major proponent of technological enablement and transformation in Pakistan. Our connect-



ivity and ICT services provide a great deal of ease, robust security and enablement to our individual as well as enterprise customers, like ZTBL, serving more than 7.20 million consumers in Pakistan. We are steadfast in our commitment to further enhancing conduciveness for tech-based innovation and transformation in Pakistan."

President & CEO ZTBL, Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti said, "We are pleased to join hands with PTCL Group to provide greater connectivity to our clients, including farmers. ZTBL is on a path of transformation, and we are near to equipping our farmers with the latest scientific agriculture technology. PTCL Group's B2B portfolio has exponentially grown

over the years, which is a testament to the growing trust in the company's innovative and reliable services. These services have not only fostered unparalleled efficiency and agility across various sectors but led a broad-based digitalization in the country, creating shared value in equal parts for the industry and national economy."

KOICA, Multan Development Authority sign ROD for flood disaster prevention project

Bureau Report

MULTAN: The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Housing, Urban Development & Public Health Engineering Department of the Government of Punjab, in collaboration with WASA Multan and the Multan Development Authority (MDA), have signed the Record of Discussion (ROD) for the project titled "Establishment of Flood Disaster Prevention Master Plan & Construction of Stormwater Storage System in Multan City for Climate Change Adaptation in Punjab Province, Pakistan. USD 10 Million(2024-2027)"

The Record of Discussion (ROD) was signed by the Mr. Yeon Je Ho, Country Director KOICA Pakistan Office and Mr. Tayyab Farid, Special Secretary HUD-PHED and Mr. Rana Saleem Ahmad Khan, Director General MDA and Mr. Khalid Raza Khan Managing Director WASA Multan.

The primary objective of this project is to enhance resilience and adaptation capacity to climate-related flood hazards



and disasters in Punjab. The project components include Establishment of a Flood Disaster Prevention Master Plan, Construction of a Stormwater Storage and capacity building training on flood management. The project period will be 2024

to 2027 with the grant aid of 10 million USD.

The collaboration between KOICA and the Punjab Government reflects a shared commitment to sustainable development and proactive disaster risk reduction. As climate change

continues to pose threats globally, projects like this are essential in equipping communities to withstand and recover from natural disasters, ultimately ensuring the safety and well-being of the population in Multan City.

All voters and supporters of Sarhad Chamber from Kacheri Gate joined Sarhad Business Alliance

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: A special tea was arranged in honor of former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Malik Meher Elahi, Adnan Adeel, Ghulam Bilal Javid, Bakht Mir Jan Durrani, Haji Waheed, Amjad Ali, and senior members of Sarhad Business Alliance. On this occasion, President of Kacheri Gate, Muhammad Ateeq, and General Secretary Javed Deedar Gul, along with a large number of voters and

supporters of Sarhad Chamber, announced their inclusion in Sarhad Business Alliance.

Sarhad Business Alliance has initiated a door-to-door campaign in Peshawar city, which has been warmly welcomed and supported by shopkeepers and voters of Sarhad Chamber. This inclusion will further strengthen and enhance the popularity of Sarhad Business Alliance, providing greater stability to this union in the business circles of Peshawar.

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Wins 'Leading Takaful Company' Award at Elevate 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), a leading provider of Family Takaful solutions (Investment and Protections) and part of Pak-Qatar Group, Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, was declared as the "Leading Takaful Company" at the Elevate 2024 Award ceremony organized by the CxO global forum.

This prestigious award acknowledges PQFTL's dedication to delivering an exceptional customer and product experience through its digitally enabled and technol-

ogy-driven solutions. The award reflects the company's continuous efforts to enhance customer experience and streamline service delivery.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Waqas Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer of PQFTL said, "We are honored to receive this prestigious award. It reflects our commitment to the financial and personal wellbeing of our clients, with a focus on creating value by providing shariah compliant innovative Takfaul solutions and services to cater to their evolving needs. We remain steadfast in our promise to provide Takfaul to every household in Pakistan."

CCP Approves 100% acquisition of Sadapay by PPR Holding A. S.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the acquisition of 100% shareholding of M/s. SadaPay Technologies Limited by M/s. PPR Holding A. S. under a Share Purchase Agreement.

M/s. PPR Holding A. S., a private limited company based in Turkey, specializes in investments in financial institutions and technology companies. The target of this acquisition, M/s. SadaPay Technologies Limited, is a public unlisted company incorporated in Dubai, UAE,

which serves as a holding company and parent of M/s. SadaPay (Private) Limited, the ultimate target in this transaction. The ultimate target, a private limited company in Pakistan, provides financial services, including a Mastercard debit card and a digital wallet.

According to the application, PPR Holding A. S. intends to acquire 100% shareholding of SadaPay Technologies, thereby gaining direct control over both SadaPay Technologies and SadaPay (Private) Limited upon finalization of the transaction.

2nd ESG Excellence Awards of American Business Council celebrate Companies with a Heart

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The American Business Council (ABC) of Pakistan held the 2nd Annual Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Awards ceremony in Islamabad. These awards commemorate businesses that have made contributions in sustainability and social impact. The winners include PepsiCo (Environment-Response to Climate Change), Coca-Cola Pakistan (Environment-Nature Savior), KFC (Social-No Poverty, No Hunger), VISA (Social-Education, Gender Equality) and McDonald's (Governance Excellence). With more than 60 member companies that are US-based, ABC's network contributes about \$1 billion in taxes annually and employs over 1 million Pakistanis. Speaking at the occasion, Romina Khurshid Alam said, "I'm happy to see enthusiasm for taking climate change mitigation seriously with American businesses investing locally" She handed out the awards and congratulated the winners.

The ceremony was attended by 100+ leading multinational CEOs, business leaders, government officers, and climate experts including Brooke de Montluzin, Economic Counselor, US Embassy; Maliha Farooq Ismail, ABC Secretary General; Aisha Sarwari, ABC's Chair for ESG Committee; the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Senior Partnerships Adviser Kanwal Bokharey; and leadership from Systems Limited; Procter & Gamble Pakistan; Mondelez; McDonald's; Phillip Morris and ABC Executive committee and general body members.

Highlighting the long-standing partnership between Pakistan and the United States, Brooke de Montluzin said, "Pakistan is the fifth largest country in the world by population. The United States has long been Pakistan's largest export market, importing more than \$5 billion in Pakistani goods in just 2021, far surpassing any other country."

Senator Sherry Rehman, Chair of the Climate and Environment Caucus of the Senate of Pakistan handed over the awards to the winner. In her address, she highlighted the role that businesses must play to tackle challenges of climate change, water stewardship, gender inclusion in workforce.

77th Independence Day of Pakistan: A Nation in Pride and Progress



Ahsan Ansari

Ali Jinnah and the determination of the nation's forefathers. The day begins with special prayers in mosques for Pakistan's prosperity, harmony, and peace, accompanied by a 31-gun salute in the capital and 21-gun salutes in the provincial capitals. Flag hoisting ceremonies are held at government buildings and national monuments, with the main event taking place in Islamabad. There, the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan preside over the national flag hoisting ceremony. Similar ceremonies occur in provincial capitals, military headquarters, and schools.

Cultural events and concerts across Pakistan showcase the nation's rich heritage. Large-scale programs in cities like Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, and Islamabad feature renowned folk artists. This year, celebrations are particularly significant due to the historic victory of Arshad Nadeem, who won a gold medal in javelin throw at



the Paris World Olympics 2024. His achievement highlights Pakistan's potential in sports and serves as an inspiration for young athletes nationwide.

Independence Day is not only a celebration of past achievements but also a time to reflect on future challenges. The nation strives for progress by addressing issues such as education, economic development,

and social equality. Arshad Nadeem's victory exemplifies the greatness within Pakistan and underscores the importance of dedication and hard work.

This year, the government emphasizes national cohesion and collaboration to tackle challenges and achieve shared goals. Initiatives have been launched to promote education, health, and economic development, with a

focus on youth and women empowerment. Pakistan is also advancing in modern technology, with science fairs and exhibitions on IT and digital technology held on Independence Day to showcase its growing role in global technology.

Independence Day brings Pakistanis together in celebration. Streets, homes, and public places are adorned with flags and lights, while families gather for special ceremonies, sharing moments that reflect the value of freedom. Schools and colleges hold assemblies and cultural events, where students participate in debates, quizzes, and essay competitions, fostering patriotism and an appreciation for national identity.

The Pakistani diaspora also celebrates Independence Day with enthusiasm. Pakistani missions and consulates worldwide host flag hoisting ceremonies and prayers, inviting foreign dignitaries to participate. These



international events strengthen ties among Pakistanis globally and enhance Pakistan's positive image.

Independence Day is a time for reflection and hope for a future where Pakistan is seen as

a strong, united, and progressive nation. Celebrating the 77th Independence Day with fervor, the spirit of unity and hope guides Pakistan towards a prosperous and harmonious future.

Long live Pakistan!

Celebrating Independence Day and the Path of Progress for Pakistan and SM Foods



Mian Salahuddin GM Sales Marketing SM foods

As we celebrate the Independence Day of our great country, Pakistan, on August 14th, it's important to reflect on our history and the progress we've made as a nation. Pakistan gained its independence from British rule in 1947, marking the beginning of a journey toward self-determination and national identity. This journey has been defined by resilience, innovation, and a deep connection to our cultural roots. In this context, SM Foods stands as a proud representative of Pakistan's culinary heritage and an active participant in its economic growth.

SM Foods is more than just a brand; it embodies the rich flavors and traditions of our country. Our bond with Pakistan is profound, driven by a commitment to showcase authentic Pakistani cuisine while promoting local agricultural practices. By sourcing raw materials

from local farmers, we ensure that our products not only meet the highest quality standards but also contribute to the livelihoods of those in our communities. This collaboration creates jobs in the agricultural sector, supporting sustainable livelihoods and fostering rural development. As SM Foods flourishes, our growth translates directly into the prosperity of Pakistan, illustrating that our success is inherently linked to the well-being of the nation.

At SM Foods, we believe that celebrating our culinary traditions is essential to fostering national pride. Our product line is thoughtfully crafted to reflect the diverse flavors and recipes from various regions across Pakistan. By honoring our cultural heritage, we provide consumers—both local and international—with an authentic taste of Pakistan. This dedication to preserving and promoting our culinary identity allows us to share the stories of our rich history and traditions with the world, contributing to a greater appreciation for our nation's heritage.

The economic impact of SM Foods on Pakistan is significant. Since our inception, we have focused on expanding our operations, which has resulted in increased revenue, job creation, and contributions to the national GDP. Our commitment to quality and sustainability aligns with Pakistan's broader economic goals, as we invest in local talent and infrastructure. By prioritizing environmentally friendly practices, we are not only enhancing our brand but also shaping a more sustainable future

for our nation.

Community engagement and social responsibility are fundamental to SM Foods' mission. We understand the importance of giving back to the communities we serve, which is why we actively participate in various social initiatives. From supporting local education programs to providing resources for skill development, we strive to make a meaningful impact on society. Our success enables us to reinvest in the community, further strengthening the bond between SM Foods and Pakistan.

Looking toward the future, our vision is to expand our footprint not only within Pakistan but also on the global stage. We aspire to be a global ambassador for Pakistani cuisine, showcasing our rich flavors and culinary diversity to a wider audience. By doing so, we aim to enhance the international perception of Pakistan and contribute positively to its cultural and economic standing.

The relationship between SM Foods and Pakistan is one of mutual growth and thrive. As we continue to innovate and expand, we remain committed to our roots, recognizing that our success is intrinsically linked to the success of our beloved country. Together, we will forge a path toward a brighter future, where the flavors of Pakistan are celebrated and cherished around the globe. Through our dedication and hard work, we hope to elevate not only our brand but also the name of Pakistan in the global food industry.

PAKISTAN ZINDABAAD!!! PAKISTAN PAINDABAAD!!!

Independence Day Message of Murtaza Hashwani,

Deputy Chairman & CEO, Hashoo Group



Pakistan is a land of breathtaking natural beauty and cultural enigmas, extending from the majestic snow-capped peaks in the North to the glistening shores in the South.

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valued guests' experiences, putting forward the finest image of the country as a whole for visitors from all parts of the world.

Our mission has always been to help realize Pakistan's immense tourism and hospitality potential and continue enhancing this flourishing sector's contributions to the national

economy, putting us all on the global map of the hottest tourist destinations. With consistent evolution of services and expansion of our footprint, we pledge to continue the same trajectory and showcase Pakistan's unique cultural diversity to the whole world.

With new ventures being unveiled regularly, our goal is well within our grasp. The most recent additions include the nation's first and finest five-star golf resort in the famed City of Saints, Rumanza by Pearl-Continental in DHA Multan, a luxurious PC Legacy resort at the Rakaposhi base in Hunza, and new hotels coming very soon to Islamabad, Attabad and Skardu as well.

This Independence Day, we urge you all to keep the patriotism high as we stand at a crossroads in our collective historical journey. Let us make tomorrow better than yesterday and put our best feet forward to take our beloved Pakistan to new heights of prosperity.

Now and forever, Pakistan Zindabad!

Celebrating Pakistan Navy's Legacy On 78th Independence Day

Ali Bait

Since its inception in 1947, the Pakistan Navy has played a vital role in securing the country's maritime borders and protecting its national interests. As we commemorate 78th Independence Day, it's essential to acknowledge Pakistan Navy's unwavering commitment for defending sovereignty, promoting regional stability, and fostering international cooperation at sea. Pakistan Navy's journey began with a small naval force comprising of a few naval warships and personnel.

Recognizing the strategic importance of a naval force, Pakistan embarked on establishing a robust naval force capable of protecting its maritime borders. Therefore, Pakistan Navy focused on developing infrastructure, training personnel, and acquiring essential naval assets, including warships, minesweepers, and patrol crafts from various countries. This marked the beginning of a long journey towards modernization.

In this regard, the 1970s saw a significant expansion in naval assets with the acquisition of destroyers, frigates, and submarines. The induction of submarine capability into the naval force enhanced operational competence of Pakistan Navy. Moreover, the establishment of the Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW) and the Pakistan Naval Academy (PNA) boosted indigenous shipbuilding and human resource development capabilities, further solidifying the Navy's foundation.

During 2000s, Pakistan Navy intensified efforts to strengthen coastal defence and maritime security, establishing forward operating bases, coastal radar networks, and maritime surveillance systems. This enhancement enabled the navy to effectively counter emerging threats such as terrorism, piracy, and smuggling at sea. The navy actively participates in international counter-piracy efforts, including Combined Task Force 150 and 151, contributing to the safety of maritime trade routes.

Furthermore, Pakistan Navy has a commendable record in conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. It has actively responded to natural disasters, both within Pakistan and across the region. Notable operations include relief efforts during the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, the 2010 floods, and Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, Pakistan Navy regularly send humanitarian aid to Africa in line with the government's 'Engage Africa' policy that seeks to enhance bilateral relations and to explore new avenues of cooperation with African countries.

Moreover, Pakistan Navy engages in international coop-

eration initiatives, joint exercises, and peacekeeping operations, fostering goodwill and interoperability with friendly navies. It is important to highlight that it biennially conducts multinational exercise AMAN and participates in other bilateral exercises, showcasing its capabilities and commitment to global security.

During wartimes, Pakistan Navy has always espoused high standards of professionalism and valour. In 1965 war, Operation 'Dwarka' launched by Pakistan Navy caused irreparable damage to Indian Navy, vehemently destroyed the Indian Radar system. In addition, Pakistan Navy's submarine Ghazi moved its patrol to Bombay harbor to challenge enemy's ships namely INS Vikrant and INS Mysore to dock out and get destroyed. This psychological fear of Ghazi adversely affected the Indian Navy's operational maneuvers. Yet again



in the 1971 war, sinking of Indian warship Khukri brought an immense wartime casualty by PNS Hangor, is the only incident after WWII wherein any conventional submarine sank a Warship. Furthermore, the detections of Indian Navy submarines, after Pulwama military standoff, by Pakistan Navy evidently portrays its effective employment strategy coupled with superior professional acumen.

Over seven decades, Pakistan Navy has evolved into a professional and capable maritime force, navigating challenges and pursuing development, modernization, and self-reliance. From humble beginnings, the navy has grown into a formidable force, committed to safeguarding maritime interests and contributing to regional and global peace and security. Its unwavering dedication to defending sovereignty and promoting stability makes it a vital component of Pakistan's defence strategy.

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PM announces Rs150mn award, initiatives to recognize Olympian Arshad Nadeem's achievement

Spots Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced a cash award of Rs150 million (15 crore) to Olympian and gold medalist Arshad Nadeem besides, a number of other initiatives to recognize his historic feat in javelin throw competition of Paris Olympics 2024.

Addressing a special ceremony held at the PM Office and televised on TV channels, the prime minister said that the road between F-9 and F-10 sectors of Islamabad would be renamed as 'Arshad Nadeem road', besides Arshad Nadeem High Performance Academy would be established at Jinnah Stadium to groom the young talent for the upcoming 2028 Olympics.

The prime minister announced establishment of Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund with Rs1 billion to support the players whereas a committee would be set up to give recommendations for the promotion of sports in the

country.

On the occasion, the prime minister also announced an award of Rs10 million (1 crore) for Salman Iqbal Butt, Arshad's coach.

He said that he had also recommended conferment of Hilal-i-Imtiaz award upon Arshad Nadeem.

The prime minister said that it was a moment of immense pride to host nation's hero Arshad Nadeem who had won the gold medal in Paris Olympics after a gap of 40 years, on the basis of his hard work.

The entire nation thanked him as his success had doubled the celebrations of the Independence Day, he said, adding Arshad Nadeem, with his javelin throw, had also set a new Olympic record.

The prime minister opined that his achievement had set the morale of entire nation very high and gave a message that one should not be bogged down before problems and challenges but face them with courage and

determination.

"The precedent you set in Paris is a beacon for us all. Your success came at a time when the preparations for the Independence Day are in full swing. Your precedent has given us courage. The Himalayan-like challenges will be surpassed and we will transform Pakistan into a great country," he added.

The prime minister said upon Arshad's historic success, the entire crowd in the stadium clapped for Pakistan, the national flag was raised and the national anthem was played for which he along with the entire nation, saluted Nadeem.

The prime minister also mentioned Arshad's mother for her prayers and said that it was not an ordinary matter.

He expressed the optimism that with Arshad Nadeem's success, more players would follow him in the winning streak and bring laurels to the country. All the leadership in the coalition government had congratulated Arshad.



Arshad Nadeem rewarded brand new car, customized number plate by CM Punjab

Asim Tanveer / Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday, rewarded star athlete Arshad Nadeem with a cheque of Rs100 million and a brand new car with a customized number plate "PAK 92.97" as a token of appreciation.

Arshad made history at the recently concluded Paris Olympics as he became the first Pakistani to win an individual Olympic Gold medal.

In the final of the Men's Javelin Throw, Arshad shocked the world with his massive throw of 92.97m, the new Olympic record, which was enough for him to seal the Gold medal.

Following his ground-breaking performance, several notable personalities of the country and the provincial governments announced massive prizes for the star athlete.

Among them was CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who announced Rs100 million prize money to Arshad Nadeem.

However, the Chief Minister rewarded the athlete more than the announcement as she gifted him a brand new car which came with a customized number plate.

She also lauded Arshad's coach Salman Butt and gave him a cheque of



Rs5 million.

Maryam Nawaz also announced the construction of a sports city named after Arshad Nadeem Sports City in Mian Channu.

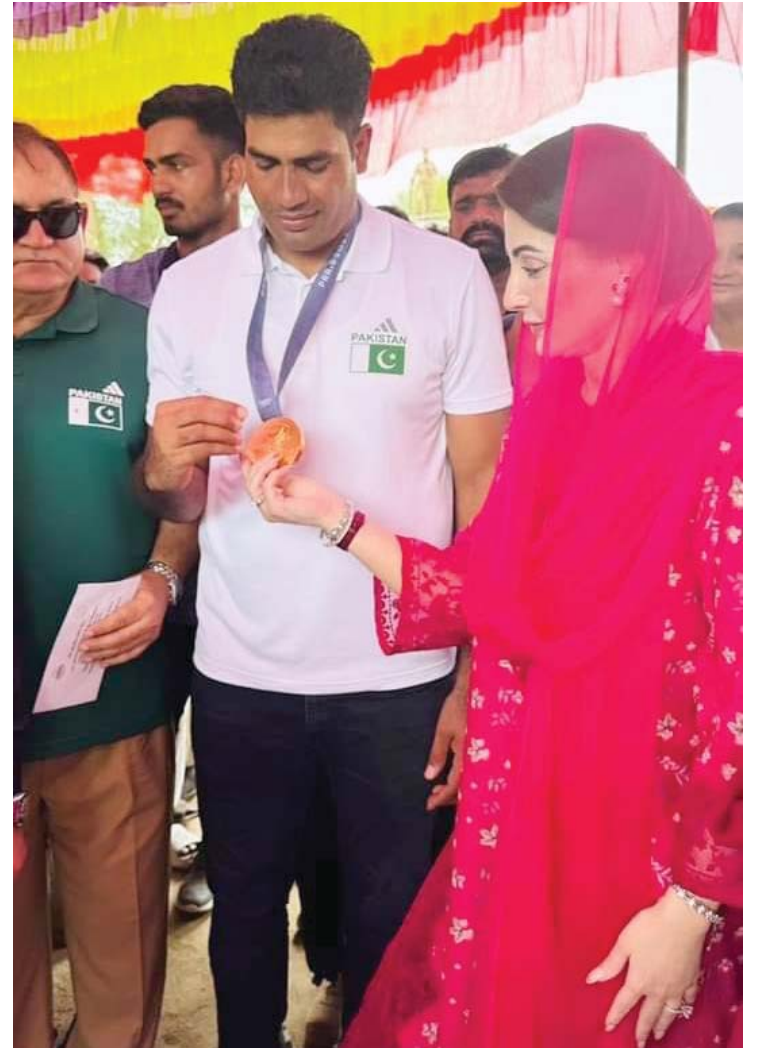
Earlier, the Sindh government also announced a Rs50 million reward for

Pakistan's star athlete Arshad Nadeem, who won the country's first individual Olympic gold in the javelin throw final at the Paris Olympics 2024.

On the other hand, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has announced that he will give Rs2 million to him.

Moreover, singer Ali Zafar announced Rs1 million for the athlete on winning gold for Pakistan.

Furthermore, President and CEO ARY Digital Network Mr Salman Iqbal announced to reward Arshad Nadeem with an apartment in ARY Laguna.



Jashan Azadi Inter-Provincial Basketball Championship: Punjab and Islamabad Women's Final

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The finals of Jashan Azadi inter-provincial basketball championship will be played today, the women's final will be played between Punjab and Islamabad-A while in men's final will be contested Punjab and KPK. The ongoing championship organized by the Pakistan Basketball Federation and supervised by the Federal Basketball Association. In the first Women semi-final, Punjab defeated Sindh 64-32. The half-time score was 40-13 in the favour of Punjab. For the winning side, Khadija Mushtaq scored 17 points and Aiman Mahmood scored 16 points, while Maryam scored 10 points and Aqsi scored 9 points for Sindh. In



the second semi-final, Islamabad A defeated Islamabad-B by 36-24 after an interesting match. Maria scored 12 points and Amani scored 7 points from Islamabad-A, while Shanzy scored 9 points and Shahbano scored five points from Islamabad-B. In the men's first semi-final, Punjab beat Islamabad-A by 81-56. The score at half-time was

41-28 in favor of the winning team. Muhammad Taimur scored 22 points and Muhammad Saifullah scored 21 points for the winning team, while Ali Hamza Kazmi scored 23 points and Muhammad Usman scored 7 points for Islamabad-A. Second Semi final was played between KPK and Islamabad-B which was won by KPK. The final score was 70-51. Top Scorer were Abdul Wahab 23, Bilal Khan 10 from KPK. While Haroon Rashid 15, Behram Raees 10 from losing side Islamabad-A. Matches were supervised by Muhammad Praim Shahzad, Moazzam Naveed Rao, Muhammad Mudassar, Yasir Ghafoor, Umar Mehmood, Adeel S Raza, Gul Jamal, Naveed Ahmed Beeda and Saadat Jahangir.

All the Pakistanis are proud of Arshad Nadeem's historic achievement: DG Spots

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Paris Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem's coach Salman Iqbal Butt called on Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal at National Hockey Stadium. Director Admin Dr M Kaleem was also present on this occasion.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that Arshad Nadeem is the national hero and all the Pakistanis are proud of his remarkable and historic achievement.



measures for the development of sports among the younger generation.

"Sports Board Punjab is taking effective measures for the growth of every sport across the Punjab province".

Arshad Nadeem's coach Salman Iqbal Butt, on this occasion, said that Sports Board Punjab played an important role in the preparation of Arshad Nadeem for the Paris Olympic Games.

"Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal provided all possible facilities to Arshad Nadeem for his training at Punjab Stadium".

Bowlers wreak havoc to put Pakistan Shaheens on top against Bangladesh A

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Naseem Shah and Mir Hamza wreaked havoc with the ball as Pakistan Shaheens booked Bangladesh A on 122 on the opening day of the first four-day match here on Tuesday.

Bangladesh A captain Anamul Haque's decision to bat first after winning the toss did not prove beneficial as the touring side was all out on a meagre total.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy offered some resistance against a pace-heavy Shaheens' bowling attack while the rest made modest contributions.

Leading the way with the ball for Pakistan Shaheens were Naseem Shah and Mir Hamza, who shared six wickets between them while Mohammad Rameez Jnr bagged two.

Right-arm pacer Mohammad Ali and experienced all-rounder Umar Ami chipped in with a wicket apiece. In response, Pakistan Shaheens could bat for only two overs and scored as many runs as the action was halted due to bad light.

Notably, the opening day of the



first four-day match between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh A had a delayed start due to a wet outfield and concluded early due to bad light thus only 46.3 overs were bowled.

Pakistan Shaheens squad (for first four-day match): Saud Shakeel (captain), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Rameez Jnr, Mohammad Hurraira, Naseem Shah, Saad Baig (wicket-keeper), Saad

Khan, Saim Ayub, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper) and Umar Amin

Bangladesh 'A' squad (for first four-day match): Anamul Haque (captain), Hasan Mahmud, Hasan Murad, Mahidul Islam Ankon, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Mominul Haque, Mosaddek Hossain Saikat, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Hasan, Rejaur Rahman Raja, Ruyel Miah, Sahadat Hossain, Tanvir Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Zakir Hasan.

Youth Affairs, Sports Dept organises seminar on 'Youth a hope for Rising Pakistan'

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Youth Affairs and Sports Department, on the directions of Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal organized a seminar on the topic of 'Youth a hope for Rising Pakistan' on International Youth Day at SBPE-Library on Monday.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum and former Pakistan hockey captain Olympian Tahir Zaman were the guests of honour at the seminar.

Besides them, veteran banker and motivational speaker Amjad Siddiqui, E-Rozgar high achiever

Saba Khalil Awan, Imran Kadia, Syed Kashf Ahmed, head of Alif Laam Meem organization Bushra Nadeem, Smeda adviser Liaqat Ali Gohar, moderator Ahsan Kamray and a large number of female students and players from different clubs also attended the seminar.

Shaista Qaiser, Assistant Director Farhat, Razia Malik and Librarian Shazia were also present on this occasion.

All the speakers paid rich tribute to Olympian Arshad Nadeem for winning historic Gold Medal in javelin throw event of Paris Olympics.

Addressing the seminar, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem said that our youth

has been blessed with abundance of potential. "Our talented youth just need to identify their true strength and focus to achieve their goal instead of wasting their time in useless activities".

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem said that our youth must spend their time in positive activities.

"It is right time for our talented youngsters to learn techniques of modern Artificial Intelligence (AI)".

Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum presented welcome address and appreciated the discipline of participating girls. "Punjab Youth Department is striving hard for polishing the skills and abilities of talented young boys and

girls". Later, all the speakers were given souvenirs.

Meanwhile, Punjab Youth Affairs and Sports Department conducted a Calligraphy Contest in connection with 77th Independence Day of the country. A large number of female students of different colleges and universities took part in the competition.

Laraib Eman Ali was declared winner of the Calligraphy Contest and was awarded a trophy and cash prize of Rs 20,000. Aysha Fatima grabbed second position while Samara Shahid finished third in the event.

Aysha Fatima and Samara were given cash prizes of Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively.

Credentials

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of Vietnam, Maldives, and Ireland presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Envoys of Vietnam, Maldives, Ireland present credentials to President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of Vietnam, Maldives and Ireland presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credential ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Vietnam, Mr Pham Anh

Tuan, High Commissioner-designate of Maldives, Mr Uz Mohamed Thoha, and Ambassador-designate of Ireland, Ms Mary O'Neil, who also held separate meetings with the President.

Welcoming the envoys, the President felicitated them on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually

beneficial cooperation with Pakistan.

The President said that Pakistan wanted to further solidify trade, economic and investment relations with friendly countries in all areas of mutual interest. He remarked that Pakistan was focused on boosting bilateral trade volume with all friendly countries. He stated that Pakistan offered great investment

opportunities in diverse fields and businesses should invest in agriculture, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, information technology, mining, and green technologies sectors.

Earlier, the envoys were presented guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy reviews regional maritime situation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Command and Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. The Conference was chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf. The forum reviewed maritime situation in North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden and deliberated on measures for safety and security of national sea trade passing through the region.

During the conference, matters related to geo strategic milieu, national security, operational preparedness, training and welfare of troops were reviewed. Comprehensive briefing on important on-going and future developmental projects of Pakistan Navy

was also given to Chief of the Naval Staff.

Naval Chief expressed confidence over combat readiness and significant contribution of the Navy in maritime domain. Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on strengthening maritime security and maintaining combat readiness so as to effectively respond to any aggression against Pakistan. He urged on acquisition of niche and novel capabilities while exploiting indigenous sources in order to cope with modern day challenges in maritime domain.

Command & Staff Conference is the apex decision making body of Pakistan Navy in which Chief of the Naval Staff along with all Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders undertake review of Pakistan Navy's Policies and Plans.

Iranian Embassy extends greetings to Pakistan on 77th Independence Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Iranian Embassy has extended heartfelt congratulations to the people and the Government of Pakistan on the occasion of the country's 77th Independence Day.

In a message on Tuesday, the Embassy praised Pakistan as a "great nation" and conveyed its best wishes for the country's prosperity, well-being, peace and security.

"We extend our heartiest greetings on this joyous occasion to the government and the people of Pakistan.

Our wishes are for prosperity, well-being, peace and security for our friendly, brotherly and neighboring country of Pakistan," the statement read.

The ties between Iran and Pakistan are deep-rooted, reaffirming the enduring friendship and mutual respect between the two neighboring nations, it added.

Malaysian Diplomats celebrate Pakistan's 77th Independence Day with enthralling tribute at Maroof Int'l Hospital

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital (MIH) celebrated Jashan-e-Azadi with great enthusiasm, marking the occasion with various activities and decorations. The event was graced by the presence of the Malaysian Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Mohd Syafiq Firdous Bin Hasbullah, along with his delegation.

In his address, Mr. Mohd Syafiq Firdous Bin Hasbullah emphasized the strong Islamic, historical, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Malaysia, referring to the two nations as Islamic brothers. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to all Pakistanis on the occasion of Pakistan Day and commended Maroof International Hospital for organizing such a meaningful event.



The staff of MIH took part in the celebrations by decorating their respective departments. These decorations were then evaluated by the hospital management, and prizes were awarded to the top five teams. The Operation Theaters secured the first prize, followed by the Radiology Department

in second place, while the Research Department, Outpatient Department and Early Intervention Therapy Unit shared the third position. Certificates of appreciation and cash prizes were also distributed to the winning teams.

Notably, the Operation Theaters and Research

Departments paid tribute to Pakistan's sporting hero, Arshad Nadeem, by including posters that highlighted his achievements. Their efforts celebrated his remarkable contributions, which have made the nation proud.

On this occasion Mr. Haroon Naseer, the CEO

of MIH said: "As we celebrate the birth of our nation, let us remember the sacrifices of our forefathers and renew our commitment to the principles of unity, faith, and discipline. At MIH, we strive to embody these values in our service to the community. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger Pakistan. Happy Pakistan Day to all!"

In a gesture of appreciation towards the dedicated staff of MIH, Mr. Naseer also announced exciting prizes, including Umrah tickets, a motorbike, and various electronic appliances, which would be distributed through a lucky draw. He congratulated the Operation Theaters Department for their outstanding efforts in winning the first prize. The delegation was also given a tour of the hospital's new facilities, including the Silver Oaks swimming pool, gym, and NetCafe restaurant.

Message on Independence Day of Pakistan



H. E. Ali bin Mubarak Al Khater
Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I am deeply honored to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the esteemed members of the government, and the cherished people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Paki-

stan's Independence Day.

The bond between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is one of enduring strength and significance, rooted in mutual trust, respect, and a shared dedication to peace and stability. Our relationship is comprehensive, spanning various areas of bilateral cooperation, with notable partnerships in economic, political, social, and military domains. These ties are further enriched by our mutual commitment to humanitarian solidarity and a collective vision for global harmony.

Over the past fifty years, our relations have not only endured but have grown stronger, reaching new heights. The recent visit of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar (may God protect him), has marked a new chapter in our partnership, breathing fresh energy and ambition into our collaboration. The agreements signed during this visit serve as a testament to our shared resolve to deepen and broaden our cooperation across all sectors.

On this momentous occasion, I would like to reiterate the unwavering commitment of the State of Qatar to further solidify and enhance the longstanding partnership between our two nations. We remain devoted to fostering greater progress, prosperity, and shared success, in a way that advances our mutual interests and fulfills the aspirations of our peoples.

National Roaming Services launched for Ensuring Enhanced Connectivity along Markran Coastal Highway

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: To mark the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan Ministry of IT & Telecom, PTA and USF in a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity and public service in Balochistan, launched National Roaming Services along Makran Coastal Highway today. The milestone achievement launched during a ceremony held at PTA headquarters is a result of collaborative efforts among the Universal Service Fund (USF), Jazz, Ufone, under the patronage of PTA.

Ms. Shaza Fatima, Minister of State for IT & Telecom, Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rahman Chairman PTA, Mr. Muhammad Naveed, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokar, Members of The Authority, Mr. Mudassar Naveed CEO USF, Mr. Aamir Ibrahim CEO Jazz, Ufone representatives and PTA team were present in the ceremony. Availability of telecom services in such underserved areas is not only a technological upgrade but also a public service initiative by the government of Pakistan to improve livelihoods of people of Balochistan, especially of the people living along Makran coastal highway.

AJK PM hails Jinnah for his indomitable leadership on Pakistan's independence day

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while felicitating the Pakistani nation on its Independence day, has said it was under the wise and selfless leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah that the world's largest ideological Islamic state (Pakistan) came into being on 14 August 1947.

In his statement issued on the occasion of Independence day, the AJK premier said that the establishment of a separate homeland for the Muslims in the shape of Pakistan was a vivid reflection of the aspirations of the South Asian Muslims.

Termining August 14, 1947 as a historic day, he said it was on this day when Allama Iqbal's dream of a separate homeland on the basis of two nation theory

came true.

"On this august day, we pay homage to the struggle and sacrifices of our ancestors who sacrificed everything for the sake of Pakistan", the PM said. Lauding the indomitable role Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had played in uniting Muslims of the subcontinent under the banner of Muslim League, he said, "Quaid-i-Azam organized the Muslim League on the basis of two nation theory propounded by the poet of East Sir Allama Muhammad Iqbal".

Mr. Jinnah, he said, had unwavering faith and trust in his cause and his people. "This is the reason that he fought a decisive constitutional battle that successfully culminated in the form of Pakistan despite the fiercest opposition by Hindus and Britishers", he said.

The AJK premier said that

Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC celebrate Pakistan's independence with joy and observe India's independence day as a black day.

He said that the government of Pakistan, the Pakistani people and the Pakistan Army fully support Kashmiris in their struggle for right to self determination.

He said that India cannot suppress Kashmiri legitimate aspirations by the dent of force. Pakistan, he said, would continue its all out political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiri people till they achieve their goal. He said that the day was not far off when the people of Indian occupied Kashmir would achieve their long cherished goal of freedom from India and the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir would become a part of Pakistan

Ambassador Albert P. Khorev's Message to the People of Pakistan

Let me extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

I am blessed to represent Russia in a country known for its hospitality, natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Pakistan has enormous potential in all spheres of life, but its most valuable asset is its hardworking and sincere people.

On this joyous occasion, I wish your beautiful nation prosperity, well-being and happiness!

Youm-e-Azadi Mubarak!

Government College Women University Faisalabad

Happy Independence Day

May our country continue to thrive in unity, peace, and prosperity. Let us honor the sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom by embracing the values of justice, equality, and compassion.

Prof. Dr. Zilli-Hurna Nazli
Vice Chancellor, GCWUF

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