

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے ہمارے بچے بیان کیا کہ ان سے قرآن
نے اور ان سے اس نے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ
نے ایک شخص کو دیکھا کہ قرآن کے لیے ایک
اوتھی ہانگے لیے جا رہا ہے۔ نبی کریم ﷺ
علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اس پر سوار ہو کر جا،
انہوں نے کہا کہ تو قرآن کا جانور ہے۔ نبی
کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ سوار ہو جا، اسوس
«ویک» دوسری تیسری مرتبہ یہ فرمایا۔
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RAWALPINDI



President Zardari confers national awards on 104 Pakistanis, foreigners on Independence Day

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday announced the conferment of Pakistan's national awards on 104 Pakistanis and foreigners, in recognition of their services, excellence, and sacrifices in their respective fields. The awards were announced on Pakistan's 77th Independence Day.



Nation celebrates Independence Day with zeal, fervour

The 77th Independence Day is being celebrated with a renewed pledge to work with the spirit of Pakistan Movement to make the country a true Islamic welfare state. The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and a 21-gun salute in the provincial headquarters. Special prayers were offered in mosques for peace, solidarity and prosperity of the country.

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National Flag Hoisted

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoists the national flag at the Pakistan Monument on the 78th Independence Day on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM urges nation to support govt in making Pakistan stable, prosperous

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, congratulating the nation on the 78th Pakistan Independence Day, urged the people especially the youth to support the government in its efforts to make the country, prosperous, stable and peaceful. He said the youth were the bright future of the country who could play their role in the country's development. "The next few years are crucial for you and the country, so only focus on your studies

and attaining skilled-based education, and do not indulge yourself in the negative agenda of the enemy who is out to target you and utilize your capabilities in anti-state activities," he asked the youth while addressing a ceremony held here in connection with the independence day celebrations. Unfortunately, he said the enemy was now using digital terrorism tools to sabotage the country's development journey. On the occasion of the Independence Day, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to the people

of Pakistan and paid homage to the immense sacrifices of forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values. As envisioned by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan emerged as an independent and sovereign state on the map of the world on 14th August 1947 through the unwavering and steadfast leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and unmatched sacrifices of our

ancestors, he added. The prime minister highlighted that although during the past 77 years, the country's journey had not been exemplary but it was also the fact that it managed to survive due to the resilience, its people had shown through natural disasters and economic and social challenges. On the occasion, he also paid tribute to the people belonging to various sectors including sports, education, health, etc. He also saluted Olympic hero Arshad Nadeem who won a gold medal for Pakistan in Paris

Olympics and was present in the ceremony along with his mother. PM Shehbaz Sharif, on the occasion, also condemned the ongoing Israeli barbarism on the Palestinians saying that the "massacre of thousands of innocent Palestinians has diminished our pleasures on the occasion of independence day". Similarly, he also expressed the government's resolve to stand by the Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the resolution of the issue according to the will of the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K).

PM expresses gratitude to his UAE counterpart for extending greetings on Pakistan's Independence Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday thanked his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his warm greetings on Pakistan's Independence Day. "I thank Your Highness and the entire leadership of UAE for always standing with Pakistan in our journey towards peace, progress and prosperity. I am confident that by working together, we can build a bright future for our peoples. Long live Pakistan-UAE brotherhood," the prime minister wrote on his official X account in response to the felicitation message by Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The UAE prime minister extending his felicitation to the leadership and people of Pakistan on the occasion of its Independence Day, reiterated his country's steadfast commitment to strengthening bilateral collaboration, exploring new opportunities for growth, and working together to build a future of prosperity and success.

ISSI Celebrates Independence Day with fervour under the theme "Mera Pakistan"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) marked Pakistan's Independence Day with a vibrant celebration under the theme "Mera Pakistan." The event, held at the ISSI was a tribute to the rich diversity, cultural heritage, and indomitable spirit of the Pakistani people. Director General of ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his address, extended heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day. He commended the Interns for their creative contributions and the meaningful content they produced. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also took the opportunity to share a historical perspective on the Pakistan movement, especially the rationale for the demand for a separate homeland for Muslims in the subcontinent. Chairman BoG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, lauded

the efforts of young participants and shared his thoughts on the Pakistan movement and Pakistan's history since Independence. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony in which the research faculty, staff and Interns participated. The ISSI Independence Day celebration concluded with a renewed sense of patriotism and a collective resolve to contribute towards the development of Pakistan in all domains. The event was a fitting tribute to the nation's history and a hopeful look towards its future.



Two former Adiala Jail officials arrested for 'abetting' Imran: sources

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: A former deputy superintendent and a former assistant superintendent of Adiala Jail were arrested on Wednesday under charges of abetting Imran Khan, Aij News reported. Former Deputy Superintendent Muhammad Akram and Assistant Superintendent Bilal, who had been transferred out of the prison some time ago, are also charged with exceeding his jurisdiction. The officials are accused of acting as 'messengers' for Imran. According to sources both officials had special access to Imran's cell. Akram and Bilal are currently being investigated by intelligence agencies. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan is currently being held in Adiala Jail in multiple cases including the May 9 protests and corruption.

Pakistan's retribution will be sharp if any warfare applied against us: COAS Munir

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has warned inimical forces that Pakistan's retribution would strike back far and deep if any form of warfare was applied against the country. "Regardless of multi-layered and multi-dimensional threat piled up against us we stand united and reassured, traditional and non-traditional, dynamic or pro-active, whatever form of warfare is applied against us, our retribution will be sharp and painful and we will certainly strike back far and deep," he said while addressing the Azadi Parade. The parade marking the country's 77th independence anniversary was held at the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul late on Sunday. "We know that freedom is not free and it caused many

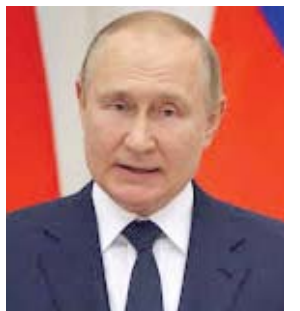


brave sons and daughters and we are always ready for that," the army chief said and added that he has full faith and confidence that the people of Pakistan and its security forces would never relent and let anyone cast "evil eye on this great country." He thanked People's Republic of China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, State of Qatar, and Turkiye for standing with the country during thick and thin and extending to it every kind of support whenever needed.

Russia's Putin extends Independence Day greetings to Pakistan

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday extended his heartfelt congratulations to Pakistan on occasion of its Independence Day. In his message, President Putin emphasised the long-standing ties between Russia and Pakistan, expressing hope for the continued development of constructive relations for the sake of international security. "Kindly accept my heart-



felt congratulations on your national holiday - Independence Day of Pakistan," Putin conveyed.

Independence Day celebrations at the Embassy of Pakistan, Belgium

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Independence Day of Pakistan was commemorated with great patriotic fervor at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels today. The event was marked by a series of activities that underscored the spirit of freedom, unity, and the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Her Excellency Amna Baloch, Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, at the Embassy premises. The playing of the national anthem added to the solemnity of the occasion, evoking a deep sense of pride and reverence among the attendees. On the occasion, the messages of the President, Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out. The leadership paid glowing tributes to the founding fathers of Pakistan, and their vision led to the creation of an independent homeland. They reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to strive towards

the realization of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision for a progressive, peaceful, and prosperous Pakistan. In her address, Ambassador Amna Baloch highlighted the significance of Independence Day, reflecting on the enduring legacy of Quaid-e-Azam and Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. She emphasized the relevance of their vision in today's world, stressing the need for unity, hard work, and dedication to build a strong nation that stands resilient against challenges. The Ambassador also appreciated the contributions of the Pakistani diaspora in Belgium and Luxembourg, acknowledging their role in strengthening Pakistan's ties with Europe.



77th Independence Day of Pakistan mark at AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD AJK: Acting President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar has said that the dream of a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan would remain elusive until the freedom of Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Akbar made these assertions while speaking at the main flag-hoisting event held in the capital city Muzaffarabad on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Pakistan was incomplete without the freedom of its jugular vein (Kashmir). The acting president reiterated Kashmiris' resolve and determination to continue their struggle till the freedom of Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that today Kashmiris settled on both sides of the LoC and world over celebrate 77th Independence Day of Pakistan with

great traditional zest and zeal." Even in Occupied Kashmir, Kashmiris celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day by waving the green flag", he said, adding Pakistan was their ultimate destination. "Pakistan is a true sympathiser and a center of hope for Kashmiris", Chudhary Latif Akbar said adding that Pakistan has always supported Kashmiris. "Be it floods, earthquake or recent power crisis, the government and Pakistani people have always lend their helping hand to Kashmiris, for which we are very grateful to them", he said. Remembering the founding fathers of Pakistan and the contribution of countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan movement, he said, "We pay homage to the sacrifices of our forefathers who struggled tirelessly to create a separate homeland for us".

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Pakistan is the only country in the world which came into being on

the basis of the Islamic ideology. He said this while addressing the flag-hoisting ceremony held on the occasion of Pakistan's 77th Independence Day here today. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said, "The belief in one God and His messenger united all nationalities living in Pakistan under one umbrella". Recalling the supreme sacrifices rendered by the forefathers of Pakistan he said, "While celebrating the joys of independence, we pay homage to all those great leaders and workers of Pakistan Movement who fought selflessly during the historic struggle for creation of Pakistan." We also pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives for the defense and security of this country", he said. Referring to the age-old bond between the people of Pakistan and Kashmir, he said, "We are Pakistanis and Pakistan is ours". This slogan, he said, was the voice of every Kashmiris heart. "The hearts of Kashmiris and Pakistanis

throb in unison", the PM said. Referring to the massacre of Muslims of Jammu in 1947, the PM said Pakistan held in its protective embrace lakhs of Kashmiris who survived the dreadful massacre. "The hapless refugees who were driven out of their motherland were not only provided shelter by Pakistanis but also given the same rights and privileges the local people enjoyed", he said. "Today millions of Kashmiris live peacefully in Pakistan and many of them hold key positions in the Pakistan Army, Civil Bureaucracy, Politics, Trade and every sector of life", he said. Referring to India's imperialistic presence in the region, the PM said that India has illegally annexed occupied territory of Jammu Kashmir."

The flag-hoisting ceremony was attended and addressed by Acting President Chaudhry Latif Akbar whereas core commander lieutenant general Shahid was present on the occasion.

Tree Plantation on independent Day in Women's University Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: 14 August Pakistan Independence Day Celebration and Tree Plantation in Women's University Multan On this occasion Commissioner Multan Ms. Maryam Khan inaugurated a Mega Tree Plantation Campaign in line with the vision of the Honorable Chief Minister Punjab of Green Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Multan Ms. Maryam Khan said that Pakistan was created with immense sacrifices by our forefathers and laid stress on strengthening the national institutions of the country.

Addressing the tree plantation inauguration ceremony, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha said that the university will plant maximum trees in both the campuses including the main campus as part of Plant for Pakistan drive. She said that Women University has launched a mega Tree Plantation drive in August and will continue to promote forestation in keeping the environment clean and pleasant.

She urged the faculty members and students to actively take part in the campaign to make the entire campaign a complete success. She said that Pakistan is badly affected by global warming and this is the dire need to preserve nature and plant maximum trees to save our generations to come. She urged the youth to take part in plantation drives actively to make Pakistan clean and green. Almost 12000 plants were planted at both campuses to safeguard the environment. Every department actively participated in this activity. Faculty members, staff and students also planted saplings to mark the event. The event was attended by Director Student Affairs Dr. Adeela Saeed, Controller Examinations Dr Hina Ali, Director QEC, Dr. Malika Rani, Director ORIC Dr Kanwal Rehman, Director Academics Dr. Maryam Zain and other staff members.

Pakistan People's Party says will not hesitate to make sacrifices for sake of integrity



Bureau Report

KOTLI: President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that by hoisting the green crescent flag, we pledge that we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the defense of Pakistan's prosperity and integrity. He appeared on the map and it will remain till the doomsday, he expressed these views while speaking at the main ceremony on the occasion of Independence Day after unfurling the flag. Yes, our forces have overcome the monster of terrorism by giving great sacrifices, six wars including Gargal will be imposed on us, out of which four wars including Gargal were imposed by India and two wars were directly imposed in Afghanistan in one of which there was NATO of 32 countries. He said that the Pakistan Army has a blunt stand on the issue of Kashmir and this army will also liberate Kashmir. On this occasion, we pay tribute to all the martyrs.

Gulzar Fatima: Pakistan is the hope of oppressed Muslims in the world



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Member of AJK Assembly and Secretary of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Kashmir Ms. Gulzar Fatima has said that Pakistan is the only country in the world established on the basis of ideology for the establishment of which our ancestors made historic sacrifices. Pakistan and the value of freedom should be asked from the oppressed people of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine. She was addressing a ceremony held at the office of the Red Crescent State Branch on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day. A large number of Red Crescent staff and volunteers participated in the ceremony. A cake in the color of Pakistan's national flag was cut before Ms. Gulzar Fatima said that the Muslims of the subcontinent have made sacrifices in vain for the establishment of Pakistan. If Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam had not fought for the cause of a separate homeland for Muslims, we would have been second-class citizens like the Muslims of India today. She said,

Pakistan People's Party Celebrate Pakistan 77th Independence Day in Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: 77th independence day cake cut at the residence of Pakistan Peoples Party ticket holder NA 149 Malik Rizwan Hans, On this occasion Member National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, Iqbal Arabi, Malik Tariq Hans, Sam Riaz, Malik Munir Arain, Mudassar Hussain, Dr Javed Siddiqui, Dr Zafar Hans, Malik Mehboob Thaheem, Imran Shah Bukhari, Muhammad Ali Mughal, Muhammad Ali Bukhari, Shahzeb Bukhari and Rama Saeed are cutting the cake.

Drone show

ISLAMABAD: A view of fighter plane model making with drone during celebrating Independence Day at Fatima Jinnah Park, in the Federal Capital. Pakistan's first-ever drone show featuring 500 drones simultaneously illuminated the sky with images.



Photo: Online

Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference celebrates 77th Independence Day in grand manner

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, on the direction of President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, celebrated the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan in a grand manner by organizing three-day events in the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir and across Pakistan. Seminars, meetings, processions, rallies and cake cutting will be held regarding Independence Day. The workers hoisted the flag of Pakistan all over Azad Kashmir.

Speaking on this occasion, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the armed forces of Pakistan are grateful for organizing this prestigious event. It helped to strengthen the relations of Pakistan and Kashmiris. We congratulate the people of Pakistan and Kashmir on the occasion of 77th Independence Day. The relationship between Kashmir and Pakistan has been made eternal by nature and no force can weaken this relationship. Sakti. In the presence of one million soldiers in occupied Kashmir, the time of Pakistan in the watches of Kashmiri youth is not



that of Delhi. India should note that their dream of aggression will never be fulfilled.

On this occasion, Muslim Conference leaders Major Retired Sardar Nasrullah Khan Raja Taqib Majeed Ms. Samia Sajid Raja Maimunah Kayani and other leaders were also present.

Earlier under the auspices of the

previous Muslim Conference, a large rally was taken out from Ghaziabad Mujahid E Awwal House on the occasion of Independence Day, which included hundreds of vehicles and motorcycles. The rally was led by President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq, Ahmed Khan, senior officials of the Muslim Conference in Kerala, Major Retd Nasrullah Khan, Central

Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, Former Government Minister Shamim Ali Malik Chairperson Women Wing Samia Sajid Raja, Maimuna Kayani Advocate, Nasreen Akhtar Raja, City President Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed, Sajjad Anwar Abbasi, Raja Munir Khan, Muneeb Ishaq Qureshi, Malik Aman, Nasreen Raja, Irfan Abbasi, Amjad Gurdizi, Jabbar Abbasi and a large number of MSF youth wing workers were present. The rally ended at Kohala. Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan participated as the chief guest in the night celebration of the Independence Day by the Pakistan Army. Brigadier Fazal Qadir participated in the ceremony. Former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan and Brigadier Fazal Qadir unfurled the flag at Kohala Bridge. And the flag was saluted and fireworks were displayed in which thousands of Muslim Conference workers and political and social figures participated in large numbers. Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Muslim Conference said that the armed forces of Pakistan. We thank the people of Pakistan and Kashmir on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day.

Pakistan Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony held at District Administration Office

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: 77th Independence Day of Pakistan Celebration in Multan, like all over the country, an Official ceremony was held at Deputy Commissioner Office Multan.

Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan. Director General Intelligence Bureau for South Punjab Muhammad Afzal Sheikh, Deputy Commissioner Multan Wasim Ahmed Sindhu, City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar, Civil Defense Official Dr Ghazanfar Malik. Senior Superintendent Investigation Of Police Rana Muhammad Ashraf and officers of various departments, civil society and members of the peace committee attended. Deputy Commissioner Wasim



Ahmed Sindhu unfurled the flag along with the special guests, while the fresh troops of the police and civil defense organization paid tribute to the heroes

of the country and saluted the atmosphere everywhere echoing the slogans of Pakistan Zindabad. Meanwhile, Chief Instructors Civil

Defense Fahim Imdad, Abdul Qadeer Khan, Imran Mazhar, Group Wardens Ghazanfar Malik, Khawaja Dilshad Ahmed, Dr. Athar, Dr. Maqbool, Khadim Hussain, Asif Javed, Imran Bhatti, Malik Abu Bakr, Habib Khan, Kamran Ali and a large number of others.

Talking to the present volunteers, Controller Civil Defense Multan Waseem Ahmed Sindhu said that in order to deal with the contemporary challenges of the homeland and to strengthen the civil defense, modern training and the society will be made more aware.

Appreciating the selfless services of the defense volunteers, he said that the citizens should be part of the organization and serve the country and the people.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:58 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:59 pm
Maghrib 6:55 pm
Isha 8:26 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

77th Independence Day celebrate with great enthusiasm and devotion in Takht Bhai

Correspondent

TAKHT BHAI: Like other parts of the country, the 77th Independence Day celebrations are being held with great enthusiasm and devotion in Takht Bhai tehsil. A central ceremony was held at TMA Takht Bhai, which began with sirens and flag hoisting. A special cake was cut to celebrate Independence Day. National anthems and patriotic songs were played, and a tree was planted to mark the occasion. Participants congratulated each other on Independence Day. A grand ceremony was held at the TMA office in Takht Bhai, organized by the tehsil administration, which included Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Chairman of Takht Bhai Tehsil, Junaid Khalid, Assistant Commissioner of Takht Bhai, Madam Sabarsh Anwar, Additional Assistant Commissioner, Shakeel Khan, DSP, Ali Akbar, SHO, Shaikat Khan, Traffic Incharge, Rahman Sher, TMO, Usman Ali Nashad, Chief Officer, Maulana Muhammad Qasim, Amir of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Mardan District, Haji Gul Dad, Patron of Anjuman Tajran, Sher Mama, Shah Khalid, and others. The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including political leaders, traders, and citizens.

APSMA celebrates Independence Day in schools of Rawalpindi district

Maryam Siddiq

RAWALPINDI: CEO District Education Authority Muhammad Yasin Khan Baloch said that this country was obtained by our forefathers by making great sacrifices, we all have to fight together for its security and stability. Accordingly, the Independence Day was also celebrated with enthusiasm in the educational institutions of Rawalpindi district. Apsma North Punjab President Abrar Ahmed Khan and his team are grateful for their cooperation.

These views were expressed by CEO District Education Authority Muhammad Yasin Khan Baloch while addressing the Independence Celebration ceremony held at the ground of Muslim Higher Secondary School Saidpur Road in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association and District Education Authority. President Apsma North Punjab Abrar Ahmed Khan, DEO Secondary Sharafat Basra, DEO Elementary Malik Asif Ali, Convener Mushtaq Ahmad Syal, Focal Person District Sports Raja Tahir Mehmood, Principal Muslim Higher Secondary School Malik Abdul Jalil, Tariq Shaheen, Malik Sajjad Ahmed, Saeed Kayani, Abdul Hanan, President Epsma District Rawalpindi Abrar Ahmed Advo-



cate, Agha Shahab Maqsood, General Secretary Rawalpindi Tehsil Adnan Nisar, Shahid Yusuf and Obaidur Rehman participated. The event started with a friendly match between the cricket teams of Government Deniz Higher secondary School and Muslim High School. Along with CEO Education, teachers, students and others circled the ground holding a 100x50 feet long Pakistani flag in their hands and after that a beautiful display of fireworks was performed.

Later, the Independence Day cake was cut. CEO Education thanked the whole

team especially Adnan Nisar and Agha Shahab for their full support of Apsma. He expressed his good wishes for the dear country and said that we should all join hands and serve this country sincerely. Apsma North Punjab President Abrar Ahmed Khan said that today is spring season for all of us. The doors and walls of the country are resounding with songs of love for the country. Green crescent flags are flying everywhere. Abrar Ahmed Khan congratulated the Education Department and Apsma team for organizing the wonderful event.

Independence day celebration

ISLAMABAD: Citizens taking part in a plantation drive on the occasion of Independence Day in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Independence Day celebrated in Lower Waziristan with great devotion, respect

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Like other parts of the country, the 77th Independence Day was celebrated with full enthusiasm in Wana, Lower South Waziristan tribal district here on Wednesday.

The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at Deputy Commissioner Office, Wana, in which District Police Officer Farman Ullah, Additional Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Kashmir Khan, school children and tribal elders along with other officers and police personnel



participated.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and District Police Officer hoisted the flag along with the armed police force.

Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan and District Police Officer Farman Ullah laid flowers on the police martyrs' memorial, special prayers were also offered for the elevation of

police martyrs and for the security, development and prosperity of the nation.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and DPO said while talking to the media regarding Independence Day, Pakistan has been achieved as a result of the long struggle and unparalleled sacrifices of the Muslims of the subcontinent, so everyone cherishes this Independence Day and takes this pledge on this auspicious day.

They said that we will play our part for the bright future of our motherland for the development, prosperity and stability of Pakistan.

PODA celebrates 77th Independence Empowering Youth for a Greener Future

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 77th Independence Day, PODA, supported by its Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Education Program and its extensive network of women leaders across the country, celebrated with an impactful plantation drive. In the series of events students, families, and youth participated enthusiastically in various cities.

Prior to Independence Day, PODA organized activities at its Islamabad office and at the PODA Climate Smart Sustainable Agriculture Farm in Chakwal. Here, volunteers and students learned to prepare seedballs of jamun,



moringa, peach, and various vegetables for the transplantation drive.

A key plantation event was held at Family Park in G-10/1, where many families joined in the tree-planting efforts. Officials from the Ministry of Climate Change attended the event and spoke to children about the importance of tree planting and seed preservation. They also planted a neem tree in the park as a memorable gesture and expressed appreciation for PODA's efforts in climate change education.

PODA CEO Sameena Nazir emphasized the importance of practical plantation education in schools, highlighting the need for children to under-

stand the critical role of trees in protecting our environment amidst current climate risks. "Such activities are crucial for climate education and for fostering a greener, more sustainable future," she added.

From planting neem trees to preparing seedballs, we're proud to empower the next generation in the fight against climate change. #IndependenceDay

"From preparing seedballs to planting neem, PODA is proud to empower the next generation in the fight against climate change," said Dr. Fozia who is in charge of the Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Education Program of PODA.



Ms Rizwana Raja, Malik Iftikhar MPA & others cutting the cake on the occasion of Independence day of Pakistan, Rawalpindi.

Pakistan Council for Traditional Sports and Games Independence day celebrate



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: 14th August is also celebrated as the Anniversary "Pakistan Council for Traditional Sports and Games" Short ceremony and demonstrations of some games also done at its Pakistan Head Quarter Serenity Resort Shah Allah Ditta Margalla Hills Islamabad, President PCTS&G Syed Zeshan Naqvi, President Taekwondo Club Pakistan Tariq Abbasi, Associate Secretaries PCTD&G Abdul Waheed Khan, Zahid Bashir Dar

Asif Iqbal Tanoli Bollywood Actress Shafina Patel Shah and so many other participated in these Games and at the end cake cutting ceremony held for Pakistan Day as well as PCTS&G Anniversary

Independence Day Celebrations in TUF and UMDC



Abdul Majid

ISLAMABAD: The University of Faisalabad and University Medical & Dental College organized colorful events to commemorate 77th Independence Day of Pakistan.

TUF Center of Collective Activities and student societies jointly organized a variety of events.

The ceremony was honored by the presence of distinguished guests, including Prof Dr Muhammad Akram Malik, Principal UMDC, Ms Zahida Maqbool, Registrar, Prof Dr AG Rehan, Prof Dr Tahira Iqbal, Prof Dr Tanzeela Khalid, Prof Dr Arsanah Wahid, Heads of other Departments and faculty members from TUF and UMDC.

The highlights of the event were singing of national anthem, national songs, march past by students of Lyallpur Girls Cadet College, and compelling tableaux. A documentary competition was also held under the theme of "Pakistan, a Land of Blessings" among the students of MBBS and BDS in which they participated with zeal and zest.

The historical background and creativity of concepts highlighted in the documentary were worth praising.

The first position was secured by Sehar and Ifra of the final year MBBS, followed by Zainab Nadeem of final year MBBS who secured the second position and the third position was backed by Aniza Arshad of the fourth year MBBS. The certificates of appreciation were distributed among position holders

In addition, as a part of "TUF Go Green" plantation drive, TUF Environmental Society took a proactive step towards environmental stewardship by distributing plants to all attendees, encouraging them to contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.

Government College Women University Faisalabad celebrates Independence Day



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) celebrated the 77th Independence Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Zill-i-Huma Nazli, attended the event as the Chief Guest, while former MNA Mian Abdul Manan and MPA Uzma Raja participated as Guests of Honor.

The event commenced with the flag-hoisting ceremony led by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Zill-i-Huma Nazli. Mian Abdul Manan, Uzma Raja, Registrar Mr. Asif A Malik, Controller Examinations Ms. Rizwana Tanveer Randhawa, all coordinators, directors, heads of teaching and non-teaching departments, and a great number of faculty members participated in the ceremony. A special prayer was offered for the safety and protection of the nation. The University Guard Squad presented a salute to the national flag, followed by an impressive march-past. The ceremony was further highlighted by an Independence Day walk.

In their special messages, the Vice-Chancellor and the Guests of Honor reflected on the significance and value of freedom, drawing attention to the current situation in Palestine. They emphasized that Pakistan's independence was achieved through the sacrifices of our ancestors, and we must cherish and protect it.

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USA's White Gloves: Derailing Regimes

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), often referred to as the "White Gloves," is a nonprofit foundation established in 1983 and funded by the U. S. Congress. Its declared purpose is to support democratic governance worldwide by providing grants to political parties, civic groups, labor unions, and media organizations. These efforts are aligned with U. S. economic and security interests, creating trade and investment opportunities while reducing the influence of competitors in target countries, with China and Russia being primary focuses due to their perceived threats to U. S. strategic interests.

While the declared objectives of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) seem noble, its undeclared objectives can be daunting, raising concerns and potential dangers for target countries, including China, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Tunisia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Russia, Ukraine, Venezuela, Cuba, Nigeria, and the Congo, among others, covering almost all continents.

Since its establishment NED has received massive funding from the U. S. Congress. Though, funding also has two faces, declared funding is \$18 million per year, but undeclared fundings is provided to support special initiatives in specific countries of interest, such as Poland, Chile, Nicaragua, South Africa, Burma and specially China.

NED was also an instrument in fomenting Ukraine's "color revolution and Orange Revolution in 2004. NED financed the Mass Media Institute to spread inflammatory information. NED spent tens of millions of dollars to co-opt Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram to spread disinformation, heighten ethnic

tensions in Ukraine, and stir up ethnic antagonism in eastern Ukraine.

In July 2023, the Journal of Democracy published five articles on Indian democracy under the theme of "Is India Still a Democracy," claiming that since Prime Minister Narendra Modi rose to power, his government has engaged in what is, by some accounts, a wholesale dismantling of democratic institutions, norms, and practices. In April 2024, the Journal of Democracy published an article "Why This Election Is India's Most Important," claiming that democratic governance in India has been steadily eroding since Modi's second term began and that the future of India as a plural, secular democracy could be on the line if Prime Minister Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party win a third consecutive term. This campaign finally eroded the mass popularity of the BJP in Election 2024 denying it 2/3 majority in the parliament.

Like many other countries of the world, the activities of NED threatened China's Socialist rule by directly confronting with the Chinese system of governance which unlike democracies is based upon elections and selections, one party rule and centralized control credited with achieving rapid economic growth and maintaining social stability compared to democratic systems which advocates plurality, individual liberty and rule of law but face political gridlock and slower decision-making processes.

China is particularly worried about NED activities which are perceived as subverting state power, meddling in its internal affairs, inciting division and

confrontation, misleading public opinion, and conducting ideological infiltration drawing strong condemnation from the Chinese civil society.

In China, It funds organizations that document and expose human rights abuses, provide legal support to political and separatists activists, manipulate marginalized communities and promote grassroots activism. It encourages community organizing to undermine the Chinese political and governance system. Additionally, it manipulates and adds toxic strands in the Chinese press by funding independent journalists and media outlets to encourage them to offer uncensored news and advocate for legal and judicial reforms. It funds specific programs to manipulate ethnic and religious minorities, such as Tibetans and Uyghurs, and provides training and capacity-building to enhance their level of resistance against the Chinese Government.

To counter NED's toxic interference, China has implemented several concrete measures to counteract. It has enacted Foreign NGO Law in 2017 requiring all foreign NGOs to register with the Ministry of Public Security and obtain approval for their activities. It passed the National Security Law in 2015 to give extensive powers to the government to manage and control foreign influence, while the Cybersecurity Law of 2017 imposes strict controls on internet usage and data management, targeting online platforms and social media that might be used for organizing or promoting dissent. Administratively, China has restricted visas and expelled indi-

viduals associated with NED and intensified surveillance of Chinese citizens and organizations receiving foreign funding to curb foreign-supported activities aimed at destabilizing the stable and productive Chinese systems.

Diplomatically, China frequently denounces the NED and accuses it of attempting to destabilize the country. Additionally, China applies diplomatic pressure on other countries to limit or cut funding to organizations like the NED, leveraging its economic and political influence to reduce international support for democracy promotion activities within its borders.

The NED employs both overt and alleged covert tools to achieve its objectives of promoting democracy and supporting civil society organizations. Overtly, NED provides direct grants, capacity-building programs, and support for independent media and human rights advocacy. Covertly, NED or its affiliates use disguised funding channels, intelligence gathering through informant networks, media manipulation, disinformation campaigns, secret training programs, and cyber operations. These covert activities aim to influence political dynamics, spread misinformation, and support specific groups or individuals without direct attribution, thereby ensuring strategic objectives are met discreetly.

It is dire for the governments around the world to take cognizance of NED clandestine and covert activities and take necessary precaution to safeguard their national interest and insulate their societies from the toxic strains of NED covert operations.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC, CEO, AIV



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Extreme heat threat to health of 500 Million children

One in five children – or 466 million – live in areas that experience at least double the number of extremely hot days every year compared with their grandparents' generation, according to a UNICEF analysis released on Wednesday.

"Extreme heat is increasing, disrupting children's health, well-being and daily routines," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

The study compared averages in the 1960s with the period 2020-2024, measuring the days which exceeded 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit).

It presents a stark warning over the speed and scale at which such days are increasing for almost half a billion children worldwide – many without the infrastructure or services to endure it.

In examining country-level data, the analysis also found that in 16 countries, children now experience more than a month of additional extremely hot days compared with six decades ago.

In South Sudan, for example, children are living through a yearly average of 165 extremely hot days this decade, compared to 110 days in the 1960s, while in Paraguay it has jumped to 71 days from 36.

Globally, children in West and Central Africa face the highest exposure to extremely hot days and the most significant increases over time, according to the analysis. 123 million children – or 39 per cent of children in the region – now experience an average of more than one third of the year – or at least 95 days – in temperatures above 35°C, reaching as many as 212 days in Mali, 202 days in Niger, 198 days in Senegal, and 195 days in Sudan.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, almost 48 million children live in areas that are experiencing twice the number of extremely hot days.

Heat stress within the body, caused by exposure to extreme heat, poses unique threats to the health of children.

Excess levels of heat stress contribute to child malnutrition, non-communicable diseases such as heat-related illnesses, and leave children more vulnerable to infectious diseases that spread in high temperatures, such as malaria and dengue.

Evidence also shows that neurodevelopment, mental health, and overall well-being are being impacted.

"Children are not little adults. Their bodies are far more vulnerable to extreme heat. Young bodies heat up faster, and cool down more slowly. Extreme heat is especially risky for babies due to their faster heart rate, so rising temperatures are even more alarming for children," Ms. Russell said.

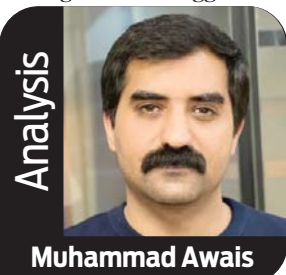
The impact of climate-related hazards on child health is exacerbated by how such hazards affect food and water security, damage infrastructure, disrupt services for children, and drive displacement.



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

A Dream Deferred: Pakistan's Ongoing Fight for True Freedom

As Pakistan marks its 77th year of independence, it's time for a sober reflection on the true meaning of freedom for a nation founded with grand promises of liberty and justice. While celebrations may paint a green, festive picture, a closer inspection reveals deep-seated issues that challenge the essence of the freedom many continue to fight for.



Analysis

Muhammad Awais

This prompts a critical question: "Have we attained what Jinnah had dreamt of?"

Decades have passed since independence, yet the fundamental human rights of many Pakistanis remain unprotected. Women and minorities are particularly vulnerable, often feeling unsafe both in public and within the confines of their own homes. Sectarian unrest disrupts daily life, and violence perpetrated by so-called patriots against the most defenseless members of society is all too common. The political environment is stained by instability, our education system is crumbling, and economic hardship has become the norm. Corruption infiltrates our judicial system, exacerbating crime and deepening poverty. Such conditions make the dream of a just society seem ever more distant.

Additionally, while the world makes significant advancements in technology, Pakistan significantly lags behind. Many areas in the country still struggle with basic internet access, which hampers educational and economic opportuni-

ties. This technological divide not only isolates us from the global community but also impedes our national development. Our judicial system, too, is decaying, with forced disappearances by law enforcement agencies becoming a horrifyingly common occurrence, undermining trust in the institutions meant to protect and serve the populace. A significant reason for our national struggles is our blind allegiance to political and religious leaders. Collectively, we have lost the ability to critically analyze and question the ethics and actions of those in power, which hampers progress and stifles reform.

Despite Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of a nation where everyone could practice their beliefs freely, today's Pakistan often sees cold murders over petty religious disagreements, starkly contrasting with his ideals of tolerance and state neutrality in religious affairs. George Orwell's words resonate deeply in this context: "Freedom is the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." This emphasizes the importance of freedom of speech, a crucial element of democracy that remains constrained in Pakistan.

Even with these formidable challenges, there is still hope. Pakistan is gifted with rich resources and a young, energetic population. Over 60% of our citizens are under 30, packed with potential to enact change and drive innovation. To utilize this poten-

tial, enhancing education is critical. A well-educated population can challenge the status quo and advocate for necessary reforms. Expanding access to technology across all regions would empower our citizens and better integrate Pakistan into the global economy. Promoting a culture of tolerance and inclusivity can also help mend the deep societal divides. By accepting diversity, we can build a society that values every individual's contribution.

Further measures should include strengthening the rule of law to ensure justice for all, investing in sustainable economic projects to boost job creation, and fostering a culture of accountability and transparency in governance. These steps would not only build public trust but also attract foreign investments that are critical for economic growth.

As we look ahead, let's find inspiration in our enduring spirit and the visions of our forefathers. By staying true to the values that shaped our nation, we can make Pakistan a prosperous, fair, and free country as intended. This anniversary is not just about looking back but also about taking a significant step towards a better and more welcoming future. Together, we can help Pakistan—a land of Quaid—stand tall among the nations.

In conclusion, I wish for a prosperous Pakistan—a nation envisioned by Jinnah. Let us strive for a land of peace and prosperity, where justice and freedom are not just ideals, but realities.

"The writer is an engineer by vocation and has a deep, research-based knowledge of Pakistan's polity."
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Importance of business registration for SMEs in Pakistan

Fazal Rehman Khan

SME development is a significant focus area for Pakistan's government and various organizations, and efforts to streamline business registration processes and promote entrepreneurship are ongoing.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is responsible for regulating the corporate sector and overseeing business registrations in the country. They regularly release reports and data on business registrations, including those for SMEs. These reports often include details on the number of new businesses registered, their sectors, geographical distribution, and other relevant information. Similarly, organizations like the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) also collect data and conduct surveys related to SMEs, which include insights into business registrations.

Choosing the right legal structure for a business is a crucial decision that can significantly impact its operations, liability, taxation, and overall success. In Pakistan, entrepreneurs and business owners have several options, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability partnerships, private limited companies (include single member companies), and public limited companies. Each legal structure comes with its own set of advantages, disadvantages, and legal requirements. To make an informed decision, it is important to consider various factors that align with the specific needs and goals of the business. The key factors that should be considered when choosing a legal structure for a business in Pakistan, ensuring the selection best suits the nature, scale, and future aspirations of the business. The key factors include liability protection, ownership and control, cost and complexity, Future plans, credibility and perception, taxation, succession and continuity planning and compliance requirements. By evaluating these factors, entrepreneurs can make a well-informed decision and establish a solid legal foundation for their business endeavours in Pakistan.

SECP is where companies are registered in Pakistan, where one must select a unique name, ensuring it complies with section 10 of the Companies Act (2017). Once decided, create an online account with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to check name availability. Opt for

Fast Track Registration Services (FTRS) for same-day registration, providing necessary information and depositing the registration fee through designated banks or online. If the online system is unavailable, submit an application with three proposed names at the registrar's office, with the offline process taking 3 to 5 days. Prepare required documents including Articles of Association, Memorandum of Association, CNIC copies (or passports for foreign nationals), and NOC if establishing a specialized business. For foreign company incorporation, provide directors' details and certified documents. Additionally, register for a National Tax Number (NTN) at the Regional Tax Office of the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) by submitting a duly filled NTN form and relevant documents. After compiling and submitting documents to SECP, await approval, during which the National Institution of Facilitation Centre (NIFC) will generate a company seal. Once approved, you'll receive a Certificate of Incorporation, enabling you to commence business in Pakistan. Ensure shareholders transfer funds to the company's bank account. SECP's online registration system streamlines the process, making it entirely digital.

Registering a company in Pakistan offers numerous benefits, providing legal recognition and protection for business owners. Firstly, formal registration establishes credibility and trustworthiness, enhancing the company's reputation and facilitating access to financing and investment opportunities. Moreover, registered companies enjoy limited liability, safeguarding personal assets from business debts and liabilities. This legal structure promotes risk-taking and encourages entrepreneurship, fostering innovation and economic growth. Additionally, registered companies gain access to various government incentives, subsidies, and support programs aimed at promoting business development and growth. Furthermore, registration enables businesses to enter into contracts, engage in legal proceedings, and own property in their own right, enhancing operational flexibility and scalability.

Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) is a project funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), and is working to improve the business environment for small and medium enterprises in Pakistan. The project is partnering with SMEDA to launch an awareness campaign to promote business registration of SMEs across the country, especially in Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

President confers national awards on 104 Pakistanis, foreigners on Independence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday announced the conferment of Pakistan's national awards on 104 Pakistanis and foreigners, in recognition of their services, excellence and sacrifices in their respective fields. The awards were announced on Pakistan's 78th Independence Day which will be presented to the awardees at an investiture ceremony on March 23, 2025. The president conferred the awards to individuals in the fields including science and engineering, education, medicine, arts, literature, sports, social services and philanthropy, entrepreneurs, taxpayers and exporters, public service, gallantry, and services to Pakistan. The president conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan award on the former president and prime minister of Pakistan Zulfiqar Ali

Bhutto Shaheed in recognition of his public services. He announced Hilal-i-Imtiaz award for Olympian Arshad Nadeem, who recently bagged a gold medal in Paris Olympics and Sitara-i-Imtiaz for mountaineer Murad Sadpara in the sports category. President Zardari conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz posthumously on late Nasir Kazmi for services in the field of literature and Hilal-i-Pakistan on Saudi Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al Saud for his services to Pakistan. In recognition of their excellence in the fields of science, the president conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz on Amir Hafeez Ibrahim, Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Dr Gulam Muhammad Ali and Sardar Muhammad Aftab Ahmed Khan; and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz on Dr Sara Qureshi, Dr Rafiuddin and Professor Dr Usman Qamar. In the education field, Sadia Rasheed was bestowed Hilal-i-Imtiaz; Sitara-i-Imtiaz

was announced for Dr Suleman Shahabuddin, and Syed Azhar Hussain Abidi, and Presidential Pride of Performance award for Barkat Shah, Abdul Rasheed Kakar and Aneeqa Bano. The president announced Hilal-i-Imtiaz for Dr Shahryar and Dr Dr. Zaryab Setna, and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz for Dr Akifullah Khan, Dr Syed Abid Mehdi Kazmi and Ikramullah Khan for their contributions to the field of medicine. Similarly, Collin David was bestowed with Sitara-i-Imtiaz in the field of arts; Arshad Aziz Malik, Bakhtiar Ahmed and Barrister Zafarullah were conferred Tamgha-i-Imtiaz; while Fariha Pervaiz, Hamid Rana, Shiba Arshad and Naveed Ahmed Bhatti to receive Pride of Performance Award. For their contribution to the field of literature, the president conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz on Javed Jabbar; Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Salman Awan,



Zafar Waqar Taj and Muniza Shamsi; Tamgha-i-Imtiaz for Syed Jawad Hussain Jafari and Pride of Performance Award for Ambreen Haseeb. Besides, Maqsood Ahamd, Amad Shakeel Butt, Rehman Ishtiaq and Mir Nadir Khan Magsi were bestowed with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz and Amir Ishaq with the Presidential Pride of Performance Award for their excellence in

the sports field. President Zardari conferred Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Mian Aziz Ahmed, Hunaid Lakhani, Sana Hashwani, Safinaz Munir; and Hilal-i-Imtiaz on Khwaja Anver Majeed and Hussain Dawood. The taxpayers and exporters who were conferred Sitara-i-Imtiaz included Syed Imran Ali Shah, Nazimuddin Feroz, Imtiaz Hussain, Adnan Niaz, Zahid Ahmed Ghareeb and Syed Asad Hussain Zaidi. The president also announced the conferment of Sitara-i-Shujaat on Panjgur Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Baloch who was recently martyred in a terror attack in Mastung; Hilal-i-Imtiaz on Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha, Dr Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah and Umar Farooq. In the public service field, Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi, Dr Hamid Attiq Sarwar, Waqasuddin Syed, Jameel Ahmed, Ayaz Khan, Ahmed Ishaq Jahang-

ir, and Irfan Nawaz Memon were conferred Sitara-i-Imtiaz while Tamgha-i-Imtiaz was announced for Syed Shakeel Shah, Ashhad Jawad, Rubab Sikandar, Muhammad Yousuf Khan, Cardinal Joseph Coutts, Rehan Mehtab Chawla, Rear Admiral Tanvir and Amir Mahmood Lakhani. To recognise their gallantry, the president conferred Hilal-i-Shujaat posthumously on Sub Inspector Taimur Shehzad Shaheed, Sepoy Muhammad Asif Shaheed, SP Muhammad Aijaz Khan, DSP Sardar Hussain Shaheed, DSP Allama Iqbal Shaheed, LHC Muhammad Farooq Shaheed, Additional SHO Adnan Afridi Shaheed, Allah Rakhio Nandwani, Constable Jahanzeb and Constable Irshad Ali Shaheed. Malik Sabz Ali Shaheed and Captain (Retd) Hamza Anjum were conferred Sitara-i-Shujaat and Tamgha-i-Shujaat was

announced for Malik Mahmood Jan Shaheed, Saeed Khan, Samiullah Shaheed, Sahib Khan and Dr Shafi Muhammad Bazenjo. For their services to Pakistan, President Zardari conferred national awards for foreigners including Hilal-i-Pakistan for Saudi Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman al Saud; Hilal-i-Quaid-e-Azam for Fu Zhibeng and Mohammad Saif Al Suwaidi; Sitara-i-Pakistan for Majid bin Abdullah Al Kassabi and Engineer Abdullah Al-Swaha; and Sitara-i-Quaid-e-Azam for Haydar Qurbonov and Dr. Christine Schmotzer. The president also conferred Tamgha-i-Pakistan on Mountaineer Lukas Woerle, Dr. Aurore Dither, Prof. Valeria Fiorani Piacentini and Agostino Da Polenza; Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam for Zhang Baozhong and Xinmin Liu; and Tamgha-i-Khidmat for Diana McArthur.

Flag hoisting ceremony held to Commemorate 78th Independence Day of Pakistan

Noorulhassan Gujjar

JEDDAH: On the national occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, a graceful flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah. Consul General Khalid Majid led the ceremony, joined by the Pakistani community with great pride and honour as he raised the National Flag, accompanied by the uplifting spirits of the National Anthem tones.



Special messages from the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan were read out. Students from Pakistani School delivered patriotic speeches portraying Pakistan's vibrant history, cultural heritage and remarkable accomplishments.

Consul General Khalid Majid, in his remarks, highlighted the significance of the day. The Consul General addressed the gathering, paying tribute to the founding fathers of Pakistan and highlighting the country's achievements in various fields. He underlined Pakistan's regional and global

importance by virtue of its history, geo-strategic location, rich human and natural resources. He also expressed his deep admiration for the Pakistani community living in Jeddah and their contribution towards promoting the economic development of Kingdom Saudi Arabia and brotherly relations between the two countries. The ceremony concluded on a joyous note, with a cake-cutting ceremony, gifts distribution among children. Special prayers were offered for the prosperity and well-being of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia. Participants made special supplications for Kashmir and Palestinian brethren, who continue to face atrocities in their freedom struggle against occupant forces.

Japan's PM announces stepping down next month

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has announced stepping down next month on the back of political scandals and widespread public discontent over inflation-spurred rising costs of living, saying politics can't function without public trust.

"I made this heavy decision thinking of the public, with the strong will to push political reform forward," he told a press conference on Wednesday to reveal his decision not to seek re-election as the leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The LDP will hold a contest in September to replace him as president of the party, and, by extension, as prime minister.

Kishida's ratings dipped after he took office in 2021 following revelations about the LDP's ties to the controversial Unification Church.

His popularity took another hit when a slush fund of unrecorded political donations made at LDP fundraising events came to light.

Pakistan Embassy in Moscow observed the 77th anniversary of Pakistan's independence

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: The Pakistan Embassy in Moscow observed the 77th anniversary of Pakistan's independence with a flag-hoisting ceremony.

The event commenced with a solemn recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the raising of the Pakistani flag by Charge d'Affaires, Salman Pervaiz with the National Anthem.

First Secretary Nazia Shaikh and Second Secretary Muhammad Tayyab conveyed heartfelt messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan to the assembled guests.

The embassy extended warm greetings to the Pakistani community in Russia and reaffirmed its commitment to serving the interests of Pakistan and its citizens.



Flag-hoisting ceremony held in Pakistan's embassy in Kabul on the occasion of 78th Independence Day

Spokesman Report

KABUL: The Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul proudly hosted a flag-hoisting ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day. Ambassador Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani, Pakistan's Head of Mission, raised the flag. The ceremony was attended by embassy staff and distinguished guests. The messages of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister

Senator Ishaq Dar were read on this occasion. In his remarks, Ambassador Nizamani paid rich tributes to the brave national heroes, particularly the martyrs of the armed forces of Pakistan, who laid down their lives to protect Pakistan's physical and ideological frontiers. He recalled the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and other prominent leaders of the freedom movement and emphasized the need for Pakistani citizens to emulate their selfless struggle for Pakistan's future prosperity. The free-

doms we enjoy, and the peace we cherish will be further strengthened by following in the footsteps of the heroes of the Pakistan movement. Ambassador Nizamani felicitated the entire nation on Pakistan's Independence Day and especially congratulated Pakistanis present on the occasion on their participation in the significant event of hoisting of Pakistan's flag in Kabul and urged a renewed commitment to uphold the ideals of our forefathers to keep our flag flying high across the world.



High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq hoisting flag on Independence Day on 14th August 2024 in Singapore.

ICCI 2nd Tourism summit: 'Air Connectivity Key to Unlocking GB's Tourism Potential'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador and Business leader while addressing the second Tourism Summit under the auspices of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stressed for increasing the direct flight and modernization of tourism infrastructure in Gilgit Baltistan for promoting tourism industry in the Province.

In the summit organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the speakers emphasized on increasing air connectivity with the countries of the world for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan.

During their address, the speakers said that Gilgit-Baltistan has the potential of tourism including medical and cultural tourism, mining and precious

stones, minerals and natural resources, hydropower, fruits and food and water resources and many other sectors.

The speakers gave a plan of action for the promotion of tourism and said that for elevating the tourism sector in Gilgit-Baltistan, global marketing, training of local people in the tourism and hospitality sector, environment-friendly infrastructure is necessary.

In his inaugural address on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Gilgit-Baltistan is a peaceful region, which is the most popular region for tourism in the world, where the people are hospitable and generous.

He said that air connectivity of Gilgit-Baltistan with the world is very important so that

the fresh fruit and dried fruit here can be delivered to international markets including Central Asia, Saudi Arabia and the European Union. He said that the role of the business community is very important for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and public-private partnership is very important.

He said that the Ambassadors of many countries, including the European Union, are present here today and they should do their best for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that after Gilgit-Baltistan got the status of a province, now they want to get full representation in the Federation of Pakistan so that the country's units can form a strong federation.

Meanwhile, Minister for Planning and Development, GB Raja Nasir Ali Khan said that the tourism summit in Gilgit-Balti-

stan by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce is a commendable step.

Gilgit-Baltistan has a lot of potential in tourism, hydraulic power, mining and precious stones. He said that two five-star hotels are being built in Gilgit-Baltistan, which will promote tourism in this area. He said that the efforts of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari are valuable. He paid tribute to Sajid Sadpara and his family for the promotion of adventure tourism.

Ambassador of the European Union in his address said that the European Union is working on several projects in Gilgit-Baltistan in the field of tourism promotion, hydel power, skills education, green energy and sustainable growth and environment. He said that Europe is working together with Aga Khan Foundation in the field of Micro Hydrel including clean and green

energy in Gilgit-Baltistan, which will lead to inclusive growth of the local economy.

Ambassador of Malaysia emphasized on developing the tourism potential of Gilgit-Baltistan for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan. He said that marketing and branding are very important for the development of the tourism sector in Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said that Malaysia has made many achievements in the field of tourism and now the tourism sector is playing its full role in the Malaysian economy. He said that there is a need to promote mutual cooperation in the field of tourism in Pakistan and Malaysia and both sides can share their experiences with each other.

Ambassador of Myanmar said that Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most beautiful regions of the world



where there is immense potential for tourism. He said that there is a lot of potential in tourism and cultural heritage in Myanmar which the government is working on.

Ambassador of Yemen, highlighted the different aspects of cooperation in tourism between both the countries.

In his address, former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Gilgit Baltistan enjoy immense importance with regard

to the tourism and that the promotion of its tourism is vital not only for the foreign exchange earning but for the promotion of soft image of Pakistan the worldover.

He said that ICCI under the leadership of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari is focusing on the subject matter and the holding of 2nd tourism summit in Skardu is an ample proof of it. Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, Quratul Ain gave suggestions to promote tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan.

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
8,281.05	+45.82
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	14 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
40,017.68	+252.04
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	14 Aug, 1:53 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
36,442.43	+209.92
Percentage	Time
+0.58%	14 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

Electricity theft increasing rapidly due to tariff hike, says Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Wednesday that power theft is increasing rapidly in the country due to its ever-increasing tariff.

He said that people in areas that were known for full recovery of bills are now forced to steal electricity.

In a statement issued here today, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the Kunda mafia has become very active; people are slowing down their electricity meters and bribing officials of



electricity companies.

He said that in the current circumstances, the electricity supply companies are also worried, while many of the officials are hiding their identities to avoid public anger.

Shahid Rashid Butt stated that, based on a conservative estimate, electricity worth Rs 600 billion is stolen annually in the country.

Sindh experiences an annual theft of electricity worth 51 billion rupees. Punjab loses Rs 131 billion, Balochistan loses Rs 100 billion, and five cities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lose 65 billion rupees to power theft.

He said that people in Shikarpur steal 84%

of the electricity, residents of the Bannu division steal 64%, and Karachi suffers from electricity worth two billion rupees monthly.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that people are selling jewellery, household items, cattle, etc. to pay bills, while many are borrowing money for it, but such methods cannot last long.

Some people install solar systems to avoid inflated bills, but most people cannot afford them.

He stated that unless officials involved in electricity theft face consequences, efforts to stop it will not be successful.

Some influential have amassed billions with the help of corrupt IPPs, yet the public bears the cost.

77th Independence Day

KARACHI: As Pakistan celebrated its 77th Independence Day, PSO, the nation's leading energy company, ignited the spirit of freedom with a heartfelt ceremony at its Karachi head office.



BAJK

Minister of Finance
AJK/ Chairman Bank of
Azad Jammu Kashmir
Abdul Mejid Khan
and President BoAJK
Shahid Shahzad Mir
are hosting the Flag of
Pakistan on Wednesday
14th of August 2024.
All executives and
staff members are
participating in the
ceremony



CBD Punjab celebrates 77th Independence Day with patriotic zeal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In celebration of Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, CBD Punjab hosted a grand ceremony at CBD Punjab Quaid District, marked by a profound display of patriotism.

The ceremony saw the enthusiastic participation of senior officials and staff members of CBD Punjab. The event commenced with the hoisting of the national flag, accompanied by prayers for the nation's continued



progress and prosperity. In his address, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua expressed his pride in Pakistan's journey over the past 77 years, acknowledging the numerous challenges and triumphs the nation has faced. He highlighted CBD Punjab's significant contribution to the country's development, emphasizing the authority's expansion beyond Lahore into the wider Punjab region.

Nation's Bank celebrated the 77th Independence Day with great patriotism

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) celebrated the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan with great enthusiasm and patriotism, with the day's festivities along with the bank's executives, employees, and their families, which included the hoisting of the national flag at NBP's headquarters and a cake-cutting ceremony.

As the nation celebrates the 77th Independence Day of our beloved Pakistan, NBP takes immense pride in our country's progress and is honored to contribute to its growth and development.

The celebrations at NBP were marked by a renewed commitment to serve the nation and drive Pakistan's economic and social progress, as the bank remains steadfast in its mission to be a catalyst for the country's prosperity.

NBP joins the nation in celebrating the historic achievement of Arshad Nadeem, who clinched the gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics with a record-breaking javelin throw.

On the occasion, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasni, President NBP, said, "Today, as we commemorate Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, we celebrate the resilience and spirit of our nation. The sacrifices made by



our forefathers have laid the foundation for a prosperous Pakistan."

He added, "NBP is privileged to be a part of this journey. We remain committed to serving the nation by fostering economic growth, creating opportunities, and supporting our communities."

NBP is a leading financial institution in the country, with a rich history of serving the nation since its inception. Committed to the growth and prosperity of Pakistan, NBP has consistently sought to uplift communities, empower businesses, and contribute to the overall development of the country.

NTDC celebrates 77th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and traditional zeal

Commerce Desk

Deputy Managing Directors and General Managers hoisted the National Flag during the ceremony held at TSG Training Center, New Kot Lakhpat Lahore

NTDC Headquarters WAPDA House, Lahore (14 August 2024) National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) celebrated the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan with great enthusiasm and traditional zeal at all NTDC grid stations across the country. The flag hoisting ceremony took place at the TSG Training Centre, New Kot Lakhpat Lahore. The chief guest,

Deputy Managing Director (AD&M) Engr. Rasheed A. Bhutto and Deputy Managing Director (SO) Engr. Muhammad Waseem Younas and General Managers unfurled the National Flag in a solemn ceremony.

While addressing the ceremony, Deputy Managing Director (AD&M) NTDC, Engr. Rasheed A. Bhutto paid rich tribute to the sacrifices made for the creation of Pakistan and said that this occasion is a moment to reaffirm our pledge to continue pursuing the vision of the Father of the Nation. He emphasized the importance of working hard for the development of our country.

Meezan Bank Celebrates 78th Independence Day with Festivities Across Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, marked the country's 78th Independence Day with great fervor and enthusiasm.

The celebrations took place in its major branches across the country as well as at the Bank's Head Office in Karachi. In a ceremonial event, Mr. Irfan Siddiqui - President & CEO, Meezan Bank, hoisted the National Flag at the Head Office followed by a cake cutting ceremony, which was attended by the Bank's Deputy CEO - Syed Amir Ali and Senior Management.

The occasion was marked by a Guard of Honour from the Bank's security personnel, enhancing the patriotic spirit of the celebration.

Festivities took place across key branches nationwide a day before, where employees and customers united to celebrate this important day in Pakistan's history.

The branches were beautifully decorated with vibrant lights and festive adornments, fostering a spirit of unity and national pride. Special cakes were cut at each branch, symbolizing the Bank's commitment to nurturing community spirit.

Meezan Bank is dedicated to supporting Pakistan's development and growth, extending its commitment beyond banking services to actively engage in national celebrations and community-building efforts.

CelcomDigi, U Mobile and ZTE set new record for fastest mobile speed at 30.8Gbps, powered by 5G-Advanced

Spokesman Report

KUCHING, MALAYSIA: ZTE Corporation (0763. HK / 000063. SZ), a global leading provider of integrated information and communication technology solutions, in collaboration with CelcomDigi Berhad and U Mobile Sdn Bhd, has been recognized by the Malaysia Book of Records for achieving the fastest mobile speeds at 30.8Gbps with 5G-Advanced (5G-A) during a live trial conducted in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. This remarkable achievement is currently the fastest speed recorded in the world. In addition to this new benchmark, the partners also recorded

individual users experiencing speeds of up to 8.5Gbps. Datuk Idham Nawawi, CEO of CelcomDigi, said, "This achievement reflects the importance of industry collaboration and partnerships, especially in realizing the potentials of 5G and 5G-A. We continue to execute on our multi-partner strategy of bringing together the best technologies from the East and West to deliver the best experiences to Malaysians, and enable the nation's transformation into a 5G-AI powered digital society. We achieved a milestone today and will continue to focus on leading the development and deployment at scale." Wong Heang Tuck, CEO of U Mobile, said, "As part of U Mobile's quest to be Malay-

sia's favourite digital services partner, we are constantly innovating and looking to push the boundaries of technology. We are proud to achieve this record-breaking 5G-Advanced accomplishment of 30.8Gbps with our industry partner CelcomDigi and technology partner ZTE as it showcases the possibilities of what 5G-A can do for enterprise solutions across various verticals." Steven Ge, CEO of ZTE Malaysia, said, "ZTE's dedication to innovation is reflected through our 5G and 5G-A use cases, where, together with our partners CelcomDigi and U Mobile, we have achieved the milestone performances. We are excited to bring more exciting use cases as we tailor



our solutions to meet the unique demands of Malaysia's 5G strategy and beyond." The public who visit the CelcomDigi, U Mobile, and ZTE 5G-A Pavilion located

outside Stadium Sarawak will also have the opportunity to experience 5G-A enhanced XR (extended reality) firsthand. By utilizing 5G-A powered 360° cameras

installed at various locations inside the stadium, visitors can immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the stadium's action by simply putting on a pair of VR goggles.

PSB holds Grand Sports Gala to mark Independence Day

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A grand sports gala was held here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday as part of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day celebrations.

The event featured an array of sports competitions, drawing participants and spectators alike to join in the patriotic festivities.

The day began with the ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag at Liaquat Gymnasium at 7:55am, setting a spirited tone for the rest of the day's activities. Following the flag ceremony, a series of thrilling sports events took place across the complex, including Basketball, Football, Futsal, Volleyball, Karate, Taekwondo, Chess, and Hockey, each held in their designated areas.

The Secretary of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Nadeem Irshad Kayani and Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Director General Muhammad Yasir Pirzada, honored the events with their presence, adding to the grandeur of the occasion.

Their simultaneous participation in various events underscored the importance of sports in fostering national

pride and unity. The sports enthusiasts, along with the general public, warmly applauded the Pakistan Sports Board's initiative to organize such a large-scale celebration of Independence Day.

The successful execution of the Independence Day Sports Fiesta highlighted PSB's commitment to promoting sports and healthy activities, making the day memorable for all involved.

Pakistan Cricket Teams' Matches. Training and Media Activities from 15-21 August: PCB Official

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The following is the latest information on matches, training and media opportunities of the Pakistan Test and Shaheens, and Bangladesh Test and 'A' cricket teams from 15-21 August.

Pakistan Test team player support personnel:

Naveed Akram Cheema (team manager), Jason Gillespie (head coach), Azhar Mahmood (assistant coach), Tim Nielsen (high-performance coach), Cliffe Deacon (physiotherapist), Drikus Saiman (strength and conditioning coach), Talha Butt (analyst), Irtiza Komail (security manager), Syed Nazir Ahmed (media and digital manager) and Mohammad Imran (masseur).

Schedule of activities:

15 August

Third day's play in the first four-day match between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' will start at 9.45am at the Islamabad Club. At the end of the day's play, star performers from either side will be available for brief stand-up interviews.

Pakistan Test team will take part in a training session from 10am at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. At the end of the session, Abrar Ahmed will be available for a media talk.

At the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Bangladesh Test team will train from

10am. Afterwards, a member of the side will hold his arrival media conference in the press conference room, Level 2, Far End.

16 August

Fourth and final day's play between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' will resume at 9.45am at the Islamabad Club. After the conclusion of the match, both captains are expected to be available for brief stand-up interviews to review the match.

Pakistan Test team will train from 10am at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. No media interviews are planned at this stage. If there is a change in plan, it will be communicated by the PCB through its usual channels.

At the Gaddafi Stadium, Bangladesh Test team will train from 10am. For post-training media opportunities, please contact Mr Rabeed Imam.

17 August

Pakistan Test team has opted not to train, while Bangladesh Test team will travel to Islamabad. Both the sides have no media activities planned.

Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' have also opted not to train and have no media activities planned.

18 August

Pakistan and Bangladesh Test teams will train at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 10am. At the end of the



session, players from both sides are expected to hold media conferences.

Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' sides will train from 10am onwards at the Islamabad Club. It will be a vision only opportunity from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

19 August

Pakistan and Bangladesh Test teams will train at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 10am. This will be a vision only opportunity and no media opportunities are planned at this stage.

Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' will train from 10am at the Islamabad Club. Both captains will be available for pre-match media talks after the session.

Media is invited to cover the session from 11.30am onwards.

20 August

The second four-day match between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' will commence at the Islamabad Club with the toss taking place at 9.30am and the first ball to be bowled at 10am. At the end of the day's play, star performers from either side will be available for brief stand-up interviews.

Pakistan and Bangladesh Test teams will train at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 10am. Afterwards, opposite captains Najmul Hossain Shanto of Bangladesh and Pakistan's Shan Masood will hold their pre-series media conferences at the Level 2, Media Block. They will also take part in trophy unveiling ceremony at the venue.

21 August

It will be day one of the first Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium with the toss taking place at 9.30am and the first ball being bowled at 10am. At the end of the day's play, star performers from each side will hold their media conferences.

It will be day two of the second four-day match between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' with play starting at 10am. At the end of the day's play, star performers from either side will be available for brief stand-up interviews.

Pakistan V/S Bangladesh Cricket Teams Four Day Match

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Umar Amin's 32nd first-class century has put Pakistan Shaheens in a commanding position against Bangladesh 'A' at the close of day two of the first four-day match at the Islamabad Club on Wednesday.

At stumps, Shaheens were 367 for four in 90 overs, with a first innings lead of 245 runs. Saad Khan (31 not out, 39b, 6x4s) and Kamran Ghulam (20 not out, 63b, 1x4, 1x6), will resume batting on the third day, which will begin at 09.30am tomorrow.

For Bangladesh 'A', left-arm spinner Hasan Murad bagged two wickets for 49 runs.

Earlier, after resuming their first innings at the overnight score of two for no loss, the home side were dealt a blow when left-handed batter Saim Ayub returned back to the hut, scoring 11 off 28 balls, which included a four. Mohammad Huraiera was the second batter to be dismissed, scoring 39 off 67 balls, hitting five boundaries. The experienced Umar



was then joined by captain Saud Shakeel and the pair knitted a 195-run partnership for the third wicket. During the partnership, left-handed Umar brought up his century. He fell 23 runs short of a double-century, and was dismissed for 177 off 211 balls, smashing 23 fours and three towering sixes.

After Umar's departure, fellow southpaw Saud

soon followed the century and was stumped off the bowling of Hasan for 76 with the scorecard reading 322 for four. Saud's innings included nine boundaries across 132 deliveries.

Scores in brief:

Close of play—Day 2
Bangladesh 'A' 122 all out, 44.3 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 65; Naseem Shah 3-24, Mir Hamza 3-33,

Mohammad Rameez Jnr 2-41)

Pakistan Shaheens 367-4, 90 overs (Umar Amin 177, Saud Shakeel 76, Mohammad Huraiera 39, Saad Khan 31 not out, Kamran Ghulam 20 not out; Hasan Murad 2-49, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 1-67, Nayeem Hasan 1-81)

Pakistan Shaheens lead by 245 runs

Malik Faisal Ayub attends Independence Day sports gala at Camp Jail

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A sports gala was organized at Camp Jail on the occasion of 77th Independence Day of the country on Wednesday.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar was the chief guest on this occasion. He also cut a cake along with prisoners in celebration of 77th Independence Day of the country.

A large number of prisoners participated in sack race, running, kabaddi, carom board and badminton competitions during the Independence Day sports gala.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar distributed prizes among the prominent performers of the above-mentioned games.

Talking on this occasion, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar announced that all necessary sports gear will be provided to players in prisons besides appointing coaches of indoor games. "After Camp Jail, the gyms will be constructed in other jails of the province," he added.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar also visited different barracks and PCO along with Superintendent Jail Zaheer Virk. DIG Jail, Superintendent Kot Lakhpat Ch Ijaz Asghar were also present on this occasion.

'Run for Pakistan' unites nation on Independence Day

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: On this Independence Day, thousands of participants, including foreign athletes from around the world, gathered at Polo Ground (Bagh-e-Jinnah) to participate in the "Run for Pakistan" event by Sports in Pakistan, a vibrant celebration of national pride and unity. The event featured a scenic 7KM loop course that took runners through iconic landmarks in Karachi, including I. I. Chundrigar Road, Native Jetty, and M. T. Khan Road, culminating at Habib Public School before looping back to the starting point.

Deputy Commissioner South Captain (Retired) Altaf H Sario was the chief guest of the event.

Participants had the option to choose from various distances—21.1K (Half-Marathon), 14K, 7K, and 1K (Walk)—catering to runners of all levels. The event aimed to



promote unity, health, and fitness among Pakistanis, while also fostering international friendship and sporting spirit.

"We are thrilled to see the overwhelming response to the 'Run for Pakistan' event, which embodies the spirit of national pride

and unity," said Shoaib Nizami, CEO of Sports in Pakistan. "This event is a testament to the fact that sports have the power to bring people together and inspire positive change. We are particularly delighted to see foreign athletes participating and sharing in our celebration of independence, making this a truly global event."

The presence of international athletes added a global flavor to the event, promoting cross-cultural exchange and sporting camaraderie among participants from diverse backgrounds.

As the runners crossed the finish line, they carried with them a sense of pride, unity, and shared accomplishment, embodying the true spirit of Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations. With this year's success, we set the stage for an even bigger and more spectacular event next year, continuing to inspire a healthier, more united, and globally connected Pakistan.

Rejected offers to move abroad after Tokyo Olympics, reveals Arshad Nadeem

Arshad Nadeem's gold medal win at the Paris Olympics 2024 has been at the forefront even as Pakistan celebrates its 77th Independence Day nationwide with tremendous fervour.

The javelin gold medalist — in an interview on Geo News' show Capital Talk — termed his journey towards the Paris Olympics 2024 as "hard" and revealed that he was offered by various countries to move there after the Tokyo Olympics. Still, he rejected and chose to stay in Pakistan.

"The pride of the nation stated that he 'loves the soil of Pakistan and will only train in Pakistan.'"

Further talking on the show, Nadeem shed light on his and Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra's friendship.

The duo's relationship has made headlines and people have been wondering as to how the two athletes became such good friends. The gold medalist revealed that his friendship with "Neeraj [Chopra] began in 2016 when I participated in the first international event — the South Asian Games — and every year since then I have played in three to four events and met with him during them".

The Pakistani and the Indian nations have been overwhelmed with the friendship and brotherhood between Nadeem and India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

He also revealed that he prayed for the Pakistan cricket team after they faced backlash from the nation for their poor performance in the recent past.

"They are also our heroes and I pray for them that they work hard and achieve for Pakistan just like I have," Nadeem stated on Capital Talk.

Hockey legends set for historic showdown at London's Indian Gymkhana



Sports Desk

LONDON: Hockey legends from five nations are set to showcase their skills at an exhibition match at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London on Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference here the event organiser, Pakistan's erstwhile great Olympian Khawaja Junaid said that hockey's legends from India, Pakistan, Spain, Germany, and England would come together for the match to raise funds for Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy.

"The star-studded lineup boasts some of the sport's most iconic figures, including India's Dhan Raj Pelay, Pakistan's Shabbaz Ahmad Senior, Germany's Stephen Bloecher, Spain's Juan Escarre, and English players Kulbir, Tandil, Balsaini, Ben, and Suti," he said.

"Despite their ages ranging from the 50s to 60s, these veterans are set to showcase their skills and passion that once electrified stadiums worldwide."

"I will request to hockey fans and enthusiasts in London and other parts of the UK to come in large numbers to witness the match. I assure it will be a thrilling contest," he added.

According to Junaid, prior to the match a coaching clinic will also take place wherein hockey great will give tips to budding players.

Indian Gymkhana's Vice President Ravi Virdi expressed his enthusiasm stating, "This event is more than just a match; it's a testament to the unifying power of hockey."

"We anticipate a packed stadium filled with fans eager to relive memories and witness their childhood heroes in action."

The match promises not just a trip down memory lane but also a competitive display of talent.

"Beyond the thrilling gameplay, the event underscores a deeper mission — fostering friendship and understanding between nations through sport," Ravi added.

The overwhelming response has already set wheels in motion for a return match in Pakistan next year, further strengthening the bonds forged on the field.

PCB approves stadiums' designs ahead of Champions Trophy 2025

As the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) gears up to host the Champions Trophy 2025 in February, the board's Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has given his nod for the upgradation of Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi stadiums.

The PCB chief's nod came during his visit to BDP Pattern's London head office, a renowned architectural company based in the United Kingdom, where he met Chairman Chris Harding and other senior officials.

The development comes days after sources told Geo News that the board commenced renovation work at Karachi's National Stadium which will be one of the three venues that will host the next year's mega tournament.

The other two arenas picked by the PCB to host the Champions Trophy 2025 are Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and Rawalpindi International Cricket Stadium.

The PCB has allocated Rs12.80 billion for the upgradation of the three venues which will be renovated ahead of the marquee event which has been proposed to be held from February 19 to March 9 next year.

Meanwhile, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved a budget of around \$70 million for the tournament with the amount set to cover the expenses incurred during the support period which has been scheduled from February 12 to 18.

The support period window has been designated for warm-up matches, media activities, and promotional events. All activities during the support period will be determined in consultation between the ICC and PCB.

The ICC will decide on the warm-up matches in consultation with all teams. Upon approval, each team will be able to play a maximum of two warm-up matches, which will also be held in three cities — Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi.

During his visit to the BDP's office, PCB Chairman Naqvi was given a detailed briefing about the stadiums' upgradation project.

Expressing satisfaction with the venues' designs, the board's head said that it was the first time that the arenas were being upgraded to cater for such a large number of cricket fans.

Highlighting that he was personally supervising this mega project, Naqvi reaffirmed the commitment to complete the challenging task of the stadium's renovation before the Champions Trophy.

Impressive Change of Guard ceremony

KARACHI: Pakistan Naval Academy cadets take over duties of ceremonial guard at Mazar-e-Quaid on 78th Independence Day.



Pakistan Navy celebrates 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with traditional ardour

Bureau Report

KARACHI: An impressive Change of Guard ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the entire nation celebrated 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. A smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Naval Academy cadets and sailors clad in ceremonial dresses assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with traditional enthusiasm, spirit and military customs.

Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, Commodore

M Khalid graced the occasion as Chief Guest and reviewed the guard. The Chief Guest and cadets of Pakistan Navy presented Qaumi Salam to Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The ceremonial mounting of Guard was followed by the laying of floral wreath at Mazar-e-Quaid by Chief Guest on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff, officers and men of Pakistan Navy.

Earlier, the day dawned with Gun Salutes, and special prayers were offered in all mosques in Naval areas for

solidarity and progress of the country. Pakistan Navy Ships and establishments were illuminated in Navy's traditional manner. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at units of Pakistan Navy at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Gwadar and Ormara.

Various Independence Day activities were held at Pakistan Navy units/ establishments including singing of national anthem in the morning, cycle races and boat rallies. PN mission in command of CTF 150 Bahrain also celebrated Independence Day at

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Headquarters, Bahrain.

Independence Day celebrations at Pakistan Navy educational institutions were also held where school children presented tableaux on national songs and declamation contests were held highlighting the importance of Independence Day.

President of Pakistan has also approved military & civil awards to Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Civilians of Pakistan Navy on the occasion of Independence Day. The awards include 03 x Hilal-e-

Imtiaz (Military), 14 x Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military) and 14 x Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (Military).

In addition, 97 x awards of Tamgha-e-Khidmat (Military) have been approved for Master Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers and Sailors. Letters of Commendation from Chief of the Naval Staff have also been approved for Officers, Master Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers/Sailors and civilians.

Pakistan Navy celebrated Independence Day with a firm resolution to safeguard the country against any belligerence.

CASS Lahore unveils the untold and unseen of Quaid-e-Azam's legacy



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted an enlightening guest lecture on 13 August 2024, exploring the untold and unseen dimensions of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's life and leadership. The event focused on the lesser-known aspects of the legacy of Pakistan's founding father.

Wing Commander Amir Qayyum, Deputy Director of Research at CASS, Lahore, delivered the introductory remarks, emphasising the importance of understanding the intricate layers of Mr Jinnah's character to fully appreciate his monumental contributions to the nation.

Air Commodore Khalid Chishti (Retd), a distinguished authority on Quaid-e-Azam's legacy, delivered the guest lecture. His presentation provided fresh perspectives on the early life, legal career, and political journey of the nation's founder, uncover-

ing lesser-known facets of Quaid-e-Azam's life. He also delved into the principles upheld by Mr Jinnah and highlighted the key characteristics of his multifaceted personality that empowered him to lead the struggle for an independent Pakistan.

In the end, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President of CASS, Lahore, delivered the closing remarks, extending gratitude to Air Commodore Chishti (Retd) for his illuminating presentation. He expressed his deep admiration for Mr Jinnah's steadfast principles, tireless work ethic, and visionary outlook, emphasising that his legacy stands as a powerful reminder of the values of unity, faith, and discipline.

The guest lecture was attended by scholars, members of the academic community and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) officers who praised the speaker's contribution to a deeper understanding of Mr Jinnah's enduring legacy.

Japanese Ambassador congratulates Pakistani people on Independence Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, greets Pakistani people on Independence Day in a Video Message.

He said "My dear Pakistani Friends, On the auspicious occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all Pakistani people and the Government and



express my good wishes for further peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

Happy independence day to all of you. Long Live Japan-Pakistan Friendship.

UAE embassy celebrates Pakistan's 77th Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: The UAE Embassy in Islamabad celebrated the 77th anniversary of the Independence Day of Pakistan, in a vibrant and familial atmosphere, reflecting the deep-rooted affection between the people of the UAE and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Embassy officials and staff gathered to commemorate this significant occasion, emphasizing the historical bonds that unite both nations. The event showcased a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect, highlighting the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the UAE and Pakistan.

The family-oriented celebration at the embassy concluded with the cake



cutting and singing of both the Pakistani and UAE national anthems symbol-

izing the warmth and solidarity that characterize the UAE-Pakistan relationship,

fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among attendees.

Ethiopian Ambassador Felicitates Pakistani Nation on Independence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy and Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula on Wednesday felicitated the Government and people of Pakistan on their 77th year of Independence.

He says the past years were a testament to the growing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador has been deeply impressed by its impressive history, rich culture and heritage and on top of that its remarkable people who achieved brilliance in every walks of life ranging from science and technology to politics, diplomacy and sports, a reflection of which has been witnessed a couple of days back in Paris 2024 Olympics with one of its heroes Arshad Nadeem bringing



gold medal to this nation. "The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Islamic Republic

of Pakistan are two brotherly nations and share a strong brotherly bond which is deeply rooted in shared history, cultural and political values and common goals of development and prosperity," he remarked.

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality and camaraderie extended to him and his team during his stay in this country.

"The exchange of knowledge, experiences, and appreciation of each other's cuisine and culture has been an enlightening journey for me, so far. Pakistanis are a lovely nation, and I am grateful for the friendship and cooperation extended to my country in the areas of politics, economy, science and technology and climate change," the Ambassador noted.

Palestine condemns the announcement of building a new colony in Bethlehem

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates considers the announcement by Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich to establish a new colony on citizens' lands near Bethlehem, Al-Walaja, and Husan as part of the framework of an expansionist colonial policy that includes building and legitimizing dozens of random colonial outposts, expanding existing colonies, and constructing a large network of roads, to transform all colonies into settlements. A huge, geographically connected land, consuming the largest area of citizens' lands in the occupied West Bank.

At a time when the Israeli government is deepening and intensifying colonial construction, the demolition of Palestinian homes and facilities continues under false pretexts and pretexts, such as lack of a permit, especially within areas classified as (B), as is happening continuously in Masafer Yatta, the Jordan Valley, and Jerusalem, and what happened today in the distribution of more demolition notices in Al-Nuwaymah area in Jericho Governorate.

Internet slowdown persists in Pakistan amid social media users' outcry

Internet users across the country are facing ongoing slowdowns, partial outages, and glitches, with service providers unable to offer explanations, and no word from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the top cyber regulator.

Customers are having trouble accessing internet services due to limited connectivity, particularly while using mobile data in some regions.

The government blocked access to the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, around February's election, citing national security concerns, but users still cannot open the website without using a VPN (virtual private network).

NIMA celebrates Pakistan's Independence Day with full enthusiasm and national fervour



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On completion of 77 years, the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day with full enthusiasm and national fervour. The event featured inspiring speeches highlighting the significance of the day; followed by the national songs performed by NIMA researchers. The festivities culminate at the cake cutting ceremony.

Prior to conclusion, the President of NIMA expressed his gratitude to the entire NIMA family for organizing

such a nice event. He stressed upon youth that we need to study our history to develop a true understanding of two nation theory and its relevance with what is happening in our eastern neighbourhood, especially with minorities due to religious extremism under Hindutva ideology. In Pakistan, as per Quaid-e-Azam speech, religious & cultural diversity is our strength. He also emphasised the use of social media with great prudence. He underlined the significance of setting goals in life: and do look after less privileged people in the society being our religious & social duty.

AIOU celebrates Independence Day with Patriotic Fervor

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) marked Pakistan's Independence Day with enthusiasm and national pride. The celebration commenced with a Guard of Honor presented to Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, by a well-coordinated contingent of the university's security guards. Following the Guard of Honor, the Vice-Chancellor hoisted the national flag to the tune of the national anthem, accompanied by collective prayers for the stability and prosperity of the country.

In his address, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of Quaid-e-Azam to make Pakistan a beacon of peace and progress.

Speakers at the seminar included AIOU Registrar, Raja Umar Younas, Director General of Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan, Chairperson of the History Department, Dr. Kishwar Sultana, and Senior Faculty Member, Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid. They called for a renewed commitment to realizing the dreams of Pakistan's founders and working for the nation's progress with unity and discipline.