



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
ہم سے قاسم بن ملک مرنے کا بیان کیا گیا
ہم سے سعید بن عبد الرحمن نے بیان کیا
ان سے سائب بن یزید رضی اللہ عنہ نے
بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے
زمانہ میں ایک صالح تمہارے زمانہ کے
سے ایک اور تمہاری کے برابر ہو تا تھا بعد
میں عمر بن عبد العزیز کے زمانہ میں اس
زیادتی کی گئی۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6712)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**

Second extension of Bari Imam shrine to start soon: DPM
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar said the second phase of extension of Bari Imam shrine will start soon while work on the third phase of Data Darbar was continuing. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony here of three-day annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Kazmi known as Bari Imam.



Body of Pakistani mountaineer Sohail Sakhi recovered from Broad Peak

The body of renowned Pakistani mountaineer Sohail Sakhi has been recovered from Broad Peak and shifted to Skardu by a Pakistan Army helicopter, officials said on Saturday. Sakhi was among 10 Pakistani and foreign mountaineers who went missing after an avalanche struck near Camp II during a Broad Peak expedition on July 30.

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Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Activists of APHC hold a protest marking Aug 15 as Black Day outside National Press Club in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Field Marshal Asim Munir Honors Veterans' Services at Pakistan Day Reception

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), hosted a reception in honour of Pakistan Army veterans on the occasion of Independence Day. A large number of retired officers and soldiers attended the reception.

The COAS & CDF paid rich tribute to the invaluable contributions and life-long services of veterans in the defence of the country and acknowledged their enduring role in strengthening national resilience. He underscored that the experience, guidance and continued engagement of veterans remain a valuable institutional asset,



particularly for navigating an increasingly complex and evolving security environment.

The veterans expressed their confidence in the leadership of the Pakistan Army and reaffirmed their continued support to the Armed Forces in confronting emerging security challenges. They also pledged to continue contributing towards national unity, peace, stability and prosperity.

President grieved over tragic loss of lives, damage in Indonesia quake

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Saturday, expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and damage caused by the powerful earthquake that struck off Flores Island in eastern Indonesia.

"On behalf of the people of Pakistan, the President extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with the Government and people



of Indonesia in this difficult hour. He said Pakistan stands ready to extend all possible assistance," a post on X, shared by President Secretariat Media Wing, said.

The president also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the earthquake.

PM saddened by loss of lives caused by earthquake in Indonesia

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday said he was deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives and widespread devastation caused by the earthquake in Indonesia.

In a post on X, he said, "On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt condolences to President Prabowo Subianto, the people of Indonesia and the bereaved families. Our thoughts and prayers



are with all those affected, and we pray for the swift recovery of the injured."

"Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with the brotherly people of Indonesia and wishes strength and resilience to all those facing this difficult time," he added.

Security forces kill 10 terrorists in Khuzdar operation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The operation was conducted after reports of the presence of militants belonging to Fitna al Hindustan in the Shor Parod mountain range, according to the sources.

Security forces cordoned off several suspected militant hideouts and launched an operation. The terrorists were present in three small groups, the sources said.

An exchange of fire followed, resulting in the deaths of 10 terrorists and injuries to several others.



Following the operation, security forces intensified search and clearance activities in the area and launched a hunt for militants who managed to escape.

Security forces said operations would continue until the complete elimination of militants from the area.

At least 47 dead in eastern Indonesia after magnitude 7.7 quake

Reuters

JAKARTA: At least 47 people were killed after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake and dozens of aftershocks struck off eastern Indonesia on Saturday, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) said in its latest statement.

Rescue teams have yet to reach Nagekeo, the region closest to the epicentre, after landslides blocked roads and disrupted communications, officials said.

"The quake was massive, the shock was so strong," said Nona, a 51-year-old resident of Talibura, a village in East Nusa Tenggara. "There were 13 of us inside the house and we all ran to save ourselves."

Tsunami waves of less than 1



metre (3 feet) were recorded in several areas of the Southeast Asian nation after the early

morning quake. Authorities lifted a tsunami warning about three hours later.

Earlier, rescuers in the port town of Maumere found 20 dead, six injured and two people trapped under rubble, said Fathur Rahman, head of the city's rescue agency. Maumere is the main town in Sikka Regency on Flores Island in eastern Indonesia.

Suharyanto, head of the BNPB, earlier said residents remained trapped in several buildings across the affected area, while there were reports of landslides blocking a number of roads.

Teams have yet to reach Nagekeo and mobile communications in the region were affected, Fathur told Reuters earlier. Attempts to reach the area by road were thwarted by landslides, while another team was

trying to reach it by ferry, he said.

About 2,000 residents in Nagekeo evacuated, and damage was reported to homes, warehouses and government buildings, the BNPB said. Authorities also reported power outages and traffic congestion in parts of the regency.

East Nusa Tenggara Governor Emanuel Melkiades Laka Lena told a press conference that at least five people were killed when buildings collapsed as they slept.

Preliminary BNPB data showed 157 homes were heavily damaged, 41 moderately damaged and 148 lightly damaged. Damage was also reported at 87 schools, 18 health facilities, five places of worship and six office buildings, along with other infrastructure.

Mohsin Naqvi lauds FC, police for providing foolproof I-Day security in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded the Islamabad administration, police and Frontier Constabulary (FC) for providing foolproof security to the citizens on the occasion of "City Parade" held in connection with Independence Day celebrations at D-Chowk.

Interior Minister said the Islamabad City Parade was aimed at bringing citizens together in the joy of Independence Day while showcasing Pakistan's rich national culture and unity.

Later, the Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with members of City Parade's management

individually and thanked them and the residents of Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said that after 12 years, Independence Day was celebrated at D-Chowk in Islamabad.

He said that the Under-19 team played a special role in ensuring foolproof security and making the City Parade a success.

Mohsin Naqvi said that he congratulated all officials and other personnel for making the City Parade a successful event.

He said that residents of Islamabad enjoyed themselves a lot during the City Parade and they showed exemplary discipline during the event. The citizens proved that Pakistanis are a vibrant nation.

Gillani Calls for Unity, Constitutionalism and National Resolve on Independence Day

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has called for national unity, constitutionalism, rule of law and institutional strength to help Pakistan overcome its complex challenges and achieve sustainable progress.

Addressing the National Independence Day ceremony at the Convention Centre, Islamabad, Gillani said August 14 symbolised faith, freedom, sovereignty, democracy and the sacrifices that led to Pakistan's creation under Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He paid tribute to the Founding Fathers, Pakistan Movement



workers, Armed Forces and law-enforcement personnel for their sacrifices.

exports, SMEs, technology and the digital economy. He called for greater opportuni-

ties for youth to become skilled innovators, entrepreneurs and job creators.

He also highlighted the equal participation of minorities, women, farmers, labourers and other sections of society, describing Pakistan's cultural and provincial diversity as a source of strength.

On foreign policy, Gillani reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peaceful relations with all countries and support for the right to self-determination of Kashmiris and the legitimate rights of Palestinians.

He urged citizens to place national interests above political differences and uphold the Quaid's principles of Faith, Unity and Discipline.

Major PML-N meeting in Murree; consultations on AJK’s next political setup

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MURREE: A key meeting and lunch-con involving PML-N leaders from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and newly elected members concluded in Murree today.

The participating leaders and newly elected members left after the formal meeting, congratulations and courtesy interactions. However, consultations between PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and federal ministers continued for around an hour.

According to sources, the meeting focused on the political situation in AJK and consultations regarding the formation of the next political setup. Important decisions are expected following the ongoing consultations among the party leadership.

Meanwhile: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has convened another meeting tomorrow to deliberate



on the political situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the formation of the new government.

According to sources, the meeting will also finalise the names of candidates for the reserved seats in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. President

PML-N Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir, former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Secretary General Chaudhry Tariq Farooq and Senior Vice President Mushtaq Minhas are expected to attend the meeting.

The meeting is expected to discuss the

party's strategy for government formation and other matters relating to the political setup in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Recent reports have also indicated that PML-N leadership is holding consultations on the formation of the new government following the 2026 election results.

Group photograph

MURREE: Newly elected members of the AJK Assembly, including PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir, pose for a group photograph with former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, and federal ministers after a party meeting.



Photo: Spokesman

Armed Forces honoured for rescue efforts during cloudburst in Leepa Valley

City Desk.

LEEPA VALLEY: A ceremony was held to honour the exemplary role played by the Armed Forces of Pakistan in safeguarding human lives during the flash floods triggered by a

cloudburst on Shams Bari Mountain in Leepa Valley.

Senior military leadership and Government Spokesperson Shaukat Javed Mir attended the “Tea of Honour” ceremony held in recognition of the Armed Forces’ timely and



commendable rescue and relief efforts during the emergency.

The ceremony acknowledged the dedication and professional services

of the armed forces personnel who contributed to protecting and rescuing local communities affected by the flash floods.

Hyderabad Conference Opposes Division of Sindh, New Canals and Resource Projects

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Awami Tehreek organised a public conference in Qasimabad, Hyderabad, opposing the proposed division of Sindh, alleged occupation of land and natural resources, and new canal and dam projects, including the Jalalpur Canal.

The gathering was attended by political and social leaders, writers, intellectuals, lawyers, journalists, poets, students, farmers and labour representatives. Awami Tehreek Central President Advocate Wesand Tharee said the people of Sindh would reject any constitutional amendment aimed at dividing the province. He stressed that Sindh's territorial integrity, resources and interests should be protected through peaceful and democratic means.



Speakers also raised concerns over poverty, unemployment, inflation, water shortages, education and healthcare, arguing that the debate over new provinces should not divert attention from these issues. They called for transparency and public consultation regarding corporate farming, Green Pakistan and other land and resource projects.

The conference was also addressed

by Awami Tehreek Central General Secretary Advocate Sajid Hussain Mahesar, Sindhyani Tehreek Central President Umra Samoon, Sindh Hari Tehreek Central Organiser Anwar Rind, Sindh Mazdoor Tehreek Central Organiser Khaliq Gandhro, Sindh Girls Student Tehreek Central President Kainat Hakim Halepoto, Sindh Students Tehreek Central Organiser Aitzaz Gaincho, Communist

Party of Pakistan Secretary General Imdad Qazi, noted intellectual Jami Chandio, Advocate Sajjad Chandio, Sindh United Party Senior Vice President Roshan Barro, Sindh Taraqqi Pasand Party General Secretary Hot Khan Gadhii, Pashtunkhwa National Awami Party Sindh President Syed Muhammad Sadiq Agha, Awami Jamhoori Party President Siraj Siyal, Sindh Hari Committee President Samar Haider Jatoti, National Party Sindh Vice President Najeeb-ur-Rehman, Awami Workers Party leader Ali Nawaz Nizamani, Sindhi Adabi Sangat leader Yousuf Sindhi, senior journalists Iqbal Mallah and Dastgir Bhatti, Sarmad Saindab Khaskheli, Mir Mazhar Talpur, Zafar Junejo, Faheem Noonari and other political, social and civil society representatives.

Sardar Attique met with workers of the Muslim Conference at Rawalpindi

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, met with workers of the Muslim Conference at Mujahid Manzil, Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, party workers exchanged views with the former Prime Minister on matters of mutual interest and discussed the party's activities and organisational affairs.

Over 1,000 JI Workers to Join Lahore Sit-in on Aug 16 Against Inflation, Levy Tax: Mehboob-uz-Zaman

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: More than 1,000 Jamaat-e-Islami workers from Faisalabad will head to Lahore on Tuesday to participate in a sit-in outside the Chief Minister's House on August 16, called by Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman against rising petroleum prices and the “cruel levy tax.” District Ameer Prof. Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt said the protest follows JI's August 7 nationwide demonstrations at 500+ locations, which he termed a historic show of peaceful resistance against inflation, heavy electricity bills, and unjust taxes. Similar peaceful sit-ins will be held simultaneously at provincial headquarters in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. He said women, youth, traders, laborers, farmers and citizens from all walks of life will join. Calling it a struggle for fundamental rights, not a party issue, Butt said the movement aims to restore hope and compel rulers to reverse anti-people policies through peaceful, constitutional and democratic means.



Ulema’s Role in Pakistan Movement “Undeniable”

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Member of Islamic Ideology Council Hafiz Muhammad Amjad said the role of Ulema and Mashaikh in the Pakistan Movement was undeniable, noting that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad



Ali Jinnah gave them special importance and consulted them on all matters. He was addressing an Independence Day ceremony organized by the PML-N Ulema and Mashaikh Wing Faisalabad.

The event was attended by former MNA Mian Abdul Manan, Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Malik Shahid Rasool, Hafiz Ayub Awan and other party and traders' leaders.

Speakers urged the government to address public issues. Mian Abdul Manan and Haji Aslam Bhalli said just as Nawaz Sharif made PML-N a public party, the current government must solve problems of inflation and unemployment. They noted traders' businesses in 8 markets were hit by “beautification” drives, and warned that growing public frustration was benefiting political opponents.

Chiniot Bazaar President Malik Shahid Rasool said the day was a renewal of commitment to improve the country and end hypocrisy.

Attock Administration vows foolproof security, peace for Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ processions



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mudassar Ahmed Shah said religious harmony, brotherhood, and peace and security would be ensured across the district on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ. He was presiding over a District Peace Committee meeting attended by DPO Captain (Retd.) Ali Bin Tariq, ADC Enforcement Anum Babar, and members of the Peace and Serat Committees.

The meeting reviewed arrangements for processions, religious gatherings, Mehfil and other events, including route management, security, traffic, sanitation, electricity, and medical facilities.

Dr. Mudassar directed officers to implement recommendations from Peace Committee members. DPO Ali Bin Tariq said foolproof security would be in place, with a comprehensive plan for processions and special measures at sensitive locations and key routes.

The DC stressed coordinated action by all departments and praised scholars for promoting peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. The administration reaffirmed commitment to ensure peaceful, secure, and dignified observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ in Attock.

Indonesian Woman Allegedly Detained in Hyderabad Recovered on Court Orders

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: An Indonesian national, Anda Merlin, who came to Hyderabad for a love marriage, was allegedly detained and confined by the man who brought her to Pakistan. She also claimed her passport and legal documents were taken. Merlin contacted Nasreen Palijo, In-charge of the Women Development Department Complaint Cell, Hyderabad, seeking help. Palijo approached Nasim Nagar SHO Benazir Jamal for recovery, but police reportedly responded that the woman was not present at the Qasimabad house. The Women Development Department then moved the Sessions Court. Acting on the court's orders, police raided the same house and recovered the woman. Palijo said the law is equal for all and unlawful confinement of women is a serious offence. She affirmed the department's commitment to women's welfare and protection, and urged police to fully cooperate with the Women Development Department so that women receive timely justice and protection.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:59 am
Zohr	12:12 pm
Asr	4:58 pm
Maghrib	6:55 pm
Isha	8:25 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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
Potohar Town	9209224

NFEH demands urgent restoration of Karachi's dug-up roads

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) President Naeem Qureshi expressed grave concern over Karachi's roads dug up for gas pipelines remaining unrepaired despite SSGC reportedly paying over Rs11 billion in 2025 to KMC, TMCs, cantonment boards and other authorities for restoration.

He called it unacceptable that residents still face broken, uneven and hazardous roads more than a year later. The poor roads cause traffic congestion, vehicle damage, higher fuel use, delays in emergency services, and accident risks for millions of commuters, students, patients and transport users.

Qureshi urged KMC, TMCs, KDA and provincial authorities to complete pending formalities and NoCs immediately, saying bureaucracy should not delay work when funds are already deposited.

He added the damage is also an environmental and public health crisis, with dust causing respiratory issues, plus noise and emissions worsening pollution. Citing stress on University Road due to the BRT Red Line, he said other agencies must restore utility-cut roads faster.

He demanded transparency on fund utilization and treatment of road repair as an emergency, concluding: "Karachi has suffered enough. The people deserve action and safe roads."

CM Maryam Nawaz sets the target to make Punjab South Asia's most AI-enabled province by 2029

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz Sharif has set a target to make Punjab the most AI-enabled province in South Asia by 2029.



Provincial Adviser for Artificial Intelligence and Special Initiatives Ali Mustafa Dar met Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, during which consultations were held on the formal launch of Punjab AI Vision 2029.

The chief minister was given a detailed briefing on the performance of the AI Office over the past two months

and was apprised of the world's first AI-enabled Delivery Unit established in Punjab.

The meeting was also briefed on the high-level team constituted for implementation of the Punjab Artificial Intelligence agenda, as well as an onboarding programme developed in collaboration with global delivery experts.

Progress on the vision of making Punjab South Asia's most AI-enabled province was also reviewed during the meeting.

Provincial Adviser Ali Dar gave the chief minister a detailed briefing on the six key pillars of AI Vision 2029. The meeting also discussed the first CM AI stocktake to review progress on AI Vision 2029.

Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: A young boy has fun on a zip line at Japanese Children Park (Play Land).



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Azma Bokhari: Petroleum Levy Federal Matter, No Road Blocks Will Be Allowed During Protests

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Azma Bokhari said the petroleum levy is a federal matter and has no link with the Punjab CM or provincial government. Addressing media at Expo Centre Lahore, she remarked that a party criticizing it without knowing this "shows its political maturity."

Bokhari called the current season of sit-ins an attempt to revive a "dead political agenda" and cited the last three election results as proof of a party's actual popularity. She said the government was not concerned by "frivolous demands" and warned no one would be allowed to take the law into their own hands or block roads. Peaceful protest is allowed,



but public inconvenience will not be tolerated.

On youth, she said CM Maryam Nawaz has declared

2026 the 'Year of Youth' with loan programs planned. She urged students to choose career-oriented degrees to

avoid unemployment, and praised young artists' talent, assuring their hard work "will not go to waste."

PMML Marks Independence Day, Vows Continued Struggle for Pakistan's Progress

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) Spokesperson Dr. Muzammil Iqbal Hashmi said the nationwide Independence Day campaign reflected the enthusiasm and patriotic spirit of the Pakistani people.

He stated that Pakistan will progress only when the principles on which it was founded are implemented. The conclusion of the four-day campaign is "not an end, but the beginning" of a continued journey toward the country's true destination.

Dr. Hashmi described PMML as not a conventional political party, but one focused on national unity, solidarity and public service. He cited participation by political and religious parties, diverse schools of thought, and minority communities in PMML's All-Parties Conferences, rallies and public gatherings as proof of this approach.

He highlighted challenges facing Pakistan, including rising inflation and increasing terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, praising the sacrifices of security forces and civilians.

PMML mobilized people under the slogan "Azadi ka paigham: La ilaha illallah, Muhammad ur Rasulullah ka nizam." Dr. Hashmi thanked participants and vowed PMML would continue efforts to unite the nation and fulfill the objectives of Pakistan's creation.

CBD Punjab Marks 79th Independence Day with Music, Fireworks and Digital Landmark



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (CBD Punjab) celebrated Pakistan's 79th Independence Day with a grand event at CBD Vertex, Lahore Prime, Quaid District. Thousands gathered along CBD Route 47 for a high-energy evening featuring a nationalistic Musical Night with prominent local bands and singers performing iconic patriotic songs, followed by a massive fireworks display that lit up Lahore's sky. The highlight was the operational launch of Pakistan's first and largest 3D anamorphic screen at CBD Vertex, described as a modern digital showcase added to traditional festivities. CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin congratulated the nation, emphasizing unity, sacrifice, and progress. He said CBD Punjab remains committed to economic growth, technological modernization, and urban transformation. He noted the event aimed to give citizens a memorable celebration reflecting national unity and resilient spirit. The ceremony concluded with a pledge to build a stronger, modernized, and economically resilient Pakistan.

President Zardari Confers Tamgha-e-Imtiaz on AIOU Vice Chancellor

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz upon Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Independence Day in recognition of his outstanding services to education.

The national honour acknowledges Dr. Mahmood's contributions to promoting education, expanding quality educational opportunities, teacher professional development, advancing research, and improving educational institutions.

Under his leadership, AIOU has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen the education sector and enhance quality and accessibility. His work has played an important role in academic development, institutional improvement, research and learning.

The award is a significant national recognition for Dr. Mahmood and a matter of pride for AIOU, reflecting the university's continued contribution to education and academic excellence across Pakistan.

Deans, professors and principal officers of AIOU congratulated the Vice Chancellor, calling it a proud moment for the university and praising his dedication and leadership.

The AIOU community expressed best wishes and hoped the recognition would further inspire efforts toward quality education, research, and institutional development in Pakistan.



Independence Day Ceremony Held on Mall Road Under Zahid Bakhtawari

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A grand Independence Day ceremony was held on Mall Road, Rawalpindi, under the chairmanship of Zahid Bakhtawari, Vice President Rawalpindi Cantonment Board and Vice Chairman Central Anjuman Tajirani Cantonment Registered Rawalpindi. Business, social and religious representatives participated in the ceremony, where the national flag was hoisted, a cake was cut and special prayers were offered for Pakistan's security, stability, prosperity, martyrs and Armed Forces.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Sheikh Inayat, Nazim Butt, Malik Farooq Awan, President Tanzeem-ul-Awan Malik Ahmed Awan, Rafiq



Bhattia, Khan Wazir Khattak, Sheikh Muhammad Bakhsh, Saadat Khattak, Malik Shakeel Awan, Ghulam Mustafa and others addressed the gathering.

Civil Defence officials also participated. Addressing the ceremony, Zahid Bakhtawari congratulated the nation and the Muslim Ummah on Independence Day and emphasized unity, constitutional supremacy, citizens' rights, education and national development.

He said Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye's Makkah Pact was an important step toward greater unity among Muslim countries. He paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, martyrs, veterans and youth, and expressed solidarity with the Armed Forces.

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Building a Stronger and More Accountable Construction Sector

Pakistan’s construction sector stands at a critical juncture. As one of the country’s major engines of employment, investment and infrastructure development, the industry has enormous potential to contribute to economic growth. Yet persistent regulatory weaknesses, financing constraints, inconsistent standards and inadequate accountability have often undermined its performance. The government’s proposed reforms, therefore, deserve serious attention and timely implementation.

The proposal to establish a Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) is particularly significant. A unified body representing both the public and private sectors could provide the institutional framework needed to develop the industry while ensuring effective regulation. Such an institution should not merely become another bureaucratic layer. It must have clear powers, measurable responsibilities and transparent procedures to improve standards, facilitate investment and resolve disputes efficiently.

Equally important is the government’s decision to strengthen accountability for public infrastructure projects. Extending the Defect Liability Period from one year to three years, with a future target of five years, could encourage contractors and executing agencies to focus on quality rather than simply completing projects on schedule. Public infrastructure should serve citizens for decades, not begin deteriorating shortly after inauguration. Longer liability periods can help discourage poor workmanship and ensure that contractors remain responsible for the durability of their projects.

The proposed inclusion of consultants within the regulatory framework is another welcome step. Construction failures are not always the result of poor execution; flawed designs, inadequate technical assessments and professional negligence can also cause substantial losses. Consultants who are responsible for critical technical decisions should therefore be subject to appropriate professional and financial accountability. At the same time, regulations must distinguish between genuine professional errors and circumstances beyond a consultant’s control.

Financing remains another major obstacle. Construction companies frequently face difficulties in obtaining bank guarantees, performance securities and affordable credit. The proposal to examine a dedicated Construction Development Bank merits a careful feasibility assessment. Engagement with the State Bank of Pakistan and commercial banking sector should determine whether a specialized institution is necessary or whether existing financial mechanisms can be improved.

Tax reforms and rationalized import and export policies should likewise encourage investment, technology transfer and development of local construction capabilities. Modern construction methods, efficient materials and improved skills are essential for reducing costs while raising quality.

Ultimately, Pakistan needs infrastructure that delivers value for every rupee spent. Public money is a national trust. The proposed reforms can help transform the construction industry into a more professional, competitive and accountable sector—but success will depend on transparent implementation, strong enforcement and sustained political commitment. A well-regulated construction industry can become a powerful pillar of Pakistan’s economic development.

Trump Vows to Annex Strait of Hormuz

President Donald Trump’s declaration that he may soon designate the Strait of Hormuz as territory of the United States is more than another provocative statement. It raises fundamental questions about sovereignty, international law and whether overwhelming military power can transform a globally shared waterway into an American possession.

Speaking in New York on August 14, Trump said that after defeating Iran, he would declare the strait American territory. He argued that the United States already controls passage because its forces decide which ships can move through it. Yet military presence is not sovereignty, enforcing a blockade is not ownership, and the capacity to disrupt navigation does not confer legal title over another country’s territorial waters.

Washington cannot lawfully acquire the strait through a presidential announcement. A legitimate territorial transfer would ordinarily require the consent of the sovereign states concerned, a treaty and constitutional approval within the United States. Neither Iran nor Oman has offered its territory, and no internationally recognized agreement exists.

The more disturbing question, however, is not whether Trump’s declaration is lawful. The real question is who possesses the power to stop him if he attempts to enforce it militarily.

The United Nations General

Assembly could condemn the action and mobilize international opposition. But its resolutions would not automatically compel an American withdrawal. Binding action by the Security Council could be blocked by the United States through its veto. International courts depend heavily upon state consent and cooperation, while governments opposing unilateral annexation would hesitate before entering a military confrontation with a nuclear superpower.

The absence of an immediate reaction from world leaders is therefore highly significant. Apart from Iran, no major government or international organization initially issued a clearly attributable response specifically addressing Trump’s territorial declaration. Oman, despite sharing jurisdiction over the waterway, remained publicly silent. So did Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Pakistan, Türkiye, China, Russia, India, Britain, France, Germany, the European Union, NATO and the United Nations.

In diplomacy, silence can carry considerable meaning. Had Trump’s proposal been considered lawful, achievable or beneficial to the international order, allied leaders would probably have rushed to praise it, hoping to be among the first to demonstrate their support for Washington. Instead, the declaration

was met—with the notable exception of Iran—by an extraordinary absence of endorsements.

Silence, however, cannot physically stop annexation. No country appears willing to confront the United States militarily over Hormuz. Russia is occupied with its own strategic struggles, China prefers economic and technological competition to direct warfare, and European governments lack both the military unity and political appetite to challenge Washington in the Persian Gulf. Gulf countries depend heavily on American security structures and cannot afford an open confrontation with the White House.

The controversy surrounding the USS Abraham Lincoln also illustrates the practical limitations of military power. Reports of an exceptionally long deployment, exhaustion and difficult conditions aboard the aircraft carrier have generated questions about the human cost of an open-ended war. Allegations that sailors attempted to go overboard specifically because of psychological distress or intolerable conditions require authoritative verification, but concerns about fatigue, morale, isolation and family separation are legitimate.

The wider military picture further complicates Trump’s proclamation

of victory. Modern warfare consumes interceptors, precision weapons and spare parts much faster than peacetime procurement systems can replace them. New factories may expand production, but constructing facilities, training workers, securing supply chains and reaching full output take years.

Trump’s statement therefore carries two possible meanings. The first is that he is serious. In that case, declaring Hormuz American territory would become an imperial undertaking requiring prolonged military enforcement against Iran, diplomatic coercion of Oman and rejection by much of the international community. Washington would have to defend ships, bases and supply lines across a hostile region while absorbing retaliation, economic disruption and growing domestic opposition. Declaring ownership is easy; maintaining it against determined resistance is extraordinarily costly.

Iran is not a powerless target. Its large population, strategic geography, missile and drone capabilities, regional relationships and institutional memory make permanent subjugation improbable. Ancient Persia’s imperial history does not determine modern military outcomes, but Iran possesses a deeply rooted national identity and extensive experience in surviving foreign pressure. Any attempt to seize adjacent waters could strengthen Iranian nationalism rather than compel submission.

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

79 Years of Broadcasting: The Historic Journey of Radio Pakistan

It is a historic fact that the birth of Pakistan was announced through the microphone of Radio Pakistan. In the historic midnight between August 13 and 14, 1947, Mustafa Ali Hamdani made the momentous announcement from Lahore Radio Station: “This is Pakistan Broadcasting Service. Azadi Mubarak.” These historic words marked the beginning of a new era, as Pakistan and its national broadcasting service came into existence almost simultaneously.

With the independence of Pakistan on August 14, 1947, Radio Pakistan came into being after separating from All India Radio. At the time of independence, Pakistan had three radio stations located in Peshawar, Lahore and Dhaka. For more than two decades, Radio Pakistan remained the country’s principal broadcasting institution. In 1973, through an Act of Parliament, Radio Pakistan was transformed into a statutory corporation and became the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

The purpose of establishing the corporation was to disseminate impartial news and analysis and to provide education, information and entertainment to the public through an extensive network of broadcasting stations and transmitters. With its headquarters in Islamabad, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation developed into one of the country’s largest media networks, reaching a vast majority of the population and covering a substantial part of Pakistan’s geographical area.

Radio Pakistan has also played a significant role in promoting Pakistan’s cultural heritage, Islamic and social values, national identity and soft image at home and abroad. Its role during the wars of 1965 and 1971 remains an impor-

tant chapter in the history of Pakistan. During those difficult periods, Radio Pakistan served as a reliable source of information and helped strengthen national morale, unity and patriotism.

The historical contribution of Radio Pakistan to nation-building cannot be denied. For generations, it has informed young people about the struggle and sacrifices behind the creation of Pakistan and has promoted national harmony and a sense of patriotism. It has also provided a platform for the country’s poets, writers, artists, musicians, intellectuals and political leaders, thereby becoming an important part of Pakistan’s cultural history.

Today, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation operates a network of broadcasting stations across the country, transmitting programmes in a wide range of national, regional and international languages. These include Urdu, English, Punjabi, Saraiki, Balochi, Pashto, Hindko, Potohari, Kashmiri, Balti, Brahui, Chinese, Dari, Persian, Tamil, Nepali and several other languages. Its FM services, including FM 101, FM 93, FM 94 and FM 98, have further expanded its reach and enabled it to serve audiences with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The digital age has also brought new opportunities for Radio Pakistan. Its programmes can now be accessed through the internet, allowing Pakistanis and listeners around the world to remain connected with its transmission. The introduction of English-language FM services has also helped broaden its audience and strengthen its presence in the modern media environment.

One of the most valuable initiatives for preserving this remarkable legacy is the

museum established at Radio Pakistan Headquarters in Islamabad with the assistance of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), an organisation working under Türkiye’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The museum preserves important objects, documents and equipment associated with the history of broadcasting in Pakistan.

Among the historic items preserved in the museum are old broadcasting instruments and equipment, including a Marconi transmitter associated with the early history of Radio Pakistan. The museum also contains historic documents, photographs, scripts, musical instruments and other memorabilia connected with prominent personalities of Pakistan’s broadcasting and cultural history. Items associated with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the early years of broadcasting provide visitors with a unique opportunity to experience the history of Pakistan’s national broadcasting.

The Radio Pakistan archives are another priceless national treasure. They preserve millions of recordings, including songs, speeches by national and international leaders, programmes featuring renowned poets and artists, and countless voices representing different periods of Pakistan’s history. These archives are not simply old recordings; they are a living record of the country’s cultural, political and social journey.

The museum and archives are particularly important for students of mass communication and media studies. Thousands of students from universities and educational institutions have visited the museum and explored the history of broadcasting. Such initiatives can help younger generations understand the importance of radio and appreciate its contribution to Pakistan’s national and cultural development.

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Love for the Homeland

The 14th of August is far more than a date on the calendar. It is a powerful reminder of the priceless gift of freedom, the extraordinary sacrifices of our forefathers, and our enduring responsibility to safeguard the nation they entrusted to us. It is a day of celebration, but also a moment for reflection a time to honour our past, evaluate our present, and renew our commitment to building a stronger future.

Freedom is among the greatest blessings bestowed by Almighty Allah. Its true worth is understood not by those who possess it effortlessly, but by those who have been deprived of it. A nation living under oppression cannot freely determine its destiny, protect its identity, or practise its beliefs without fear. Freedom gives people the dignity to live with honour, to uphold their values, and to shape their future according to their own aspirations.

Even today, there are communities around the world where Muslims face restrictions in practising their faith. In some regions, mosques are tightly regulated, the call to prayer is restricted, and access to religious education or the public recitation of the Holy Qur’an is limited. Against this backdrop, Pakistan stands as a profound blessing. Here, the call to prayer echoes from thousands of mosques each day, the Holy Qur’an is taught and recited openly, and people are free to worship according to their faith. These freedoms should never be taken for granted; they are gifts that deserve both gratitude and protection. Pakistan is not merely a geographical territory. It is a nation built upon immense sacrifice, unwavering determination, and an unshakable vision. It carries the legacy of countless martyrs, the prayers of devoted mothers, the resilience of families who endured migration, and the courage of those who gave up everything in pursuit of a homeland where

future generations could live with dignity and freedom. Every inch of this land reminds us that independence was achieved through perseverance rather than privilege.

Love for one’s homeland is among the most natural of human emotions. The place where we are born, where our earliest memories are formed, and where our roots take hold remains forever close to our hearts. This timeless truth is reflected in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). As he departed from Makkah during the Hijrah, he expressed his deep love for his native city, saying that it was the dearest place to him and that he would never have left had he not been compelled to do so. His words remind us that attachment to one’s homeland is a noble and deeply human sentiment, provided it remains within the guidance of faith and righteousness. Pakistan offers its people more than citizenship; it provides them with the freedom to practise their religion, preserve their cultural heritage, and live according to their beliefs and values. Such a blessing demands gratitude, responsibility, and unwavering loyalty. A nation that truly values its independence never regards freedom as ordinary. Instead, it protects it through unity, integrity, and an enduring commitment to the common good.

A homeland may rightly be compared to a mother, while its citizens are like her children. Just as a mother rejoices in the happiness of her family, shares their pain, and devotes herself to their well-being, every responsible citizen should regard the peace, security, and prosperity of the nation as a personal duty. Patriotism is not measured by slogans or ceremonial celebrations alone. It is demonstrated through honesty, respect for the rule of law, diligent work, public service, the protection of national assets, and an

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Russia Says No Formal Turkish Proposal Received on Black Sea Moratorium

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Russia has said it has not received any formal proposal from Türkiye on a moratorium on military activities in the Black Sea, while warning against reviving previous arrangements without reciprocal commitments.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Moscow carefully considers peace initiatives from Türkiye, which she described as an important regional partner and Black Sea neighbour. Her remarks followed Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's statement that Ankara had presented proposals to Russia and Ukraine for halting military activities in the Black Sea.

Zakharova said Russia had received no official document



detailing the proposed terms. She added that if the initiative involved a unilateral arrangement similar to the 2022-23 Black Sea Initiative,

Moscow would not support returning to that format, arguing that previous reciprocal commitments were not fulfilled.

She accused Western countries of failing to ensure improved access for Russian agricultural exports and alleged that the humanitarian corridor was later used for attacks. She also accused Ukraine of attacking civilian vessels in the Black Sea.

Zakharova said Moscow currently saw little basis for meaningful improvement and opposed temporary arrangements that might only provide a short-term pause. She reiterated that any lasting settlement of the Ukraine conflict must address what Russia considers its root causes, including NATO expansion and guarantees for Russian and Russian-speaking populations.

GOPKZ Launches Pakistan's First AI-Powered Digital Tourism Ecosystem



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: GOPKZ has launched Pakistan's first AI-powered Online Travel Agency at a ceremony at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad, marking a major development in the country's digital tourism sector. The event, supported by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), was attended by international ambassadors, provincial tourism officials and prominent corporate leaders, and was broadcast by Discover Pakistan and HUM News.

Led by Muhammad Shahroz Habib, Group Executive Vice President of Siddiqi Hospitality and GOPKZ, the platform aims to transform how travelers explore Pakistan. Its key innovation is a prompt-based AI itinerary planner that enables users to generate customized travel plans instantly. GOPKZ also introduced its digital mascot, "Nigehban," and launched the "PAKISTANZINDABAD" campaign, offering a 14% booking discount during the Independence Day weekend.

Shahroz said the initiative goes beyond a travel website by creating an ecosystem connecting technology innovators, local businesses, investors, youth and freelancers. Through "GOPKZ Industry Connect," developed with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the company is also collaborating with PSEB, COTHM and PYITEA to provide opportunities and training for local talent.

The launch positions GOPKZ as a significant step toward integrating artificial intelligence, tourism and Pakistan's digital economy.

Saudi Arabia Expands Tourism Opportunities for Pakistani Travellers

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Saudi Arabia is strengthening tourism ties with Pakistan by expanding opportunities for Pakistani travellers to explore its diverse destinations, culture, heritage and hospitality. From the historic landscapes of AlUla and Diriyah to the vibrant cities of Riyadh and Jeddah, the Red Sea coastline and emerging destinations such as Qiddiya, Saudi is offering a wider range of experiences.



Pakistan remains a key priority market for Saudi tourism in the Asia-Pacific region, reflecting strong travel links and growing interest among Pakistani visitors. New developments are further diversifying Saudi's tourism landscape. Qiddiya is emerging as a major hub for entertainment, sports and culture near Riyadh, while The Red Sea is expanding the country's luxury tourism offering through natural landscapes and distinctive hospitality experiences. The Saudi Tourism Authority is also promoting the destination in Pakistan through events including Flavors of Saudi in Karachi and the Lahore Roadshow - Saudi Unlocked, showcasing Saudi cuisine, culture and heritage.

Travel connectivity is also improving. Riyadh Air will launch direct Islamabad-Riyadh flights from Aug 14, followed by Lahore-Riyadh services from Aug 18. Flyadeal will add Karachi-Madinah flights from Sept 6, providing Pakistani travellers with greater convenience and more choices for visiting Saudi Arabia.

Independence Day Reception Highlights Pakistan-US, Romania Ties

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Diplomats, senior military officers, civil servants and business leaders gathered at the historic Peshawar Barracks for an Independence Day reception highlighting Pakistan's national unity and expanding international engagement.

Hosted by Peshawar Barracks CEO and Honorary Consul General of Romania Masood Ahmad Qazi, the event was attended by US Consul General Thomas W. Eckert and other distinguished guests.

Qazi said Independence Day was an occasion to honour the sacrifices behind Pakistan's creation and renew the commitment to national progress. He highlighted Pakistan-Romania relations, noting strong potential for cooperation in education, IT, trade, tourism, hospitality, gemstones, minerals and investment, with Romania serving as a gateway to European markets.

He also stressed the need to strengthen Pakistan-US economic ties, particularly in tourism, hospitality, technology, gemstone processing, oil and gas, precious metals and rare-earth minerals.



Eckert reaffirmed continued US engagement with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa despite the closure of the US Consulate in Peshawar, saying ties would be strengthened through the

US Embassy and local stakeholders. He praised Peshawar Barracks for promoting a positive image of the province internationally.

The ceremony featured a perfor-

mance by the Jam Boys and concluded with gift exchanges, the national anthem and cake cutting, symbolising patriotism, friendship and international cooperation.

Pakistan's 80th Independence Day Celebrated at Embassy in Brussels

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels commemorated Pakistan's 80th Independence Day with a dignified flag-hoisting ceremony, attended by members of the Pakistani community and friends of Pakistan from Belgium and Luxembourg.

Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi hoisted the national flag to the national anthem. Messages from the President, Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Pakistan were also read out.

In his remarks, the Ambassador extended felicitations to the community and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the founders and the contributions of Pakistanis toward national progress



and development.

He stressed that 14 August is not only a celebration but a

reminder of the shared responsibility to uphold unity, faith and discipline and contribute to Paki-

stan's prosperity. He reaffirmed the Embassy's commitment to serving the community and



strengthening ties between Pakistan, Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union.

The event reflected the affection of overseas Pakistanis for their homeland. The ceremony

concluded with prayers for Pakistan's progress, prosperity, peace and security.

Pakistan's 80th Independence Day Celebrated in Ottawa

Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: The High Commission for Pakistan in Ottawa and Pakistan's Consulates General in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver commemorated the country's 80th Independence Day along with year-long celebrations marking the 150th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

A flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the High Commission, where special messages from the President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister were read out. The event highlighted Pakistan's independence, unity and the vision of its founding father.

A documentary on Quaid-e-Azam's life, leadership and struggle for Pakistan was screened, while a digital photographic exhibition presented



important moments from his life and milestones in Pakistan's history.

High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem congrat-

ulated Pakistanis on Independence Day and paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam's enduring legacy. He reaffirmed the government's commitment

to building a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Pakistan based on the Quaid's principles. He also stressed Pakistan's commitment to peace, dialogue,



cooperation and respect among nations, while highlighting the Pakistani diaspora's role in strengthening people-to-people ties with Canada.

The ceremony was attended by Pakistani community members and friends of Pakistan from the Greater Ottawa area. Families and youth

participated enthusiastically, expressing patriotism and paying tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan's armed forces and people.

 Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
180,104.61	180,311.21
Day's High	Day's Low
181,433.85	180,035.92
Index Value	Change
21,949,326,716	−206.60
Percentage	Time
−0.11%	13 Aug, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,772.67	−60.48
Percentage	Time
−0.56%	13 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
53,755.92	−14.35
Percentage	Time
−0.027%	13 Aug, 1:28 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
68,308.59	+784.53
Percentage	Time
+784.53	13 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.61	198.25
Bahrain Dinar	735.25	745.35
Canadian Dollar	198.17	202.70
China Yuan	38.15	38.90
Danish Krone	42.75	43.35
Euro	320.05	325.55
Hong Kong Dollar	34.97	35.97
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.25
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	883.59	893.65
Malaysian Ringgit	68.00	68.85
NewZealand \$	162.60	165.78
Norwegians Krone	28.15	28.50
Omani Riyal	719.80	730.35
Qatari Riyal	75.08	76.25
Saudi Riyal	74.05	74.70
Singapore Dollar	216.01	224.04
Swedish Korona	28.40	28.90
Swiss Franc	343.16	347.93
Thai Bhat	8.75	9.40
U.A.E Dirham	76.15	77.15
UK Pound Sterling	374.89	380.84
US Dollar	278.50	278.70

SI Global, Chinese Tech Firm Partner to Enhance Safe City and Maritime Security

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: SI Global Solutions (Pvt) Ltd has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China-based Jovision Technology Co. Ltd to strengthen public safety and maritime security infrastructure in Pakistan through artificial intelligence and advanced technology.

Under the partnership, SI Global will serve as Jovision's exclusive partner in Pakistan for deploying AI-powered surveillance solutions in Safe City projects. The initiative will introduce intelligent CCTV systems, cloud-based video analytics, full-colour night vision and integrated command-and-control platforms aimed at improving urban security and crime prevention.

The collaboration also covers maritime safety. SI Global has procured advanced polyurethane buoys from China for deployment at Pakistani ports, becoming the first company to introduce the technology in Pakistan. The buoys offer low maintenance requirements, longer service life and greater resistance to harsh marine and weather conditions.

A delegation of SI Global's Safe City and maritime experts, led by retired Commander Liaquat Ali PN, recently visited China, where technical discussions and product demonstrations supported the partnership and sourcing of IALA-compliant marine equipment for Pakistani ports and harbours.

SI Global CEO Dr Noman Ahmed Said said the partnership reflected a shared vision for safer cities and smarter ports. He stressed that cooperation with Chinese technology partners would help bring innovation, quality and international engineering standards to Pakistan's urban and maritime security infrastructure.

Petrol and diesel prices unchanged until Aug 17

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to keep petroleum product prices unchanged for the next three days, with petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) rates to remain at their current levels until August 17.

The Petroleum Division said on Saturday that no change would be made to petrol and diesel prices over the weekend. A fresh revision will be announced on August 18.

According to the Petroleum Division spokesperson, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) did not conduct its latest price review due to the official Independence Day holiday. As a result, the existing prices will remain in effect for the next three days.

Petrol will continue to be sold at Rs325.43 per litre, while HSD will remain priced at Rs383.95 per litre.

The current rates were notified by OGRA on Thursday following government approval. Petrol was increased by 45 paise per litre, from Rs324.98 to Rs325.43, while the price of HSD rose by Rs1.16 to Rs383.95 per litre.

The revised rates took effect from



midnight on August 14.

The adjustment came a day after the government reduced the petrol price by 94 paise per litre but increased HSD by 54 paise. Before that revision, petrol was priced at Rs325.92 per litre and HSD at Rs382.25.

Petroleum prices have undergone several revisions in recent weeks following the government's shift from a weekly to a daily pricing mechanism.

Under the new system, OGRA calculates ex-depot prices using a rolling seven-day average of international oil prices, exchange rate movements and other cost components before submitting its recommendations to the federal government for approval.

The daily pricing mechanism is intended to allow domestic fuel prices to respond more quickly to fluctuations in international oil markets and other cost factors.

Distribution

CHINIOT: Federal Minister for board of investment , Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh, distributing 5 litre free petrol slips to the motor cycles and rikshaw in the celebration of independence day on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Riyadh Air's first flight arrives in Pakistan, strengthening Saudi-Pakistan connectivity

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Saif Nasser Almashali on Saturday said that Riyadh Air's first flight from Riyadh had arrived at Islamabad International Airport on Friday, marking the start of the airline's flights to Pakistan and further strengthening air connectivity between the two countries.

The arrival was welcomed in the presence of Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, Director General Protocol Abdulaziz Al-Ghamdi and Commercial Attaché Naif Al-Harbi, alongside a number of Pakistani officials from the Ministry of Defence and the relevant aviation and airport authorities.

"A new step that further strengthens Saudi-Pakistani relations," Dr. Saif Nasser Almashali said.



RCCI Seeks Stronger Pakistan-Spain Trade and Economic Cooperation

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan Carlos Aragón Gil de la Serna visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), where he met RCCI President Usman Shaukat to discuss expanding bilateral trade, investment, economic cooperation and cultural relations.

Usman Shaukat highlighted opportunities for stronger business-to-business linkages, improved market access and cooperation in investment, technology and innovation. He said Spain offered promising opportunities for Pakistani exports, particularly textiles and

agricultural products, while Pakistan could benefit from Spanish expertise in modern agriculture, precision farming, irrigation, mechanisation, greenhouse technology and water management.

The meeting also discussed recent Pakistan-Spain consultations on establishing a Joint Working Group on Agriculture. Rice, ethanol, potatoes and maize were identified as products with export potential in the Spanish market, while textiles remain a major Pakistani export.

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and RCCI President Usman Shaukat presented



the ambassador with a Pakistan-made football for the FIFA World Cup, highlighting the country's sports manufacturing capabilities.

PHMA warns transporters' strike threatens exports, urges PM & COAS to intervene immediately

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Mr. Ahmad Afzal Awan, S. Vice Chairman PHMA North Zone, has expressed serious concern over the country-wide strike by goods transporters, saying it is putting Pakistan's exports, industrial production and foreign exchange earnings at major risk.

He said millions of dollars in export orders are jeopardized as factories face difficulties moving raw materials, finished goods and consignments. Containers carrying export and import cargo are stuck at ports and across the country, severely disrupting supply chains.

Awan warned that missing shipment deadlines could cause international buyers to shift orders to competing countries, resulting in long-term business losses. At a time when Pakistan needs



to boost exports, prolonged disruption could also mean significant foreign exchange losses.

He urged PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir to intervene immediately and ensure uninterrupted movement of cargo. He also called for a permanent mechanism involving government, transporters and exporters to prevent future strikes from halting trade.

ICCI Delegation and Turkish Business Leaders Celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day in Istanbul

News Desk

ISTANBUL: An Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) delegation, led by President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, joined Turkish business leaders in Istanbul to celebrate Pakistan's 79th Independence Day. The two sides jointly cut the Independence Day cake, reaffirming friendship, brotherhood and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Speaking at the event, Sardar Tahir Mehmood said Pakistan's freedom was won through great sacrifices and it is the duty of every citizen to contribute to national progress. He paid tribute to

the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for safeguarding sovereignty and ensuring peace for economic development.

He noted Pakistan and Türkiye share deep historical and cultural ties, and stressed the need to convert this into a stronger economic partnership through increased private sector engagement in trade, investment and joint ventures.

ICCI reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating business linkages. Turkish counterparts congratulated Pakistan and expressed support for deeper B2B cooperation for mutual prosperity.

Pakistan Can Raise Regional Trade to 20-30pc: Experts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Experts at an Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) seminar said Pakistan could increase regional trade from just over 10 percent to 20-30 percent of total external trade through sustained policy commitment, better infrastructure and improved trade facilitation.

IRS President Ambassador Jauhar Saleem said Pakistan's geographical potential with Afghanistan, Central Asia, Iran and other neighbouring markets remained largely underutilised. He stressed the need for stronger connectivity, effective trade agreements, reliable financial channels and policy continuity. He urged greater focus on

regional connectivity, logistics and export-oriented investment under the next phase of CPEC.

Saleem also highlighted Pakistan's 11-million-strong diaspora and \$41.6 billion in remittances, calling for its greater role in investment, technology and global business networks.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat called for an integrated approach to CPEC, Gwadar Port and TAPI. Muhammad Naseer noted declining trade with Afghanistan and financial barriers with Iran, while identifying Central Asia as a promising market.

Experts stressed institutional coordination and consistent policies to unlock regional trade potential.

Pakistan Honors 301 Military Personnel with Distinguished Awards

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The President of Pakistan has been pleased to grant the Military awards to the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force. 23 Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), 112 Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), 128 Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) 6 Tamgha-i-Basalat and 32 Imtiaz Asnad have been granted.

Following officers have been conferred with Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military)

Maj Gen Saad Al Abd, CMI, Maj Gen Fahham Bin Sultan, EME, Maj Gen Syed Imtiaz Hussain Gillani, Punjab, Maj Gen Ahmed Jawad, Baloch, Maj Gen Adnan Sultan, AC, Maj Gen Tajdeed Mumtaz, S. Bt, Baloch, Maj Gen Bilal Sarfraz Khan, Baloch, Maj Gen Usman Farooq Kiyani, AC, Maj Gen Khurram Shabbir, AK, Maj Gen Muhammad Saeed Anwar Khan, Avn, Maj Gen Faisal Saud, FF, Maj Gen Abid Mazhar, Punjab, Maj Gen Shahryar Munir Hafiez, FF, Maj Gen Shehryar Qureshi, Baloch, Maj Gen Waqar Muzaffar, AMC Spec, Maj Gen Nasir Ali, AMC Spec, Maj Gen Muhammad Farid, HCA, Rear Admiral Muhammad Shah Nawaz Khan, Navy, Rear Admiral Asim Sohail Malik, Navy, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie, Navy, Air Vice Marshal Farooq Zamir Afridi GDP(P), Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Hakim Raza GDP(P), Air Force and Air Vice Marshal Ahmad Junaid GDP(P), Air Force.

Following officers have been conferred with Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military)

Brig Sarfraz Ahmed, TSO, Brig Syed Muhammad Abbas, AC, Brig Faisal Qadeer Khokhar, Ord, Brig Alam Amir Awan, Punjab, Brig Zahid Ali Shah, Sindh, Brig Babar Kamal, AC, Brig Zeshan Faiz, AC, Brig Hasnat Ahmed, Arty, Brig Muhammad Sadiq Malik, Phd, Arty, Brig Umar Zia Cheema, Punjab, Brig Muhammad Younis, CMI, Brig Badar Zaman, Engrs, Brig Sikandar Hayat Choudhary, FF, Brig Raashed Basheer Khan, Sindh, Brig Mahmood Ul Hasan, FF, Brig Umer Saeed Afridi, Arty, Brig Muhammad Ali Zafar, FF, Brig Muhammad Anwar Khan, Ord, Brig Muhammad Atif Mushtaq, Arty, Brig Salman Hassan Khan Manj, Baloch, Brig Shams Ul Arfeen, Avn, Brig Akbar Shabbir Awan, AK, Brig Sajid Raza, Avn, Brig Wajahat Ullah Khan, Arty, Brig Ajmal Nadeem, AD, Brig Tariq Mahmood, Arty, Brig Aftab Alam, Baloch, Brig Javed Iqbal, Punjab, Brig Shahid Ismail, FF, Brig Muhammad Usman, FF, Brig Avas Tauqir, Sindh, Brig Irfan Ishtiq Qurashi, Arty, Brig Israr Hussain, Arty, Brig Shahid Khan, Arty, Brig Mujtaba Haider, Sindh, Brig Yasir Hussain, Avn, Brig Zafar Iqbal, AK, Brig Habib Ur Rehman, AC, Brig Shahzad Anjum Ansari, Engrs, Brig Nauman Wasif Ali Khan, EME, Brig Rashid Hamid Kiani, Engrs, Brig Shaukat Naecm Khan, Engrs, Brig Agha Abid Raza, Sigs, Brig Raza Noor Ali Khan, Engrs, Brig Muhammad Asim, Sigs, Brig Kamran Ali, Engrs, Brig Muhammad Nadeem Afzal, Engrs, Brig Waseem Shafique, NLI, Brig Syeda Shazia Musawir, HCA, Brig Farooq Butt, HCA, Brig Aamir Jawad

Bhatti, HCA, Brig Azhar Ali, HCA, Brig Tashfeen Bin Nazeer, HCA, Brig Saqib Zaheer, HCA, Brig Ayesha Abubakar Mitha, HCA, Brig Nadeem Ahmad, Spec, Brig Muhammad Atif Choudry, Spec, Brig Kamran Zamurrad Malik, Spec, Brig Maqsood Ahmad, Spec, Brig Khalid Mahmood, Spec, Brig Fahim Akhtar, Spec, Brig Amjid Ali, ADC, Col Hesham Saeed Khan, AC, Col Imad Rahim, Arty, Col Osama Ilyas Ahmed, AD, Col Adil Obaid, S. Bt, Engrs, Col Muhammad Ramzan Sumbal, Punjab, Col Muhammad Imran, AK, Col Muhammad Asad Mehmood, NLI, Col Meraj Ali, Avn, Col Moazzam Latif Rana, ASC, Col Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, Ord, Col Safdar Abbas, Ph. D, AEC, Col Salahuddin Bari, HCA, Col Uzma Naecm, Spec, Col Hafeez Ullah Bangash, ADC, Col Munawar Begum, AFNS, Commodore Syed Ghulam Akbar Shah Bokhari, Navy, Commodore Attique Ahmed Khan, Navy, Commodore Fazal Ur Rehman, Navy, Commodore Javed Latif Khan, Navy, Commodore Malik Muhammad Imran, Navy, Commodore Muhammad Qamar Nawaz, Navy, Commodore Aatif Gul, Navy, Commodore Muhammad Haroon, Navy, Commodore Syed Moeze Ul Haque, Navy, Commodore Muhammad Azeem Abbasi, Navy, Commodore Ghazanfar Ali, Navy, Commodore Muhammad Yasir Tahir, Navy, Commodore Rameez Niaz, Navy, Commodore Adnan Laghari, Navy, Air Commodore Hassan Khalid, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Nasir Zia, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Rizwan Waqar Satti, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Saqib Athar Dil, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Junaid Maqbool Malik, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Hassan Tufail, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Shahzad Nawab, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Asif Bhatti, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Jawad Azim, GDP(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Imran Hussain Usmani, Engg, Air Force, Air Commodore Syed Ali Imran, Engg, Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Omer Amin, Engg, Air Force, Air Commodore Khaild Saeed, Engg, Air Force, Air Commodore Abdul Rehman, Engg, Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Hanif Wazeer Khan, AD, Air Force, Air Commodore S Anwaar Hussain Kazmi, AD, Air Force, Air Commodore Rafat Masood, AD, Air Force, Air Commodore Shehzad Ali, A&SD, Air Force, Air Commodore Hammad Durrani, A&SD, Air Force, Air Commodore Zahid Maqbool Ahmad, Log, Air Force, and Air Commodore Muhammad Akbar Khokhar, IT, Air Force.

Following officers have been conferred with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military)

Lt Col Adeel Ahmed, AC, Lt Col Usama Khan Gurmani, AC, Lt Col Fakhar Ul Hassan, Arty, Lt Col Tahir Nawaz Khan, Arty, Lt Col Faisal Ur Rehman, Arty, Lt Col Mahmood Ahmed, Arty, Lt Col Malik Khalid Mehmood, Arty, Lt Col Khurram Saleem, Arty, Lt Col Zeshan Javed, Arty, Lt Col Muhammad Ilyas, Arty, Lt Col Fahad Jamil, Arty, Lt Col Mansoor

Ali, Arty, Lt Col Jawad Asghar Gill, AD, Lt Col Khalid Latif, AD, Lt Col Muhammad Hafeez, AD, Lt Col Mirza Rizwan Majeed, AD, Lt Col Muhammad Hasnain, AD, Lt Col Qasim Hussain, AD, Lt Col Abdus Sami, Engrs, Lt Col Babar Hussain, Engrs, Lt Col Farhan Razzaq, Engrs, Lt Col Imran Mehboob, Sigs, Lt Col Muhammad Imran Javaid, Sigs, Lt Col Ahmer Sohail, Sigs, Lt Col M. Usman Shah, Sigs, Lt Col Imran Khan Jadoon Punjab, Lt Col Itlaf Hussain, Punjab, Lt Col Syed Aurangzeb Ahmed, Baloch, Lt Col Riaz-Ud-Din, Baloch, Lt Col Ashraf Hussain, Baloch, Lt Col Khurram Javaid, Baloch, Lt Col Shoaib Wazir, Baloch, Lt Col Ali Aman Rana, FF, Lt Col Majid Khattak, FF, Lt Col Sheikh Khalid Waleed Hassan, FF, Lt Col Zia Ud Din, AK, Lt Col Mohib Ur Rehman, AK, Lt Col Tahir Mehmood, AK, Lt Col Abdul Aziz, AK, Lt Col Muhammad Altaf, Sindh, Lt Col Muhammad Rizwan, Sindh, Lt Col Tariq Shareef, Sindh, Lt Col Muhammad Ayub Tahir, Sindh, Lt Col Muhammad Sadiq Tareen, NLI, Lt Col Muhammad Afzal Farooqi, NLI, Lt Col Khawar Hussain, NLI, Lt Col Bilal Akhtar Mirza, Avn, Lt Col Muhammad Rehman, Avn, Lt Col Ahmed Junaid, Avn, Lt Col Salman Naseer, Avn, Lt Col Moazam Javed, Avn, Lt Col Muhammad Rizwan Anjum, Avn, Lt Col Adnan Habib Ahmad, Avn, Lt Col Rao Asfandiyar Qavi Khan, CMI, Lt Col Hafiz Abdul Malik, T. Bt. CMI, Lt Col Atif Shehzad, CMI, Lt Col Abdul Hafiz, ASC, Lt Col Waseem Qurban, ASC, Lt Col Amjad Ullah Khan, ASC, Lt Col Muhammad Taha Khan, ASC, Lt Col Muhammad Ansar, ASC, Lt Col Muddassar Shad, Ord, Lt Col Imran Qamar, Ord, Lt Col Mazhar Sultan Raja, Ord, Lt Col Muhammad Faizan Tahir Farooqi, EME, Lt Col Aamir Naveed, EME, Lt Col Muhammad Imran Phd, EME, Lt Col Usman Ahmad Khan, EME, Lt Col Syed Umair Qadri, AEC, Lt Col Ismail Riaz, AEC, Lt Col Awais, Phd, AEC, Lt Col Nasir Iqbal, AEC, Lt Col Muhammad Yussouf, AEC, Lt Col Fazal-E-Hakeem, AEC, Lt Col Qasim Ali Shah, Phd, AEC, Lt Col Tabassam Zia, RV&FC, Lt Col Muhammad Abid Majeed, RV&FC, Lt Col Muhammad Naveed Ul Haq, ICTO, Lt Col Aurangzeb Tariq, ICTO, Lt Col Kamran Adil, HCA, Lt Col Ambreen Rehan Zafar, HCA, Lt Col Muhammad Muzaffar Mahmood Khan, SPEC, Lt Col Adil Mehraj, SPEC, Lt Col Zakaulah Khan, SPEC, Lt Col Saima Bano, AFNS, Lt Col Abida Ghulam Hussain, AFNS, Lt Col Farrakh Bano, AFNS, Lt Col Nazli Shahzad, AFNS, Lt Col Shaheen Akhtar, AFNS, Lt Col Shakeela Hafeez, AFNS, Lt Col Fehmida Begum, AFNS, Lt Col Khurshid Muhammad Hussain, AFNS, Lt Col Shabana Yousef, AFNS, Lt Col Shahida Nazir, AFNS, Lt Col Ghazala Shaheen, AFNS, Lt Col Fazzeelat Begum, AFNS, Maj Sajida Aslam, AFNS, Maj Riffat Gill, AFNS, Maj Ghulam Sakina, AFNS, Maj Riffat Perveen, AFNS, Maj Rukhtaj Fida, AFNS, Maj Azra Yasmin, AFNS, Maj Samra Akhtar, AFNS, Maj Rizwana Shahzad, AFNS, Maj Samina Kousar, AFNS, Maj Nusrat Jabeen, AFNS, Commander Syed Ali Sarfraz, Navy, Commander Asad Haider Jaffri,

Navy, Commander Dr Asif Raza, Navy, Commander Muhammad Awais, Navy, Group Captain Abida Anwaar, Edu, Air Force, Group Captain Saima Athar, A&SD, Air Force, Wing Commander Saira Amin, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Faheem, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Saqib Abbasi, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Syed Arooj Haider Kazmi, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Bilal Ahmad Khan, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Abdullah Bin Masood, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Waqar Abbas, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Syed Atif Ali Zahid, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Syed Sibtain Akhtar Gardezi, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Ali Imran Sindhu, Engg, Air Force, Wing Commander Umar Mansoor, Engg, Air Force, Wing Commander Jibran Mahmood, Engg, Air Force, Wing Commander Jahan Zeb Riaz, AD, Air Force, Wing Commander Syed Aqdas Ali, AD, Air Force, Wing Commander Shoaib Uddin Qureshi, A&SD, Air Force, and Wing Commander Muhammad Saad Shinwari, Med, Air Force.

Following officers and men have been conferred with Tamgha-i-Basalat

Captain Shujaat Abbas Raza, Navy, Commander Ali Muhammad, Navy, Lt Commander Salman Javed, Navy, Lt Commander Iftikhar Ahmad, Navy, Viladat Hussain SFT-I, Navy and Muhammad Ramzan CDT-II, Navy.

Following officers and men have been conferred with Imtiaz Sanad

Rear Admiral Shahid Wasif, Navy, Commodore Javed Latif Khan, Navy, Commodore Shahzad Hassan, Navy, Capt Junaid Ali Mir, Navy, Capt Syed Eusaf Vigar, Navy, Capt Naveed Anjum, Navy, Surg Cdr Ehtesham Haider, Navy, Lt Muhammad Aftab, Navy, Azhar Haneef SFT-I, Navy, Group Captain Ahsan Mahboob Hamzai, GDP(P), Air Force, Group Captain Nadeem Sadiq, Engg, Air Force, Group Captain Imran Hafeez Abbasi, Engg, Air Force, Group Captain Amjad Zareen, IT, Air Force, Group Captain Asad Karim, GDP(P), Air Force, Group Captain Shabana Imtiaz, A&SD, Air Force, Wing Commander Shahid Mehmood, GDP(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Farhan Nazir, GD(N), Air Force, Wing Commander Khurram Zaman, AD, Air Force, Wing Commander Qaiser Bashir, A&SD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Mohib Ullah, GDP(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Adeel Anwar, Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Ahmed Mustafa Hashmi, Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Waqar Khalid, Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Sohail Zafar, AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Asad Kamal, A&SD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Rauf Iqbal, A&SD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Ghulam Mujtaba, MES, Air Force, Squadron Leader Syed Sibte Hassan Shah Bukhari, A&SD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Humaira Razzaq, Engg, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Raza Ali, GDP(P), Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Sardar Ameer Hamza Dogar, GDP(P), Air Force and Flight Lieutenant Tufail Ahmad, GDP(P), Air Force.

33 Development Schemes Worth Over Rs21.15 Billion Underway in Attock



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Member National Assembly and Supreme Judicial Council Sheikh Aftab Ahmed has said development of Attock and provision of basic public facilities are among the government's top priorities. He directed authorities to complete ongoing projects within the stipulated time while ensuring construction quality.

Chairing a meeting of the District Coordination Committee, Sheikh Aftab reviewed progress on development schemes being implemented under the Annual Development Programme. Officials informed the meeting that 33 major projects worth more than Rs21.15 billion are currently underway across the district.

The meeting focused on timely completion, effective utilisation of funds, construction standards and public interest. Sheikh Aftab directed relevant departments to regularly monitor projects, resolve administrative issues through coordination and avoid unnecessary delays. He warned that no compromise on quality would be tolerated.

The meeting also reviewed Attock's overall law and order situation. Police officials briefed participants on crime, security arrangements and public safety. Sheikh Aftab appreciated law enforcement agencies and stressed further improvements in crime prevention and protection of citizens.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mudassir Ahmad Shah assured the meeting that the district administration was closely monitoring development projects and ensuring transparency and quality. Participants agreed to strengthen interdepartmental coordination to accelerate development, improve security and provide better basic facilities to the public.

Taliban regime exporting terrorism into Pakistan through proxies: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson to the President Murtaza Solangi Saturday said at a time when Pakistan was working to secure peace in the region and the world at large, the Afghan Taliban regime was busy exporting terrorism into Pakistan through its joint proxies in collaboration with India.

In a post on X, he said, "Five years ago today, buoyed by the Doha Agreement with the United States, the Taliban took over Kabul."

"They promised a representative government, said they would not repeat their repressive anti-women policies against girls and women, and pledged not to allow Afghan soil to be used for terrorism or the narcotics trade as they had done until their overthrow in 2001," he noted.

He said, "They have reneged on every one of those promises to this day. Reports of the UN's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team over the past five years say that Afghanistan today poses a persistent and enduring threat."

"The regime is also committing crimes against its ethnic and religious minorities, exporting terror to other neighbouring countries, and pushing the narcotics trade across the globe," he added.

79 Years of Broadcasting: The Historic Journey of Radio Pakistan

Continued from Page 4

However, it is a matter of concern that this historic broadcasting institution has faced neglect and financial and technological challenges over the years. Many of its transmission facilities require modernization and replacement. In an era when neighbouring countries are investing in advanced broadcasting technologies, Pakistan also needs to upgrade its transmitters and adopt modern digital systems.

The importance of radio has not disappeared despite the rapid growth of private television channels, digital platforms and social media. Radio remains one of the most accessible, economical and effective means of communication, particularly during emergencies and in remote areas. It continues to serve as an important source of information, education and public awareness.

Radio Pakistan is not merely a broadcasting organisation; it is a part of Pakistan's national heritage.

It witnessed the birth of the country, played a significant role during national crises, promoted the country's culture and gave generations of Pakistanis a platform to hear the voices of their leaders, poets, writers and artists.

As Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation completes 79 years of broadcasting, the time has come to preserve its glorious legacy while preparing it for the future. Modernisation of transmitters, digitalisation of broadcasting, investment in technology, preservation of archives and professional development can help Radio Pakistan regain an even stronger position in the rapidly changing media landscape.

The voice that announced the birth of Pakistan on that historic night in August 1947 still carries a profound national responsibility. Radio Pakistan is, in many ways, the voice of the nation. Preserving, modernising and strengthening that voice should therefore remain a national priority.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living Michigan, USA

Love for the Homeland

Continued from Page 4

unwavering commitment to unity. When individuals fulfil their responsibilities with sincerity and integrity, nations flourish, societies prosper, and the homeland becomes a lasting symbol of peace, stability, and hope.

The progress and prosperity of Pakistan are not the sole responsibility of governments or institutions; they depend equally on the character and commitment of every citizen. Nations do not rise on natural resources alone. They flourish through honesty, discipline, hard work, justice, and a shared sense of purpose. When people respect the law, protect public property, value time, and place the national interest above personal gain, they lay the foundation for a stronger and more prosperous country. Differences of opinion are natural in every society, but when they give way to division and hatred, they weaken the very fabric of a nation. Unity, mutual respect, and social

harmony remain the true pillars of national strength.

The youth of Pakistan represent the country's greatest hope and most valuable asset. They are the future scholars, scientists, teachers, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, soldiers, and leaders who will shape the nation's destiny. If they are guided by knowledge, integrity, compassion, and a sincere love for their homeland, no challenge will be beyond their reach. Investing in education, nurturing strong moral values, and encouraging a spirit of service are essential for building a generation capable of leading Pakistan towards a brighter future.

The true value of one's homeland is often realized by those who live far away from it. Millions of Pakistanis residing abroad carry their country in their hearts. Despite achieving success in foreign lands, they continue to long for the familiar sights, the warmth of family, the language, the culture, and even the fragrance of the soil they once called home. Distance teaches a

profound lesson: a homeland is not merely a place on the map; it is a source of identity, belonging, comfort, and emotional strength. Freedom, however, is more than a collection of rights; it is a solemn responsibility. Every citizen who enjoys the privileges of independence also carries the duty to preserve it. A responsible nation is built by responsible individuals people who fulfil their obligations with sincerity, respect the rights of others, contribute positively to society, and strive to leave their country better than they found it. Even small acts of honesty, kindness, and civic responsibility strengthen the foundations of a nation.

As we celebrate Independence Day, we also pay tribute to the visionaries and countless men and women whose sacrifices made Pakistan possible. The inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the visionary thought of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and the unwavering determination of millions of ordinary people transformed

the dream of an independent homeland into reality. Their courage, resilience, and sacrifices remain an enduring source of inspiration for every generation. On this Independence Day, let us renew our pledge to honour their legacy not only through celebrations but through our actions. Let us uphold honesty over corruption, unity over division, service over self-interest, and hope over despair. Let us work together to build a Pakistan that reflects the ideals upon which it was founded a nation distinguished by justice, peace, progress, and compassion. May Almighty Allah continue to bless Pakistan with peace, stability, prosperity, and unity. May Allah protect our homeland from every internal and external challenge, guide us to fulfil our responsibilities with sincerity, and grant us the wisdom and strength to leave behind a nation that future generations will inherit with pride. Ameen.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at javedullahraja@gmail.com

Trump Vows to Annex Strait of Hormuz

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The second possibility is that Trump's declaration is primarily political theatre—a maximalist threat intended to intimidate Iran, energize domestic supporters or strengthen Washington's negotiating position.

Trump has previously spoken about acquiring Greenland and ending the Russia-Ukraine war almost immediately. Such declarations generate dramatic headlines and establish extreme opening positions, only to recede when their political

or strategic costs become apparent.

Hormuz may follow the same pattern. Trump can claim ownership, demand security fees and announce total control, but commercial reality provides a harsher test. If maritime traffic remains disrupted, insurance costs remain elevated and Iran continues influencing which vessels can safely pass, American declarations of ownership will appear increasingly hollow.

As the balance of power stands today, the uncomfortable reality is that no foreign country

possesses both the means and willingness to physically stop the United States if it decides to enforce Trump's declaration. International law can define the action as unlawful. The United Nations can condemn it. China can withhold legitimacy. Allies can resist militarily. But none of these forces can guarantee that Washington will abandon its course.

There remains, however, one force capable of stopping the American president: the American people acting through their constitutional institutions.

If citizens conclude that annexing Hormuz is producing higher gasoline prices, inflation, military casualties, mounting debt and no measurable improvement in national security, public support could collapse. Demonstrations, elections, media scrutiny, resistance from military families and pressure from voters could transform an overseas territorial adventure into an unbearable domestic liability.

Congress and the Senate

can refuse additional funding, investigate the conduct and objectives of the war, challenge unauthorized military expansion and demand an accounting of its human and economic costs. Legislators can use appropriations, oversight and war-powers mechanisms to restrain the executive branch. Members of Trump's own party could also withdraw support if the costs become politically indefensible.

The Strait of Hormuz cannot legally become American territory through rhetoric, blockade

or naval deployment. Trump may possess enough power to initiate a dangerous confrontation, but not enough to erase geography, sovereignty and resistance permanently. If his declaration is serious, its costs could exceed every conceivable benefit. If it is a bargaining stunt, it may eventually disappear like the Greenland rhetoric.

The greatest danger lies between these possibilities: political theatre can trigger military actions that acquire an uncontrollable momentum. The international commu-

nity may remain strategically silent because it fears American retaliation. But the American people, Congress and the Senate do not have the luxury of silence. They represent the final constitutional force capable of preventing presidential bravado from becoming an irreversible imperial adventure.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM directs NDMA to ensure maximum relief for flood-affected people

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saturday, directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to utilize all available resources to provide maximum assistance and relief to the people affected by floods across the

country.

The prime minister issued these directives during a meeting with NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, who briefed him on the prevailing weather situation in the country, particularly the flood situation arising from monsoon rains, PM Office

Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also directed the NDMA to maintain effective coordination with the relevant provincial authorities and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs).

He also appreciated the use of artificial intelligence (AI)

and modern technology at the National Emergencies Operations Centre.

The NDMA chairman briefed the prime minister on the weather and flood situation with regard to monsoon season.

He also apprised him on the ongoing relief operations in flood-affected areas

and measures being taken for the rehabilitation of affected people.

He said that, with the cooperation of the federal government, the NDMA would continue relief operations in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Politicians Should Take Ownership of New Provinces Issue: Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan has supported the creation of Hazara Province in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying new provinces should be created on administrative grounds to improve governance and address public problems.

He said demands for Hazara Province had been raised in the Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa Assembly since 2010 and welcomed support from major political parties. He added that the IPP would also support the creation of South Punjab and Bahawalpur provinces.

Aleem Khan said population growth had increased the need for additional administrative units in Punjab and Sindh as well. He argued that new provinces could improve administrative efficiency, facilitate public services and help resolve people's problems.

He stressed that the issue should be treated as a national matter rather than being driven by political or partisan interests. According to him, politicians should rise above political affiliations and focus on public convenience and better governance.

The IPP president said the country's current circumstances required a new administrative working framework suited to modern needs. He criticised politicians for protecting political strong-



holds instead of addressing public concerns and urged them to take ownership of the new provinces issue.

He reiterated that the IPP would continue raising the matter at every available forum.

Pakistan's Independence Day Celebrated in New Delhi, Dhaka



In New Delhi

News Desk

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's Independence Day was celebrated with traditional enthusiasm at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, where Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich hoisted the national flag at the chancery lawn.

The ceremony was attended by diplomatic officials, staff members and their families. Messages from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were read out on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Warraich highlighted the significance of the 'Two-Nation' Theory and said

the creation of Pakistan fulfilled the aspirations of Muslims of the subcontinent to determine their own future. Children presented national songs and tableaux as part of the celebrations.

Similar celebrations were held at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh. High Commissioner Imran Haider hoisted the national flag, followed by the national anthem. The event was attended by Pakistani citizens, Bangladeshi friends, students, journalists and civil society representatives.

Messages from the President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar were also read out. The High Commis-



In Dhaka

sion distributed prizes and certificates to Bangladeshi students who participated in an essay-writing competition on "Historical Places of Pakistan."

Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gilani Felicitates Nation on Commencement of Rabi-ul-Awwal



Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has extended heartfelt felicitations to the Muslim Ummah, particularly the people of Pakistan, on the start of the sacred month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

He said the month holds special significance as it marks the birth of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ, whose life and teachings convey a timeless message of mercy, peace, love, tolerance and brotherhood for all humanity.

Gilani noted that the Seerat-e-Tayyaba provides complete guidance for life and teaches justice, equality, compassion, patience and respect for the rights of others. He urged the nation to renew its commitment to follow the Prophet's ﷺ noble example and promote peace, harmony and brotherhood.

He also called for remembering the poor, needy and vulnerable, and paid tribute to martyrs who sacrificed for Pakistan's security. He prayed for peace, prosperity, unity and stability for Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah.

Armed attackers target police and security forces in Rawalakot

City Desk

RAWALAKOT: Armed personnel affiliated with the proscribed banned Awami Action Committee carried out attacks on police and security forces in and around Rawalakot last night, using modern weapons and hand grenades.

The attackers targeted various positions of the security forces, resulting in injuries to FC personnel identified as Mushtaq. The injured official was shifted to CMH Rawalakot, where he is currently receiving medical treatment.

The attacks by armed members of the proscribed banned Awami Action Committee have intensified over the past few days. So far, five security personnel have sustained injuries in these attacks.



Balochistan Home Minister lauds security forces for foiling terrorists designs on freedom day

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Home Minister Mir Zia Lango has congratulated the people of Balochistan for celebrating country's 80th independence-day in a befitting manner despite terror threats. Addressing a press conference along with Provincial Advisor on Interior Affairs Baber Yousafzai, Zia Lango lauded the sacrifices of security forces for foiling the designs of

terrorists in Balochistan.

Mir Zia Lango said he had gone to Kalat to attend the freedom-day celebration.

After the end of the function, Balochistan Home Minister added that he moved backed to Quetta on the personal vehicle of SSP Kalat. Zia Lango further added that his vehicle came under fire at Kund Umrani, where terrorists attempted to target their vehicles using a sniper.

IHC grants stay in Pakistan Halal Authority DG appointment case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The process of appointment of Pakistan Halal Authority head was temporarily stopped on Saturday after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) barred the appointment of the Authority DG until August 17, and issued notices to the federal government, Ministry of Science and Technology and secretary Establishment Division.

The vacancy had been advertised on August 9.

Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro granted a 'stay' on the petition filed by Akhtar Ahmad Bughyo.

Speaking on the occasion, counsel for the petitioner said that his client had been made the Authority DG



on April 10, 2020 on a regular basis, and as per regulations, appointment can be made on this post only on a regular basis.

He went on to say that the Board had recommended making the petitioner regular, and the federal government had not refused to do so as yet.

The court later adjourned the case's hearing until August 17.