



Islamabad POST

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Any attempt to sabotage Sino-Pak friendship not to succeed: Wenbin

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Rishi Sunak blames criminal gangs

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Neymar set to join Saudi club Al Hilal - report

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

NAB re-arrests Pervaiz Elahi

ABBAS HASHMI

RAWALPINDI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Monday re-arrested former Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi after his release from Adiala Jail. Following the conclusion of his detention under the MPO, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi was discharged from Adiala Jail today. However, he was apprehended by the NAB over failing to provide information to the accountability bureau in assets beyond the means case against him, his son Monis Elahi and other family members. NAB sources have revealed that an inquiry has also been initiated against Moonis Elahi into the excessive assets case.

Bilawal wants to see Pak a prosperous country

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former foreign minister and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday stressed the need for making Pakistan a prosperous state. In his message on the eve of the country's 76th independence day, which he shared on Twitter, he said that Pakistan should be a country where prosperity was not restricted to a few people. "Rather everybody should benefit from it," he emphasized. "Today, as we celebrate Pakistan's 76th Independence Day, let us commit to forging a Pakistan where the avenues to prosperity are open to all, regardless of circumstance."

Imran ask people to fight for justice

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the people of the country to struggle for justice and equality as only a country which gave importance to justice and merit flourished. PTI Chairman, in his pre-recorded message a pre-recorded video message for 76th Independence Day observed, appealed the people of country to fight for justice and meritocracy.

Blinken says... US wants to deepen ties with Pakistan

"As we usher in a new year of cooperation, and as Pakistan prepares to hold elections, we look forward to advancing inclusive economic growth, energy security, and promoting peace and regional stability"

NEWS DESK

THE US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday said Washington looks forward to deepening its partnership with Islamabad to create a more prosperous future for both nations. In a statement, the US state secretary extended his wishes to the people of Pakistan on 77th Independence Day. He said the US values its 76-year-old relationship with Pakistan and expressed his country's strong support for Pakistan's economic success. The US official extended his wishes to the people of Pakistan, Radio Pakistan reported. "As we usher in a new year of cooperation, and as Pakistan prepares to hold elections, we look forward to advancing inclusive economic growth, energy security, and promoting peace and regional stability," he added. Blinken said they share a commitment to democratic principles and respect for the rule of law that will continue to guide their partnership forward. Friendship with Pakistan: Earlier today, the US said that it remained committed to its friendship with the Pakistani people and its relationship with the Government of Pakistan.



Pakistan marks 76th Independence Day

KHAYAM ABBASI

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan celebrates its 77th Independence Day on August 14 (today), the nation is brimming with excitement and eager to pay tribute to the relentless struggle of our forefathers and national heroes in their quest for a separate homeland. President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) President Asif Ali Zardari, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the occasion of 77th Independence Day. The day commenced with special prayers for the country's prosperity and unity, an apt prayer given the turmoil on the political and economic fronts. Moreover, a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salutes in all provincial capitals were made

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PML-N leader Hina Butt, son heckled in London

In a separate video, where Butt and her son were seen at a currency exchange outlet, multiple people could be heard calling Butt and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif "thief"



DNA

LONDON: There was an outcry on social media by politicians and journalists on Monday after videos surfaced of PML-N's Hina Pervaiz Butt being heckled at public places in London while she was with her son. Sharing the video of the incident in

the street, Butt claimed the hecklers were PTI supporters and that she was attacked, and verbally abused and bottles were thrown at her. "Are these uncivilised people bringing glory to the country's name or tarnishing its image?" she wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. In another video clip of the incident, a man could be heard hurling expletives at Butt. In a separate video, where Butt and her son were seen at a currency exchange outlet, multiple people could be heard calling Butt and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif "thief" and accusing them of looting the country's money. They were seen following the duo outside, with at least one among them carrying a flag of the PTI. The videos, particularly the one from the street, were widely shared on social media, drawing condemnations from politicians and journalists. Former PTI leader and human rights minister Shireen Mazarri "strongly condemned the filthy

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At least 41 killed in India as rain triggers landslides

Television footage from India's Himachal Pradesh state showed houses flattened by landslides, buses and cars hanging on the edge of precipices after roads gave way, and hundreds of people at rescue sites as emergency workers struggled to clear debris

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: Torrential rain in India's Himalayas triggered landslides over the weekend that have killed at least 41 people, with over a dozen trapped or missing, officials said on Monday. Unusually heavy rain and melting glaciers have brought deadly flash floods to the mountains of India and neighbouring Pakistan and Nepal over the past year or two, with government officials increasingly blaming climate change. Television footage from India's Himachal Pradesh state showed houses flattened by landslides, buses and cars hanging on the edge of precipices after roads gave way, and hundreds of people at rescue sites as emergency workers struggled

to clear debris. "Again, tragedy has befallen Himachal Pradesh, with continuous rainfall over the past 48 hours," the state's chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, said in a post on the messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter. "Reports of cloudbursts and landslides have emerged from various parts of the state resulting in loss of precious lives and property." At least 41 people have died in rain-related incidents since Sunday and 13 were still missing, according to a report by the state disaster management department, seen by media. In one of the most deadly incidents, a temple collapsed in the state capital, Shimla, with rescuers pulling out at least nine bodies, the chief minister said. The India Meteorological Department issued a "red alert" for both

Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on Monday and has forecast rainfall intensity to reduce Tuesday onwards. Parts of Himachal and Uttarakhand received as much as 273mm and 419mm of rain in 24 hours till 8:30 am local time on Monday, the weather office said. Schools and other educational institutes have been ordered to close in Himachal Pradesh and people in danger were being moved to safety in shelters, state officials said. Uttarakhand state authorities announced the Char Dham pilgrimage route would be closed till Tuesday after landslides. "This is the first time we're seeing multiple cloudburst incidents and widespread damage in Himachal Pradesh," said state disaster

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Mr Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar as the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, at an oath-taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. - DNA

Kakar takes oath as caretaker Prime Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday took oath as the caretaker prime minister of Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath to the caretaker prime minister in a ceremony at the President's House. Outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and leading politicians of various political parties also attended the ceremony. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, and other high-ranking officials were also present on the occasion.

Military leadership felicitates nation

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Military leadership has extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the 76th Independence Day of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)

Russia open to military-tech coop with others: Putin

Putin noted that more than 1,500 Russian enterprises were presenting over 28,500 samples of modern military and dual-use products at stands, expositions and training grounds at Patriot Park near Moscow during the expo

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Moscow is willing to further develop military-technical cooperation with other countries that understand the importance of building an equal and indivisible security system, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an address to the Army-2023 expo on Monday. "Russia is open to deepening equal technological partnership and military-technical cooperation with other countries, with everyone who defends their national interests, their independent path of development, and considers it fundamentally important to build together an equal indivisible security system that would reliably protect each state," he said in a video message to participants at the forum.

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Russian currency falls to 16-month low

BUSINESS DESK

MOSCOW: The Russian rouble has fallen to its lowest value for 16 months, falling past 100 per US dollar. The decline comes as pressure grows on the Russian economy, with imports rising faster than exports and military spending growing for the Ukraine war. Russia has been targeted with sanctions by Western countries following its

Continued on Page 06

CALL TENDER

Establishment of a restaurant

THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE in Islamabad is renting out 475 m² of built-up space as of October 1, 2023.

Location : Villas Bangla (475 m² out of a total of 943 m²), located in the diplomatic enclave. G5 / Islamabad

For a symbolic fee, the candidate retained will have to perform the following duties:

- Open and run a restaurant (lunch/dinner), including works
- Highlight the French gastronomy in the menu
- Ensure custodial and surveillance management
- Green spaces maintenance

The application form and the tender documents can be obtained upon request by calling the following number: 301 856 02 35

Application must be sent to the following address: sga.islamabad-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr before August 25, 2023 (1.00 pm).

All offer submitted without the dully completed application form will not be considered admissible.

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CM KP visits Police lines to pay tribute to martyrs

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on the eve of Independence Day visited the Police lines here on Monday to pay tribute to martyrs. During the visit, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence in their honor. He also offered Fatiha and prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks. Accompanying the Chief Minister were Chief Secretary Nadim Islam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, and other officials. The Chief Minister's visit emphasized the significance of remembering and honoring the sacrifices made by the brave martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom. The CM conveyed heartfelt felicitations to the entire nation and especially the people of KP. He emphasized the importance of renewing the commitment to the ideals that led to the creation of Pakistan and highlighted the sacrifices of the Muslims of the subcontinent. Chief Minister Azam Khan recognized that Pakistan's establishment was the culmination of the immense struggle and sacrifices made by millions of Muslims, which has resulted in the current era of peace and prosperity. —APP

CM inaugurates Gujranwala-Sheikhupura Road

DNA

GUJRANWALA: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Monday inaugurated the road connecting Gujranwala to Sheikhupura, thus reducing the time required for travelling from one city to the other to 26 minutes only.

The chief minister inspected quality of the construction at Waris Shah toll plaza, and appreciated it.

Speaking on the occasion, he expressed the hope that with the construction of the road, people of both the cities would find it easier to reach each other cities. Briefing CM Naqvi about the project on the occasion, secretary construction and communications said that Rs5 billion had been spent on the road's construction. He informed that the project was completed under the public-private partnership mode. briefed CM Naqvi about the project.

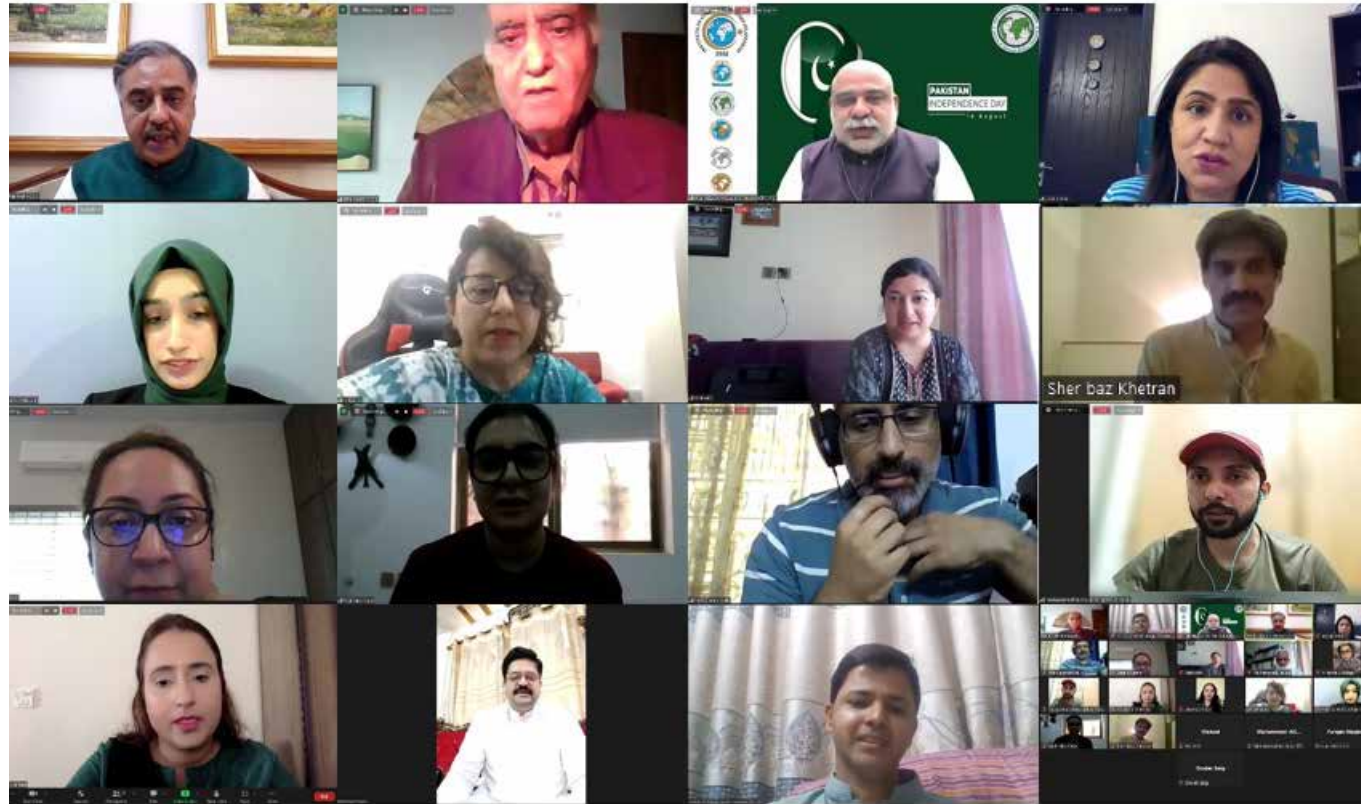
Provincial ministers Mansoor Qadir, Bilal Afzal, Amir Mir, Advisor to CM Wahab Riaz, chief secretary, Punjab inspector general of police, commissioner Gujranwala, RPO, and CPO Gujranwala were present on the occasion. Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi also inaugurated a model village at Sharaqur under the 'Har gaun chamke ga' project. Speaking on the occasion, over 2, 600 villages of Punjab would benefit from the project. He said that under the programme, each village would have a night watchman and a trolley for the disposal of garbage. "There will be a council in each village which will run the programme," he informed.

ISSI's Web Celebration on Independence Day 2023

Abiding commitment to Quaid's vision is best path forward for Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Abiding commitment to the vision of founding founder Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah is the best path forward for Pakistan on its way to sustainable peace, progress and prosperity. This was stressed by Amb Sohail Mahmood, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), at the Institute's web celebration of Independence Day 2023. Hosted by ISSI's Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC), the web celebration was moderated by Director ACDC Malik Qasim Mustafa and attended by the research faculty and staff of ISSI. A presentation on the theme "Peace Within and Peace Without," was given by ACDC Research Associate Ms. Aamna Rafiq. She stated that despite complex and difficult geopolitical, socioeconomic, and geostrategic dynamics in the regional and global landscape, Pakistan has faithfully adhered to the Quaid's vision of peaceful coexistence with all states. Also, any challenge could be tackled with tolerance, patience, mutual respect, and discipline. "We must continue to celebrate the diversity of cultures, languages, and ethnicities to achieve unity, prosperity, and peace within," she said. In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that independence anniversaries are always special occasions — as they



entail both celebration as well as reflection. But, first and foremost, they are the occasions for remembrance and expression of gratitude. It is important to remember all the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice so that the succeeding generations could live as a free, independent and sovereign nation. This is equally an occasion for expressing gratitude to the

founding fathers for their vision and far-sightedness. Keeping in view the plight of Indian Muslims in the wake of a majoritarian ideology one can't thank the Quaid enough for his single-minded focus and unrelenting struggle for a separate homeland. Over the past 76 years, the DG ISSI added, Pakistan has achieved so much that it should be proud of. A country,

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

stan has time and again proven that it is a living nation. Over the past 76 years, there have been challenges, disappointments and setbacks as well. But the country has always fought hard and come back. There is no doubt that Pakistan will continue its journey of progress with the same zeal and realize its fullest potential as a nation. Amb Sohail Mahmood

stressed that the key in this regard is an abiding commitment to the Quaid's vision of Pakistan as an economically strong, socially progressive, democratic, Islamic welfare state. "Peace Within, Peace Without" was a cardinal principle of Quaid's vision for Pakistan as a polity and nation-state. Faithful implementation of this vision would enable Pakistan to attain sustainable peace, progress and prosperity, he emphasised. The research faculty from the centers of excellence and staff officers, while expressing their views, noted the challenges being currently faced and underlined the imperatives of unity, faith, discipline, continued hard work, patience, tolerance, perseverance and resilience. They shed light on the need for a positive attitude, a forward-looking approach, sacrifice, and valuing the freedom achieved several decades ago and working hard for the fulfillment of the vision of Pakistan. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood Chairman BoG, ISSI stated that Independence Day is not only a day of celebration but also a day of introspection. The people of Pakistan should always remember and respect the struggles and sacrifices made by their forefathers. Furthermore, think tanks like ISSI are playing a positive part in building the narrative of Pakistan and this important role should continue.

CM Murad performs soft launch of Karachi safe city

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Karachi Safe City Project is not just a collection of surveillance cameras and technological advancements; but it also embodies our collective aspiration for a safer and more secure environment. This he said while speaking at the contract signing ceremony of Integrated C5ISR Based (Command, Control, Communication, Computer, Cyber Security, Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance) Safe City Project here at the CM House on Monday. The program was attended by former IT Minister Taimur Talpur, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, MD NRTC Brig Asim Ishaq Chairman P&D, Secretary LG Najam Shah, Home Secretary Aijaz Shah, DG Safe City Authority Asif Aijaz Shaikh, and others. Mr. Shah said that the Karachi Safe City Project was not merely the installation of surveillance cameras and adopting technological advancements, but it also embodied our collective aspiration for a safer and more secure urban environment. "With the challenges that a rapidly growing city like Karachi faces, it is our duty to ensure that every citizen must feel safe and secure and this project brings us one step closer to achieving that goal," he said. The CM said that he was aware of the urgency attached to this project. "The safety and well-being of our citizens cannot wait, and we must remain steadfast in our pursuit of its successful implementation," he said. "I am honored to launch the much-awaited launch of the safe city project before leaving the charge of this office," he said and added that it was a testament to the foresight and dedication of the Sindh government.

Mr. Shah said that the Sindh Safe Cities Authority board and its director general and NRTC have worked hard to make the project a reality. Murad Ali Shah said that his government has always placed the needs and aspirations of our citizens at the forefront of its agenda. "We understand the challenges faced by our cities in this rapidly evolving world, and we are not merely content with acknowledging these challenges, but we strive to confront them head-on, with determination and innovation. The CM said that the Safe City Project would enhance law enforcement capabilities, improve emergency response times, and deter criminal activities. He said that the integrated approach aligned with our commitment to creating a city that was not only prosperous but also safe for all its residents. Mr. Shah said that the Safe City Project was truly a one-of-a-kind initiative, distinguished not only by its scale but also by the intricate technical complexities it encompasses. "As we stand on the cusp of its launch, we can take pride in our collective efforts to overcome these hurdles and bring this visionary project to fruition," he said. The CM extended his gratitude to all the stakeholders involved in this endeavor, including government officials and law enforcement agencies, technical experts, and project teams. "Your dedication and hard work are integral to the success of the Safe City Karachi Project," he said. The citizens of Karachi are eagerly looking forward to the enhanced safety and security that this project promises, the CM said, and added their trust was a responsibility we must uphold. Therefore, I kindly request DG Sindh Safe Cities Authority and MD NRTC to keep a keen focus on meeting the project's timeliness while maintaining the highest standards of quality. — APP

Bajaur turns olive green with locals adopting this profitable business

BAJAUR: Together with abundance of minerals, gemstones reservoirs and scenic natural beauty, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's seven merged tribal districts especially Bajaur and Waziristan are most suited for olive farming due to their compatible soil, climate condition and ecological diversity. Once became aware of the potential of their fertile land, the hardworking tribal people's response to

this profitable olive farming business have turned Bajaur green. Thousands of olive trees planted in plains and mountains of seven tehsils of Bajaur district on Mohmand-Bajaur road as well as lush green olive valleys of Talash at Dir Lower catch attention of visitors once they pass through these areas. From Barang to Khar and Nawagai to Chamarkand tehsils of Bajaur, the locals with active support

of KP agriculture and forest departments have planted olive trees in abundance whose yields are contributing greatly to their wellbeing. Sharifulah Bacha (64), a progressive farmer from Salazarai tehsil, has hired extra labourers to plant the available olive stock on his eight-acre land during monsoon season. "I have planted 5,000 olive plants in spring season this year and would plant another 5000 sap-

lings during current monsoon through Ashar plantation," he said. Hoping for monsoon rains in the mountainous region for his new plants, Bacha said, "provision of ample water for these plants is must, without which farmers can suffer great financial losses." Ziaul Islam Dawar, Director Agriculture Extension Bajaur said under KP government's olive promotion project, grafting in over 250,000 wild olive trees was achieved while olive orchards on 150 acres were successfully raised in Bajaur. Ahmad Said, former Project In-charge, Promotion of Olive Trees Cultivation on Commercial Scale (POTCCS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa told APP that the entire Malakand division.—APP

HR Ministry, HelpAge Int'l join hands

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and HelpAge International have collaborated to organize the second consultative meeting on the Rules and Regulations for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Senior Citizens Act, 2021 which is going to be a landmark legislation to protect the rights of elderly people living a less empowered social life. The meeting was held here attended by stakeholders including retired government officials and representatives from relevant ministries and departments, a news release said. The discussions focused on the draft rules and regulations for three key areas of Senior Citizens Card, Establishment of Old Age Homes, and Privileges provided to senior citizens under the Act: (20% discount on the medical facilities and retirement benefits for the older people). The first meeting on the rules and regulations was held in June 2023, during which the Recruitment Rules for the Senior Citizens Council

were finalized. The second meeting is part of a series of consultative meetings that will be held to finalize the rules and regulations and ensure the implementation of the ICT Senior Citizens Act, 2021. The Chief Guest Director General (MoHR) Abdul Sattar in his closing remarks said, "The MoHR and HelpAge International are committed to ensure that the rights of senior citizens are protected and that they have access to the services and benefits that they need. The development of the Rules and Regulations for the ICT Senior Citizens Act is an important step in this process." The meeting was attended by retired government officials and representatives from civil society organizations who had worked to make the Act a reality. Representatives from the relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Health, Planning Commission, NADRA, Bait-ul-Maal, and the MoHR, also attended the meeting and provided their recommendations and suggestions.—APP

PTI takes out rally to celebrate 14th August

QUETTA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial leader Hamza Khan Nasir led a rally on Monday from Quetta Airport Road to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. The participants of the rally reached at Manan Chowk after marching different routes including Airport Road, Samnguli Road, Zarghun Road, Incombe Road and carried Pakistani flags and placards. PTI's Provincial leader Hamza Khan Nasir, addressed the participants of the rally and said that freedom is a blessing and we should appreciate it, its protection and development is now our responsibility. In order to assume the position, we have to forget all our sub-group and differences and rise above all kinds of prejudices and work in the form of a united nation, he said. He said that at present the country is facing internal and external challenges and the monster of terrorism.—APP

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Pakistan Navy celebrates Independence Day with traditional enthusiasm

DNA

KARACHI: An inspiring Change of Guard ceremony was held at mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the entire nation celebrated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan. Smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Naval Academy cadets and sailors clad in ceremonial dresses, adorned guard duties at Mazare-Quaid with enthusiasm, traditional spirit and military customs.

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



Navy. Later on, the Chief Guest offered Fateha and recorded his remarks in the visitor book and paid rich tribute to our beloved Quaid. Earlier, the day dawned with Gun Salutes and special prayers were offered in all Naval mosques for solidarity and progress of the country and particularly for the success of Kashmiri struggle. Pakistan Navy Ships and Establishments were illuminated in Navy's traditional manner. Flag hoisting cere-

monies were held at designated Units of Pakistan Navy at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Coastal Areas. Various independence day activities were held at Pakistan Navy units/ establishments including singing of national anthem in the morning, PN Band Display and Flag Hoisting Ceremony at Pakistan Maritime Museum, Boat Rallies at Karachi Harbour, Marathon Races, Cycle Races were also part of the celebrations. PN ship celebrated

independence day during overseas deployment at foreign port. Independence Day celebrations at Pakistan Navy educational institutions were also held where school children presented tableaux on national songs and declamation contests were held highlighting the importance of Independence Day. President of Pakistan has also approved military & civil awards to Officers, CPOs/Sailors and Civilians of Pakistan Navy on the occasion

of independence Day. The awards include Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military), Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (Military). In addition, awards of Tamgha-e-Khidmat (Military) have been approved for Master Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers and Sailors. Letters of Commendation from Chief of the Naval Staff have also been approved for Officers, Master Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers/Sailors and civilians.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

August

Aug 01/China Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Syria Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Burkina Faso National Day

Aug 09/Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea Independence Day

Aug 15/India Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/Indonesia Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay Independence Day

Aug 30/Turkey Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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

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PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Monal Group carries out tree plantation drive at F 9 Park



This is part of a larger initiative being undertaken in collaboration with the CDA in which approximately 5,000 trees will be planted in Islamabad and Haripur, KP in the coming months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Monal Group carries out a tree plantation drive on 14th August to celebrate Independence Day. The Monal Group carried out a tree plantation drive at F-9 Park in Islamabad on 14th August to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. The senior management of The Monal Group as well its employees and families participated in

the activity in which more than 250 different trees like Bottle Brush, Jacaranda, Pine and Arjuna were planted. This is part of a larger initiative being undertaken in collaboration with the CDA in which approximately 5,000 trees will be planted in Islamabad and Haripur, KP in the coming months. The first tree plantation activity in this drive took place at Lake View Park towards the end of July where approximately 250 saplings were planted

and further plantation drives are planned in the Margalla Hills near Gokina Village and in Haripur, KP in the second phase of the drive. The Monal Group has been at the forefront of similar initiatives in the city since the early 2000s and has been providing road-side assistance and cleanliness along the route to Pir Sohawa as well as assisting with manpower and resour-



ces for fighting wildfires in the Margalla Hills. The latest initiative was the deployment, maintenance and replenishment of bird nesting and feeding poles in parks in Islamabad, which are now home to a wide variety of local birds. Speaking at the occasion, the Founder & CEO of The Monal Group,

Mr. Luqman Ali Afzal said that climatic changes are severely affecting developing countries and it is incumbent upon civic authorities and responsible organizations to help mitigate these effects in every possible capacity. He further added that trees help urban centers remain cool dur-

ing hot summer months by providing shade and releasing water vapor in the atmosphere, improve air quality by absorbing pollutants in the air, provide necessary support to the ecosystem by regulating water and soil conservation and provide habitat for wildlife and birds in the cities.

PRCS celebrates Independence Day with enthusiasm, zeal

Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari says Independence Day stands as a testament to our nation's resilience and unity; underscores the importance of embracing the core values of tolerance, respect, and unity that define our nation's true essence

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) commemorated the nation's 76th Independence Day with enthusiasm and fervor, highlighting unity and patriotism in a series of vibrant celebrations. The event commenced at the National Headquarters (NHQ) of PRCS on Monday, where the atmosphere was adorned with the national colors of green and white, resonating the spirit of freedom. Distinguished guests, including Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Secretary General Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, PRCS Treasurer and member managing body Dr. Irshad Muhammad and representatives of IFRC, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross, and German Red Cross, as well as officers, volunteers, and students from various educational institutions of Islamabad, graced the occasion with their presence. The festivities began with the national anthem song performance of volunteers and school on national theme. On this occasion, ceremonial cake cutting took place at the NHQ lawn, symbolizing the unity and shared aspirations of the Pakistani people. This was followed by the hoisting of the national



flag, signifying the essence of independence and sovereignty. The commemorative event took a dynamic turn with the commencement of the Ambulance Flag March, a procession of PRCS vehicles and ambulances, which embarked on a symbolic journey from the NHQ. The cavalcade, passed through the roads of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, receiving warm appreciation from the crowd. Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, in a media interaction during the event, reflected on the significance of Independence Day. He stated, "Independence Day stands as a testament to our nation's resilience and unity. It is a time to honor the un-

wavering spirit that unites us in our collective pursuit of progress and prosperity. We pay homage to the dedicated individuals who have tirelessly served and safeguarded our nation." Highlighting the relentless dedication of PRCS volunteers and staff, Chairman Laghari expressed immense pride in their ceaseless efforts to provide assistance, relief, and support to those in need. "As Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society," he affirmed, "I take immense pride in the ceaseless endeavors of our volunteers and staff, who work tirelessly day and night to extend aid, alleviate suffering, and catalyze positive change in the

lives of our fellow citizens. Our commitment to the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality remains steadfast." During the event, Secretary General Muhammad Abaidullah Khan also addressed the audience and expressed deep respect for the sacrifices and hardships endured by our predecessors, who laid the foundation for a self-reliant and autonomous Pakistan. He emphasized that PRCS, embodying the principles of compassion, has remained an inseparable component of our country's essence right from its inception.

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

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said Pakistan could be put on the path of development and prosperity by promoting the rule of law, democracy, provision of basic human rights, eradication of social injustices and poverty. Addressing a flag-hoisting ceremony held here in connection with the 76th independence day of Pakistan, the president expressed the hope that Pakistan would soon become a prosperous and developed country by following all the basic rules and guidance given by the founder of Pakistan Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said Quid-i-Azam always discouraged nepotism and voiced for the promotion of merit, unity, socio-economic justice, and poverty alleviation. He said Pakistan got independence in 1947 because of the long struggle of Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other founding leaders, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of people. He said the country's armed forces, police and the public were still sacrificing their lives for the country's security as over 100,000 people had rendered their lives in the war against terrorism. He said the aim of Pakistan's independence was the establishment of an independent state for the Muslims of the subcontinent to live their lives according to Islamic principles. The president paid the heartiest tributes to the founders of Pakistan who struggled for independence of Pakistan and the hundreds of thousands of people who embraced martyrdom for Pakistan. President Alvi stressed the elite of the country to take responsibility for poverty alleviation and promotion of education and health, which he said were inter-connected with each other. He said currently 27 million children were out of school across the country and needed to enroll in schools. He stressed that every child should be enrolled in school which could only be possible through resources. He said everybody should pay his or her due tax so that the government could get more resources to provide maximum facilities to the people. Similarly, he said good health was also vital for nation-building. The president said although it was necessary to explore natural resources buried under the land but the actual wealth was built in our minds which should be fully utilized. He stressed the need to look into the areas of the latest technologies, IT, industries and agriculture. He quoted Allama Iqbal as saying that without women's participation; no nation could develop and prosper. Therefore, he called upon the women folk of the country to work for the development of the country by actively participating in all areas. Quid-i-Azam, he said also encouraged his sister Fatima Jinnah to fully participate in the country's politics. The president also expressed solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. He hoped that by the will of God, soon Kashmir would become part of Pakistan. He vowed to the people of Kashmir not to leave Pakistan's support for their just struggle.—APP

Pak, China sign MoU for seeds, pesticides, agri services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Syngenta Pakistan, one of the leading agriculture companies has partnered with China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) to revolutionize sustainable food systems, bridging small farmers and end-to-end value chains for enhanced efficiency and food security. "The two companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for seeds, pesticides and agriculture services in chili, corn, tomato and sesame cultivation," Vice GM CMEC Pakistan, Dai Bao told Gwadar Pro.

The signing was held at Pakistan's First International Food and Agriculture Exhibition titled FoodAg 2023 at Expo Centre, Karachi. Several MoU signings took place at the event. On the sideline of the exhibition, CE TDAP and Secretary Commerce held several meetings on B2B trade with individual delegations to discuss possible future collaborations and introduced Pakistan as one of the top ten producers of agriculture produce in the world. They engaged in productive conversations on Pakistan's export potential and how to increase the numbers while sustaining ethical and smart practices in farming, growing and packaging. There were conversations on the treatment and export of livestock and related products too.

Blaming past not an issue, it's building future

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed the need to look forward for Pakistan's prosperity and uplift by ignoring the fallacies of the past. "Blaming the past is not an issue of Pakistan, it is building the future," he said while addressing on the occasion of a photo exhibition here at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). In the exhibition, well-known artist Ali Azmat thematically presented Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's portraits in acrylic and charcoal medium. The event was organized by "ForArtSake" a non-government organization, in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). The president said Quid-i-Azam was an inspiring personality who always believed in hard work, unity, faith and discipline. He said Muslim history was also rich in arts and architecture and at a time Baghdad was the center of artistic activities. "I am a big admirer of the art and architecture as the artists beautifully depict the whole of the society," he added. He said the new generation should also be shown the portraits of big personalities such as Quid-i-Azam to strengthen their belief in Quid's saying "Unity, Faith and Discipline". The president said the countries were formed for people, not for state, therefore they must be given the opportunity to enjoy their basic rights in the society. Curator of the even Amna Pataudi said Ali Azmat alluded to the glaring reality that Pakistan faced today—that of straying tragically away from reality that Pakistan faces today—that of straying away from Quid's envisioned state of Pakistan. She added that through their work, artists brought colour and beauty in the lives of people. Artist Ali Azmat said turning Pakistan's struggle for independence into a reality was such a remarkable feat and colossal contribution that even contemporary political opponents recognized and admired his political acumen. "What inspired and move me the most about his (Quid-i-Azam) life is his steadfast belief that hard work and sincerity of purpose will defy any worldly power and lead to success. —DNA

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Briefs

UAE
Ambassador
felicitates
Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi on Monday felicitated Pakistan on 76th Independence Day.

In his message issued here, he said "In my 7th year in this beautiful country, it gives me great privilege to be celebrating with my Pakistani Brothers and Sisters, Pakistan Independence Day". "Through wise forethought, diplomatic efforts, and trade and business exchanges enacted over the last few years, the UAE and Pakistan relationship has become a successful model for bilateral relations and has been elevating to another level, closer than ever", he added. He said that our collaboration today went way beyond economic affairs, it has extended into the domains of education, culture, science, and technology "I sincerely wish further progress and continued success to our friends, the Pakistani people and may you enjoy continued peace and prosperity during this independence Day celebration and beyond", he added.

US
Ambassador
felicitates
people of
Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States to Pakistan Donald Blome on Sunday congratulated the people of Pakistan on its 76th Independence Day. In his statement, issued by the US Embassy in Islamabad, Ambassador Donald Blome said that the past year has been a testament to the strength of our relationship. He said "We worked together on health, energy and climate to support the Pakistani people's recovery from last year's floods. Looking forward, the US-Pakistan Green Alliance is a transformative initiative between our two countries that will address environmental challenges, and create new jobs, industries and livelihoods for our people, he added. The envoy further added that the United States and Pakistan will work to create a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future. Youme-Azadi Mubarak! (Happy Independence Day). —DNA

Flag hoisting
ceremony
held in IHC

ISLAMABAD: A flag hoisting ceremony was held on the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of the country. Senior Judge Justice Mianul Hassan Aurangzeb hoisted the national flag at IHC's premises. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Raffat Imtiaz were also present. The ceremony was also attended by the representative from Islamabad Bar Council (IBA), Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA), and District Bar Association (DBA). —DNA

RCCI celebrates 76th
Pak Independence Day

A cake cutting ceremony was also held to mark the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. H.E Totuiaev Ulanbek Asankulovich Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan & Defense Attaché Embassy of Egypt were also present on the occasion

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the to mark the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. In his message President RCCI Saqib Rafiq said that on this day, the business community pledges that they will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice for the sake of their dear homeland Pakistan and will continue to play their full role in the progress and development of the country. He said that it is also a day of happiness; a day of bowing down our heads before Almighty Allah in thankfulness and a day of renewing our pledge that we will continue to struggle with unity and oneness for the objectives, for which Pakistan was created. RCCI President



Mr. Saqib Rafiq, Group Leader Jamal Nasir, Interim Provincial pindi Liaqat Ali Chattha, Deputy Commissioner Hassan Waqar Mr. Sohail Altaf along with Dr. Minister, Commissioner Rawal-

Cheema, DG RDA Saif Anwar Jappa attended the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan and hoisted the flag of Pakistan. Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, President Small Chamber Tariq Jadoon, members of the executive committee and a large number of traders attended the ceremony. Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, President Small Chamber Tariq Jadoon, members of the executive committee and a large number of traders attended the ceremony. A cake cutting ceremony was also held to mark the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. H.E Totuiaev Ulanbek Asankulovich Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan & Defense Attaché Embassy of Egypt were also present on the occasion.

Ambassador Jemal
felicitates
Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and its people, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula on Monday extended warm and heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of Pakistan on their 76th Independence Day. "As we join in your celebrations, we reflect upon our shared cultural and political values and common goals that bind

our two great nations together," the ambassador remarked in his message on the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. "During my stay in Pakistan, I have been deeply impressed by the rich tapestry of history and culture that defines this resilient nation. The strong bond anchored in history and culture between Pakistan and Ethiopia has been evident in the warm hospitality and camaraderie extended to me and my team during my stay," the ambassador said. He assured the Pakistani nation of his unwavering commitment to further strength-

ening and deepening the bilateral relations between the two countries. "By taking special initiatives and fostering robust cooperation in various fields, we can propel our nations towards a new era of enhanced partnership and mutual prosperity," he added. "The exchange of knowledge, experiences, and appreciation of each other's cuisine and culture has been an enlightening journey for me. Pakistanis are a lovely nation, and I am grateful for the friendship and cooperation extended to me during my tenure here," the ambassa-

dor remarked. As we look forward to the future, let us remain steadfast in our resolve to work together towards a brighter, more interconnected world. I firmly believe that by strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation, we can achieve greater heights and bring lasting benefits to our people. Once again, please accept my warmest congratulations and best wishes on this momentous occasion. May the people of Pakistan continue to prosper and thrive under its wise leadership? Jashen-e-Azadi Mubarak! Ethiopia-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!

Educational institutes
ring in Independence
Day with zeal

ISLAMABAD: The 76th Independence Day reverberated through the corridors of various educational institutions in the capital city as they came together to celebrate the historic occasion with unparalleled fervor. With a united spirit, students and staff from multiple Islamabad Capital Territory colleges orchestrated a symphony of events that showcased their deep-rooted patriotism and commitment to the nation. The festivities commenced at Islamabad Model Post-graduate College H-8, where the national flag was unfurled by Dr Muhammad Khalid, the esteemed principal of the college. Standing alongside dedicated college staff, the flag rose high, embodying the ideals of freedom and unity. Professors Imran Shehzad and Khalid Mahmood took the stage to shed light on the historical underpinnings that culminated in the birth of Pakistan, rekindling the flame of sacrifice and valor that led to the nation's independence. Across town, Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) I-8/3 bore witness to a heartwarming flag-hoisting ceremony that set the tone for a day of profound significance. Principal Professor Sadia Ibrar led a tree-planting initiative that symbolized growth, mirroring the nation's evolution since its inception. The college grounds became a canvas for students to showcase their talents through painting and essay competitions, while soul-stirring renditions of national anthems echoed in the air. —DNA

Independence Day
ceremony held at ICG F6/2

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The event of Independence Day celebrations was organised at Islamabad College for Girls ICG, F-6/2. Deputy Director General FDE Mr. Tanvir Ahmed was the chief guest. Director Admin Mr. Javed Iqbal Mirza, Director Academics and Quality Assurance Mr. Rifat Jabben and Deputy Secretary Ministry of Education Mr. Hameed Khan Niazi also graced the occasion with their presence. Principal college Prof Sabah Faisal welcomed the

worthy guests along with the faculty members and students. The national flag was hoisted at, and the national anthem was played, followed by the event in the college auditorium. The students expressed love for their homeland through Urdu and English speeches, national songs, tableau, English skits, and a beautiful cultural medley. Little kids of junior section participate wearing colourful dresses representing all provinces of country. Moreover, Independence Day themed cake was cut

by guests and students. Speakers, while addressing the audience, expressed their views about sacrifices and struggle of our forefathers and leaders of war of Independence. The freedom of Pakistan means that we all have to contribute to its development so that we can face the challenges of the 21st century. Just celebrating and holding flags is not our goal. We want to excel in the academic and all fields. In the end, tree plantation took place to mark the resolve for a cleaner, greener Pakistan.

Malik
congratulates
Kakar on
becoming
interim PM

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Monday extended warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to Anwaar Ul Haq Kakar on assuming the coveted office of the prime minister. Iftikhar Ali said, by upholding the principles of fairness and impartiality, he will undoubtedly foster a stronger sense of trust in our democracy and empower the electorate to actively participate in shaping the future of our nation, said a news release issued here. He said his vision for a just and prosperous Pakistan combined with his determination to conduct elections with integrity and revitalizing the economy, instills confidence in the hearts of every citizen. He said his journey to this pinnacle of leadership is a testament to his dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our great nation. He said I am confident that his leadership will guide us towards innovative strategies that invigorate industries, generate employment opportunities, and establish an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and investment. —APP

PTCL, Ufone mark
independence Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication company, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) marked the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan with a week-long celebrations at PTCL Group offices nationwide. The week-long activities culminated in the main flag hoisting and cake-cutting ceremony, held at PTCL G8 Office in Islamabad said a news release. The ceremony was attended by top leadership, senior management, employees and their families. The celebration was an employee-driven initiative, featuring cultural days, local cuisines, patriotic movie screenings and much more. The PTCL Group team participated in these activities with great zeal and fervour. The teams dressed in green and white national colors throughout the week, to express their enthusiasm and pride in their national identity. The fundamental aim behind the celebrations was to strengthen PTCL Group's proud Pakistani identity and help employees to reconnect with their socio-cultural and historical roots. The related events helped PTCL and Ufone 4G team members to explore various hues, colours, tastes and artistic expressions from Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, highlighting the need for finding strength in diversity. Sharing his thoughts, Group Chief People Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Shoab Baig said, "PTCL Group engaged in a series of social and cultural activities to relive our spirit of independence. —DNA



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Independence celebration at FPCCI Capital Office

DNA

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

The Chairman of the Coordination Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman hoisted the national flag in the building of the FPCCI Capital House. Sab-ohi Hussain SVP RWCCI, Almas Akhtar GB Member FPCCI, Ms. Foiza Tabasm, Ayesha Javeid, Amara Amjed, Arifa Asghar, Noreen Tariq, Mumtaz Sahruckh, and others cut a cake to celebrate the 76th Independence Day, the participants offered prayers for

the integrity, solidarity, and peace of the country. They especially condemned the Indian atrocities against the innocent people in India's Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). On the occasion, Mirza Abdul Rehman further said that we as a nation should promote Made in Pakistan. He further said that promoting ease of doing business and creating a conducive environment is the key requirement to steer the economy out of current

challenges. He said that Pakistan has faced many ups and downs during the last 76 years and we have to work on the principles of unity, faith, and discipline advocated by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali to make Pakistan a strong economy of the region. He reiterated that the business community would fully support the government in its endeavors to put the economy on the path of sustainable growth. He stressed for elimination of extremism

and terrorism to make Pakistan an attractive destination for investors. He said that Pakistan is endowed with a lot of natural resources and the government should cooperate with the private sector in exploiting them in order to transform the country into a rising economy. Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman congratulated the entire nation and said that the 14th of August is a day to reaffirm our com-

mitment to our country and play our individual and collective role for its progress and prosperity as per the vision of our forefathers adding that undoubtedly, independence is a great blessing. He assured on the occasion that the FPCCI will continue to raise issues of small traders in assemblies, relevant government departments, and forums for their amicable resolution. The participants offered prayers for peace, prosperity, and development of the country. We, as a nation, owe our independence to the struggle and sacrifices of our forefathers and it is an occasion to pay tribute to those sacrifices, the participants said. They further said that 14 August also reminded us of the sacrifices of those sons of the soil who laid their lives while defending the territorial and ideological frontiers of our country.

Cadet
College
Hassanabdal
to shape its
cadets

ATTOCK: The Punjab government would make efforts to make Cadet College Hassanabdal shape its cadets towards becoming global leaders in their chosen fields of influence. This was stated by Governor Punjab Engineer Mohammad Balighur Rahman while presiding over the 101st Board of Governors meeting of Cadet College Hassanabdal. The other members of the Board of Governors in the meeting included Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Chief Lt. General Ali Amir Rawan, Principal Cadet College Hassanabdal Brigadier (ret'd) Nasir Saeed Khattak, Mohammad Saeed Mahdi, Brigadier Dr. Mohammad Khaleeq Al Rashid Kayani, Mossadeq Zul Qarnain, Lt. Genral Najibullah Khan, Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry Lt. General Nouman Zakaria, Amdadullah Bosal, Dr. Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women University Dr. Saima Hamid, Education Specialist Asia Khurram, Agha, Dean MUST, Dr. Saima Siddiqui, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chhata, Secretary Finance Government of Punjab and Secretary School Education Punjab were present. He said, "Understanding the complexity of this global village, we now prepare and encourage our students to venture outside of our national boundaries and not only partake of the cosmopolitan, interconnected world but become part of the global leaders that will one day help guide the world to a better tomorrow." Speaking on this occasion, Principal Brigadier Nasir Saeed Khattak (ret'd) said, "The management of college endeavors to become the hallmark of admirable excellence in the array of cadet colleges through highly qualified and well-trained faculty as well as staff, students centered and technology-driven teaching. —APP

Unity, Faith, Discipline

PAKISTAN'S Independence Day is not just a date on the calendar; it's a reflection of a long and arduous journey towards freedom and self-determination. This year, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence, it's an opportune moment to acknowledge the nation's resilience, celebrate its progress, and contemplate the path ahead. Seventy-six years ago, Pakistan emerged as a sovereign nation after years of relentless struggle, sacrifices, and a collective dream for a land where people of diverse backgrounds could live in harmony and pursue their aspirations freely. The historic Lahore Resolution of 1940 paved the way for the creation of Pakistan, and seven years later, the nation came into being under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The journey to independence was not without its challenges. The partition in 1947 brought with it the pain of displacement and communal tensions. Yet, the spirit of unity prevailed, and Pakistanis displayed incredible resilience in the face of adversity. The nation's founders envisioned a state based on principles of justice, equality, and religious freedom.

Over the years, Pakistan has made significant strides in various domains. The country's educational institutions, health facilities, and infrastructure have developed, contributing to improved living standards for many. Technological advancements and innovations have allowed Pakistanis to connect with the world and contribute to global discourse. Economically, Pakistan has been striving to attract foreign investment, diversify its industries, and strengthen its agricultural sector. However, economic challenges persist, including unemployment, inflation, and a need for further reforms. As we celebrate Independence Day, it's important to recognize these challenges while also acknowledging the government's efforts to address them. Pakistan's diverse culture, languages, and traditions are a source of pride and strength. This Independence Day is an opportunity to celebrate this rich tapestry of identities that make up the nation. Embracing this diversity fosters a sense of unity and inclusivity, reinforcing the ideals on which Pakistan was founded. As Pakistan steps into its 76th year, it is crucial to remember that progress is an ongoing journey. The challenges may be daunting, but history has shown that Pakistanis have the resilience to overcome obstacles and thrive. Strengthening democracy, promoting education, enhancing healthcare, and fostering innovation should remain priorities on the path forward.

The youth of Pakistan, with their energy and enthusiasm, will play a pivotal role in shaping the nation's destiny. It is imperative to invest in their education, provide them with opportunities, and empower them to become leaders and agents of positive change. While the importance of political stability is evident, achieving and maintaining it is no easy feat. Political polarization, institutional weaknesses, and the challenge of addressing the diverse needs of a complex society can all create instability. It is crucial for all stakeholders – politicians, civil society, and citizens – to collectively uphold democratic principles, respect the rule of law, and engage in constructive dialogue. Effective governance practices, transparency, and accountability are essential pillars that reinforce political stability.

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India's industrialization, a chaotic process

IN recent years, some American and European companies, such as Apple, have invested in factories in India. This has provided the Western media with an opportunity to celebrate the shift away from Chinese manufacturing. However, how long will this celebration last? Read this story reported by Reuters on August 10: Over 3,000 poor Muslims have fled a business hub outside New Delhi this month, fearing for their lives after Hindu-Muslim clashes and sporadic attacks targeting them, residents, police, and a community group said. Such minor attacks may seem comparatively insignificant when considering recent clashes against minorities in the Northeast and other places in the country. However, these incidents took place in the new urban center of Gurugram - where 250 Fortune 500 companies have offices. It is yet another wake-up call to companies trying to invest in India about the clash of religious beliefs. In choosing India as a "spare wheel" for manufacturing in China, Western companies are not oblivious to the issue of religious conflict in India, which is the most critical issue affecting the future of manufacturing in India. They chose India because they had no other choice, and they had to prepare for the strategy of decoupling from China pursued by Washington and some of its Western allies. This is a compulsion. Another kind of compulsion has just begun. These investors have been forced to engage in a far-flung game with Indian tradition, culture, and religion. Foreign investment in India, including Chinese capital, is confronted with a "cultural body" that has remained unchanged for millennia. Indian scholar Deepak Lal summarizes this millennia-old unchanged social tradition as "The Hindu Equilibrium" and argues that this super-stable social system has been accepted by most Indians. He asserts that no one is willing, and no force can break this historical norm. The fact that the globalization wave, which has been so violent so far, has not been effective in weakening ethnic conflicts in India, has as much to do with India's political system and governance as it does with its Hindu "historical normality." There is little reason to believe that India will undergo major secularization. The trouble with Indian politics is that Modi relies on the supremacy of Hinduism to boost his prestige, garner votes and rally popularity. The resurgence of Hinduism is thus accelerating, leading to ever-increasing religious conflict. According to the Pew Foundation's 2021 Religious Attitudes Study, nearly two-thirds of Hindus say being a Hindu is essential to being a "real" Indian. While this will favor the government's push for its ambitious plans to upgrade the manufacturing sector and accelerate infrastructure development. But this is only a short-term effect. In the long term, the return of Hinduism is increasing antagonism with other religions and will keep expanding the potential for conflict. India's strengths are thus two-fold, and its weaknesses will become more pronounced, not simply in rejecting other religions but in the constraints that a closed religion places on the country's development. For example, India is the world's most populous country, with considerable demographic advantages.

Independence and Pakistan Navy

Muhammad Abdullah

Pakistan Navy always espouses high standards of professionalism. In the 1965 war, Pakistan Navy conducted successful operations aimed at strategic deterrence and gave a befitting response to adversary, a similarity of which is hard to find in the domain of naval warfare. The act of valour displayed during the operation "Somnath", which caused irreparable damage to Indian Navy including the destruction of Indian Radar system, is an explicit example of Pakistan naval personnel's professional dedication and commitment involved. Moreover, Pakistan Navy apprehended the intentions of Indian Navy and deployed Pakistan Navy Submarine Ghazi to establish patrol near to Bombay harbor to challenge Indian warships

AS Pakistan prepares to celebrate the 76th Independence Day, it is vital to shed light on the event that changed the course of history in the subcontinent. As "Magna Carta" laid the foundation stone of people's power in Great Britain, the independence made on 14th August 1947 gave the Muslims of the subcontinent a new home land and a new purpose to follow and struggle for. The journey for independence was embarked under the leadership of Quaid e Azam. He put forth the demand for a separate country for the Muslims, based on the concept of nationhood. It is because he knew that the Hindus and the Muslims were two distinct nations with different strategic culture that can never co-exist. Jinnah, who pursued the dream of a separate country, was aware of the fact that Muslims cannot live their lives in accordance with their religion in an independent India with a Hindu majority, being ruled by Hindu regime. Pakistan thus came into being providing a secure and a promising political, economic, social, cultural future to the Muslims, and providing them the way to live their lives in accordance with the principles of Islam. A few leaders have been indebted with far-sightedness to precisely predict the course of future and the vigor to get ready for it and Jinnah had both. Not only he won independence for the Muslims but also accurately predicted the dangers the infant state may have to face. In his address to the officers of the Pakistan Navy on 23rd Jan, 1948, he stated that "Pakistan must be prepared for all eventualities and dangers. The weak and defenceless in this imperfect world invite aggression from others. The best way we can serve the cause of peace is by removing the temptation from the path of those who think that we are weak and therefore they can bully or attack us." Due to Pakistan's peculiar geostrategic loca-

tion and the hostile neighborhood in East, Jinnah knew that the country needed strong security forces. Among them, he saw Pakistan Navy as an instrument to defend the maritime boundaries on which the newly established state's economy was dependent. In his aforementioned address, Jinnah outlined his vision for the Pakistan Navy by observing "Pakistan is still in its infancy and so is its Navy and other branches of the armed forces. But this infant means to grow up and God willing will grow up much sooner than many people thinks. You will have to make up for the smallness of your size by your courage and selfless devotion to duty for it is not life that matters but the courage, fortitude and determination you bring to it. People from all over the globe pass through Karachi and the eyes of the world are on you. I trust that, by your behavior and deportment you will never let Pakistan down, but would keep up the best traditions of the service and maintain high the honor and prestige of Pakistan as one of the greatest nations of the world." Pakistan Navy always espouses high standards of professionalism. In the 1965 war, Pakistan Navy conducted successful operations aimed at strategic deterrence and gave a befitting response to adversary, a similarity of which is hard to find in the domain of naval warfare. The act of valour displayed during the operation "Somnath", which caused irreparable damage to Indian Navy including the destruction of Indian Radar system, is an explicit example of Pakistan naval personnel's professional dedication and commitment involved. Moreover, Pakistan Navy apprehended the intentions of Indian Navy and deployed Pakistan Navy Submarine Ghazi to establish patrol near to Bombay harbor to challenge Indian warships. The psychological fear of Ghazi adversely affected morale. Yet again in the 1971 war, sinking of Indian

naval warship Kukri brought an immense wartime casualty by Pakistan Navy Submarine Hangor, is the only incident after WWII so wherein any conventional submarine sank a Warship. The detection of Indian Navy submarines during post-Pulwama and Uri military standoff by Pakistan Navy evidently portrays effective employment strategy coupled with superior professional acumen. Having transcendence in operational preparedness, Pakistan Navy is no less at meeting its internal obligations by effectively engaging in the event of natural calamities to shoulder the government's efforts to mitigate the risks underway by such eventualities. Pakistan Navy extensively carried out rescue and relief operations during last year flash floods and evacuated thousands of locals through helicopters, boats and hovercrafts to safe places besides continuous supply of ration and medical aid. It not only assisted the civil administration in the relief operations but also executed self-sustained nationwide humanitarian assistance program with the help of civil society which includes large number of donors, philanthropists and volunteers. To sum up, Pakistan Navy has a greater role with increase and expansion in its operational scope, countering sea-based global terrorism, smuggling, piracy, providing land and sea-based security to shipping lanes. But staying true to the Quaid's words, Pakistan Navy has stood every test and trial. Each year 14 August, revives the essence of nationalism among common people of Pakistan. As we breathe in a free country today, tribute must be paid to the ones who sacrificed their present for us. On this historic day, the Nation must be reminded of Quaid's words that defined the purpose and meaning of Pakistan. The whole nation should cement the spirit, integrity and dedication needed for the prosperity of Pakistan.

"Pakistan: A resilient state steadfastly embracing the future"

Syeda Tahreem Bukhari



China Pakistan Economic Corridor being a game changer in South Asia region, leading to extensive collaboration and investment worth billions of dollars, contributing towards development of infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan. Recently, Pakistan and China signed Memorandum of understanding on Nuclear Power Plant...

PAKISTAN stands as a shining beacon of resilience in the face of adversities, a true symbol of unwavering determination against the trials and tribulations that come its way. Since its creation, Pakistan has been facing multifaceted challenges. Pakistan has to start from scrape with no functional state machinery, economic challenges, refugees' settlement, and continuous threat from its neighbor India. It stand firm and confronted challenges with valor. For territorial integrity and sovereignty of the state, it became nuclear power contributing towards strategic stability of the region. Pakistan has the safest nuclear program, in Nuclear Security Index; Pakistan ranked 19 while India is at 20. In terms of protecting materials and facilities, it has shown constant improvement. Pakistan has suffered worst from the wave of climate change. Pakistan being one of the top 10 countries, which are most vulnerable to climate change, hosted the global event this year for the first time since the inception of the event in 1970. Pakistan's fight to reverse climate change gains international recognition. Pakistan's geostrategic location plays a pivotal role in shaping regional dynamics and global interactions. Situated at the confluence of South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, Pakistan serves as a key link between these regions. Its proximity to oil-rich countries in the Middle East and its strategic ac-

cess to major maritime routes enhance its significance in global energy and trade flows. Furthermore, Pakistan's location also influences regional security considerations, making it a central player in fostering stability and cooperation among neighboring nations. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) further amplifies Pakistan's geostrategic importance by establishing vital trade and infrastructure connections, solidifying its position as a vital hub in the ever-evolving geopolitical landscape. China Pakistan Economic Corridor being a game changer in South Asia region, leading to extensive collaboration and investment worth billions of dollars, contributing towards development of infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan. Recently, Pakistan and China signed Memorandum of understanding on Nuclear Power Plant (C-5) of 1200MWs of electricity. It will increase contribution of nuclear energy to National Grid from present 3520 MWs obtained from six nuclear power plants to 4720 MWs from seven Nuclear Power Plants. In terms of fuel cost, nuclear energy is cheapest. Pakistan vision 2050 envisages production of 42000 MWs of nuclear energy. It will help in reducing fuel import US 27B\$. It is embracing challenges in emerging technologies and keeping pace with developments. Technologies are reaching new heights in

Pakistan. In Artificial Intelligence, Pakistan makes the history by launching World's First AI TV Talk Show along with Pakistan's first AI TV anchor. "Pakistan has the potential to become a producer of what is essentially the next generation equivalent of the automobile industry – drones," claimed Dr Bilal Siddiqui, who has been involved in various civilian drone-manufacturing projects for the past ten years. The experts believe that 'Pakistan has the best technology and the best minds to manufacture world-class drones indigenously'. The people of Pakistan are ready to embrace challenges and meet the future demands. The statistics of population that speaks fluent English shows Pakistan's 58 percent population can speak fluent English, being the official language of state and the most spoken language in the world. The way Pakistan successfully managed Covid-19 and currently struggling against the economic losses, it suffered in devastating flood last year highlights the resilience of Pakistani society and its readiness to meet the challenges. Pakistan has consistently demonstrated its resilience in the face of adversity, positioning itself to confront future challenges with unwavering determination.

– Author is a Research Officer at the Centre for International Strategic Studies, AJK.

Briefs

US wants to deepen ties with Pakistan

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In a statement, Consulate General of the US in Karachi Nicole Theriot wished the Pakistani nation a "happy" Independence Day. "Today the American and Pakistani staff celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day. On behalf of the American people, the US Consulate General in Karachi congratulates the people of Pakistan on [their] 76th year of independence as well as 76 years of bilateral relations between the United States of America and Pakistan." Theriot mentioned that both nations have a strong partnership built on shared interests in economic development, mutual prosperity, and regional security. "As we celebrate this milestone together and look to the future, the United States remains committed to our friendship with the Pakistani people and our relationship with the Government of Pakistan." The nation is brimming with excitement and paying tribute to the relentless struggle of our forefathers and national heroes in their quest for a separate homeland on its 77th Independence Day.

Pakistan marks 76th..

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as a tribute to the country that has weathered many a storm. In a moving moment, the country then resounded with sirens at 7:58am, heralding the grand flag-hoisting ceremony at 8am. While the change of guard ceremonies were held at Mazar-i-Iqbal in Lahore and Mazar-i-Quaid in Karachi. Mosques across the country reverberated with early morning prayers for prosperity, solidarity, and peace. As the country marks the day with a national holiday, various public and private sector departments are geared up to host a range of special functions and activities, including seminars, discussions, photographic exhibitions, artistic displays of paintings and poetry, national song renditions, and vibrant debate competitions to reflect on the monumental feat achieved 76 years ago. The spotlight today will be on recognising the tireless contributions of the leaders of the Pakistan Movement and the sacrifices made by national heroes and ordinary people as they fought for sovereignty and a right to self-determination in a time, even when the odds were against them. Streets and avenues of the federal capital and other cities have already turned into a sea of colours – especially green – and people adorn their houses, cars, and streets with flags, banners, and bunting, creating an ambience of festivity that is sorely needed. Prominent public and private edifices are aglow with illuminations, commemorating this significant occasion. Print and electronic media, on this day, pay tribute to the indelible contributions of Pakistan's heroes, paying homage to their extraordinary dedication.

PML-N leader Hina Butt...

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abuse and attack" against Butt. Referring to previous incidents of PML-N leader Khawaja Asif using derogatory terms for women, she said no one should stoop to his level and of those who remained silent over his behaviour. PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal also condemned the incident, alleging that the hecklers were PTI supporters. "This behaviour by PTI followers is becoming a source of mockery of the country abroad," he said, accusing party chief Imran Khan of filling the minds of his supporters with "hatred".

At least 41 killed in...

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official management Praveen Bhardwaj. In Solan district, houses collapsed, killing at least seven people, and a mother and her child were killed in Mandi district when their house collapsed, Bhardwaj said.

Speakers call for making Pak a prosperous and welfare state

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), in collaboration with Pakistan Cultural Forum, organized a Jashan-e-Azadi Mushaira to celebrate the country's 76th Independence Day. Prominent poets including Iftikhar Arif, Professor Jalil Ali, Ali Akbar Abbas, Naseem Sahar, Hasan Abbas Raza, Mehboob Zafar, Qayyum Tahir, Tariq Naem, Wafa Chishty, Salman Basit, Rana Saeed Doshi, Dr. Junaid Azhar, Darshehwar Tauseef, Shazia Akbar, Abbas Hashmi and Shahbaz Chauhan participated. IG Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan was the chief guest of the event. Speaking on the occasion, IG Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal had dreamed of a separate country for the Muslims of the subcontinent where they would have the freedom to live according to their religion and his dream was realized by the Founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that the founders of Pakistan had envisioned an independent country where the basic needs of life of people are easily met and they live a peaceful life. He stressed that every member of society should play a role to translate their vision into a reality. Distinguished poet Iftikhar Arif



said that Independence Day reminds us to work hard to make Pakistan a prosperous country. He said that while Pakistan has made unprecedented progress in many fields, still 40 percent of the population in Pakistan is living in poverty while 20 million children are out of school. He said that such issues have to be addressed to reap the full benefits of independence. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Presi-

dent, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry congratulated the nation on celebrating the 76th Independence Day. He said that the true meaning of life is incomplete without the great blessing of freedom. He said that Pakistan is the result of the great sacrifices of our forefathers and we all have to work together to make this country the great nation of the world. He urged all the political parties to

agree on a Charter of Economy to set a right direction for the country and to promote business and investment in Pakistan by making long-term economic policies. Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari paid tributes to the founders of Pakistan who made great sacrifices to get a free homeland for us. He said that today we pledge to make

Pakistan a great country in the world by following the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that on Independence Day, we should also remember our Kashmiri brothers who have been fighting for freedom for many decades. On this occasion, poets presented blood-warming poems regarding Independence Day and received applause from the audience.

'Normal' people don't want to watch football: Xavi

GETAFE: Spanish champions Barcelona began their La Liga title defence with a frustrating 0-0 draw at Getafe on Sunday, with both sides reduced to 10 men in a bad-tempered clash. Barca winger Raphinha was sent off for an elbow in the first half and Getafe's Jaime Mata was dismissed early in the second for two yellow cards. Xavi Hernandez earned a red card himself for touchline complaints as his Barcelona side battled to find a late winner but, like last season, they started their domestic campaign with a goalless draw. The coach handed debuts to summer signings Ilkay Gundogan and Oriol Romeu as Barcelona began their campaign with one of the most uncomfortable away trips of the season. The Catalans had failed to score in their three previous visits to the Coliseum Alfonso Perez and Getafe got into Barcelona's faces from the start. Xavi complained about the length

of the grass at Getafe last season, saying it ruined the spectacle of the match, and this time it was repeated fouls which disrupted the champions' rhythm. "It's normal that people don't want to watch football, this has barely been a game," Xavi told reporters. "A point for us is not sufficient but this was a very difficult game for us to play." Damian Suarez winded former Manchester City midfielder Gundogan with a barge in the chest, among other challenges which crossed the line between fair and foul. Raphinha was targeted on multiple occasions too and eventually he snapped, flinging an elbow into Gaston Alvarez's head, earning a red card. The Brazilian had been Barcelona's brightest player, drawing two saves from Getafe goalkeeper David Soria, but left his team in the lurch. After Ousmane Dembele's departure this week to Paris

Saint-Germain, the onus was on Raphinha to step up and show his quality on the right flank after a mixed first season. "It's obvious that it's a clear red card and it can't happen," Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre terStegen told DAZN. "We played well, we didn't want the match to stop so much, and tried to play as quickly as possible, but it was very difficult because of the opponents." Xavi made an attacking change at half-time, throwing on winger Ezabde for Andreas Christensen, with Frankie de Jong dropping into central defence. Getafe's Mata levelled the playing field before the hour mark when he tripped the rampaging Ronald Araujo to earn a second booking. Xavi brought on 16-year-old starlet Lamine Yamal and Ansu Fati to try and snatch a late winner and they quickly combined, but the latter fired over. After 10 minutes of stoppage time had been

added on in the first half, nine further minutes were signalled in the second, with 16 actually played after a VAR review for an Araujo penalty claim. The Uruguayan was felled in the box but no penalty was awarded because of a Gavi handball in the build-up. Xavi was also unimpressed with the long periods of stoppage time as a solution to time wasting. "This is also shameful, in my opinion," he said. "With 'effective time' (stopping the clock) in football you put a stop to this. I've said it a thousand times already – we're making fools of ourselves." Barcelona could not find a breakthrough and will be playing catch-up after rivals Real Madrid's convincing 2-0 win at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday. "We knew it would be a tough game," said Getafe goalkeeper Soria. "They have a lot of attacking talent and we had just enough players – it told in the second half that they had a lot more on the bench." – Agencies

Steven Finn announces retirement from cricket

LONDON: England pacer Steven Finn has announced retirement from all formats of cricket after playing the game for 18 years, the player confirmed on Monday. Finn picked up a knee injury which kept him out of action for the better of 2023 and forced him to call time on his career at the age of 34. "Today I am retiring from all forms of cricket with immediate effect," read Finn's statement. "I have been fighting a battle with my body for the last 12 months and have admitted defeat to it. "To have played 125 games for England, including 36 Tests, far surpassed what I dreamed of. I want to thank Sussex Cricket for their support over the last 12 months especially and for welcoming me wholeheartedly into the club at the beginning of last season. "It really is a great place to play cricket and I'm sorry that I wasn't able to play more of a part on the field since joining the club," he said. "I retire with some amazing memories with England, Middlesex and Sussex, shared with fantastic people. Those will live with me forever. "Thank you to all the people who have followed and supported my career, especially my parents who allowed me to chase my dream when I was a youngster. "Cricket has given me a lot and I hope to give back to the game in some capacity in the future. But, for now, I'll enjoy watching on without wondering whether my body will be able to make it through another day's cricket. Thank you," he concluded. The pacer represented England in a total of 126 international matches picking up 254 wickets in the process. – Agencies

Murray back for Britain's Davis Cup campaign

LONDON: Andy Murray is back in the Great Britain Davis Cup team for next month's matches against Australia, France and Switzerland. Former Wimbledon champion Murray was left out of Britain's 3-1 qualifying round win against Colombia on clay in February. British captain Leon Smith suggested the surface was not conducive for Murray, who had at the time played just three matches on clay since 2017. But the former world number one was named in the squad on Monday for the September dates in Manchester. Murray takes his place alongside Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans and Neal Skupski for the Finals Group Stage as Britain attempt to qualify for November's knockout stage. Only two of the four nations will advance from Group B for the Davis Cup quarterfinals in Malaga. Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion, was integral to Britain ending a 79-year wait for glory in the team competition when they triumphed in 2015. His most recent Grand Slam appearance ended in a second round exit at Wimbledon against Stefanos Tsitsipas. "It's been a long time since we played in the north-west (of England) and I'm sure we are going to feel and hear a lot of energy from the fans," Smith said. "We have a great team with a lot of Davis Cup experience who will be ready to give it everything in a tough group with Australia, Switzerland and France." – Agencies

Rybakina felt 'destroyed' by tournament scheduling

TORONTO: Elena Rybakina says she felt "destroyed" by the match scheduling at the Canadian Open and accused the WTA of "weak" leadership over the issue. Rybakina's quarter-final win over Daria Kasatkina did not finish until 03:00 local time on Saturday, with her semi-final defeat to Liudmila Samsonova delayed to Sunday because of rain. Samsonova then lost the final to Jessica Pegula about two hours later. "I'm not really happy about it, but it is what it is," said Rybakina. "I feel destroyed because of the scheduling and the whole situation. "Unfortunately, players can't do much in these situations. The decision isn't really ours. The weather wasn't helpful. So I picked up some injuries, but we tried to manage it and see how we'll go from that." Rybakina's win over Kasatkina lasted three hours and 27 minutes and the former Wimble-



ton champion wore strapping on her right shoulder during her defeat to Samsonova. The Moscow-born player, who represents Kazakhstan, blamed the WTA rather than tournament organisers over the scheduling. The 24-year-old is not sure if she will tweak her own playing schedule before the US Open begins on 28 August. "I think that the most important is the WTA here," she added. "Leadership [is] a little bit weak for now but hopefully something is going to change, because this year it was many situations which I can't really understand. "I have to see how I feel and evaluate the small injuries which I have now. I have to be smart in making any decision." World number one Iga Swiatek has previously expressed frustrations at match scheduling after her last-16 match and semi-final at the Madrid Open in May both finished in the early hours. – Agencies

Neymar set to join Saudi club Al Hilal - report

"I don't know how long they will sustain it, but the feeling is that they will stay. The players want to take this experience to play in that league and they are able to do it"

PARIS St-Germain have agreed a deal to sell Brazil forward Neymar to Saudi Pro League side Al-Hilal for about 90m euros (£77.6m) plus add-ons. The transfer is subject to the 31-year-old completing a medical and all necessary paperwork. Neymar, who joined PSG for a world record fee of 222m euros in 2017, was left out of the squad for their Ligue 1 draw against Lorient on Saturday. He was not part of coach Luis Enrique's plans for the new season. His exit also fits PSG's strategy of moving away from the 'Galacticos' era of signing high-profile players for big fees and significant wages, with Lionel Messi also leaving the

club earlier this summer. Neymar was understood to be earning in the region of 25m euros (£21.6m) annually at the French side. He will reportedly be paid 150m euros (£129.2m) a year in Saudi Arabia - six times the amount he earned at PSG. The Brazilian made 173 appearances for PSG, helping the club win 13 trophies, including five Ligue 1 titles, as well as reaching the 2020 Champions League final. However, his time in the French capital has also been hampered by a number of ankle injuries. The former Barcelona player had surgery in March that caused him to miss the rest of the season and he only resumed training in July. He missed two of Brazil's



matches at the 2022 World Cup after being injured in their opening group match. The forward also missed the 2019 Copa America after suffering torn ligaments in his right ankle and was

out for several weeks in 2021 with a similar injury. News of the Neymar deal comes just 24 hours after PSG's Kylian Mbappe was reintegrated back into first-team training after positive

talks with the club. The France forward, 24, had been in a contract stand-off amid a desire to join Real Madrid but could not extend his contract at PSG, with his current deal due to expire next summer. Mbappe was also left out of the squad for the Lorient game and watched the match from the stands.

Last month, PSG gave Al-Hilal permission to talk to Mbappe after the Saudi side made a world-record £259m bid. If completed, the Neymar deal will continue a remarkable summer spending spree by Saudi clubs, underlining the league's ambition to be one of the top competitions in the world in the next few years. The likes of Karim

Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Jordan Henderson, Ruben Neves, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino have all moved to Saudi Arabia. Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo joined Al-Nassr from Manchester United in January. After Riyad Mahrez left Manchester City to join Al-Ahli in July, Pep Guardiola said the Saudi league's financial muscle has "changed the market". "A few months ago when Cristiano [Ronaldo] was the only one to go, no-one thought this many top, top players would play in the Saudi league," the City manager said. "In the future there will be more and that's why clubs need to be aware of what is happening. – Agencies

Russia open to military-tech coop...

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The Russian leader noted that, over the past several years, the Army expo has become recognized as one of the world's largest forums on modern military products and innovations, and has contributed to the development of military-technical cooperation and multifaceted relations between Russia and other nations.

Putin noted that more than 1,500 Russian enterprises were presenting over 28,500 samples of modern military and dual-use products at stands, exhibitions and training grounds at Patriot Park near Moscow during the expo. The business program of the forum also features 250 events dedicated to the diversification of the military-industrial complex and the development of artificial intelligence technologies.

"Russia has something to offer in these breakthrough, promising areas. Year by year, we have a growing market for products that use artificial intelligence technologies," the president said. Putin added that more and more foreign military-industrial companies had started participating in the forum, noting that last year there were 32 foreign companies exhibiting products at the event, while this year that number is 82.

Russia intends to further develop cooperation with other countries in a variety of areas, Putin said, including training foreign military personnel conducting joint strategic command-and-staff exercises.

Russian currency falls to...

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invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The rouble plummeted after war first broke out, but was bolstered by capital controls and oil and gas exports. It has fluctuated in value since the war, but has lost about a quarter of its value overall against the dollar since Ukraine was invaded. Earlier on Monday, the rouble was 101.04 per US dollar. The more roubles per dollar means the currency is weakening, as it will take more of it to buy one US dollar, which is typically seen as the most powerful currency in the world.

Russia's central bank has said that a key interest rate increase is possible, but maintains that it sees no threat to the country's financial stability. When Russia invaded Ukraine the bank hiked rates from 9.5% to 20%, but began cutting them shortly afterwards.

Military leadership felicitates...

FROM PAGE 01

statement C/CS, Services Chiefs and the Armed Forces of Pakistan extend their heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the 76th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. "This day reminds us of the vision, fortitude and countless sacrifices which our ancestors offered to realise our elders and great Quaid's dream of a free and independent country. Thousands of sons of the soil have laid down their lives for defence of the motherland and to preserve the cherished dream of freedom of our forefathers," ISPR quoted the military leadership as having said.

It added: "Let us all pledge that irrespective of the challenges we face today, we will preserve and strengthen the peace, societal harmony and unity among the nation. We will not let inimical forces succeed, which are hell-bent on creating fissures and division among the Armed Forces and people of Pakistan."

It stated: "The Armed Forces of Pakistan, with the support of the nation, will always defend the territorial integrity and peace of the motherland and continue serving the nation as per the aspirations of the people of Pakistan, InshaAllah." Pakistan Air Force, on the occasion of the country's 76th Independence Day on Monday, felicitated the nation. In his message in connection with the day, the PAF spokesman said that the country's armed forces, with the complete support of the nation, were fully prepared to defend the country, and would not shy away from giving any sacrifice.

Briefs

UAE hosts trilateral talks with Jordan, Israel

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, and Israel are scheduled to hold trilateral discussions on the exchange of water and energy on Monday. Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz arrived in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on Sunday ahead of the talks, which will focus on how to implement a 2021 declaration of intent, he stated on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. According to Israel's official Arabic-language X account, Katz is participating in the three-way talks to advance water and joint energy projects. On Sunday, Jordan's public broadcaster said its delegation would participate in the talks "to discuss the prosperity project, in both parts of water and energy, and ways to push forward towards implementing the declaration of intent signed by the three parties." In 2021, the three countries signed a declaration of intent to begin talks to explore the feasibility of a joint energy and water project. The project could allow Jordan to get 200 million cubic meters of water annually.—Agencies

Suspects held over Iran shrine attack

TEHRAN: At least 10 suspects have been arrested by security forces over Sunday's attack on a popular shrine in southern Iran's Shiraz city, which killed one and injured nine others. The semi-official Tasnim News Agency in a report on Monday said the interrogation of one of the attackers who was apprehended by security forces following the attack continues. Earlier in the day, Iran's state media cited officials as saying that four suspects had been arrested. The attack took place at around 7 p.m. local time (1530GMT) after two heavily armed assailants opened indiscriminate fire at the entrance of the Shah Cheragh shrine.

Nour News, which is affiliated with Iran's top security body, said two men were involved in the attack, one of whom was carrying a Kalashnikov weapon and got arrested while the other managed to flee. Both provincial officials and the shrine officials confirmed one death in the incident. Earlier, local media, including state and semi-state news agencies, had put the death toll at four. Hours after the attack, President Ebrahim Raisi directed the Interior Ministry and the provincial governor's office to "immediately identify all the perpetrators" and refer them to the judiciary.

Health officials in Shiraz told state TV that at least nine people were injured in the attack, who are presently undergoing treatment at various hospitals and are in stable condition. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani termed it a "criminal act," and said the "terrorists are trying to take revenge" from the Iranian nation for the "heavy blows" military forces have inflicted on them.—APP

24 killed in India after heavy rains

DEHRADUN: At least 24 people were killed, nine of them in a temple collapse, and dozens more were feared missing after intense rains caused floods and landslides in India, officials said Monday. Days of torrential downpours have washed away vehicles, demolished buildings and destroyed bridges in the northern states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Flooding and landslides are common and cause widespread devastation during India's treacherous monsoon season, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, chief minister of the worst-affected state Himachal Pradesh, said at least 16 people had lost their lives in the past 24 hours, including nine in a Hindu temple collapse in state capital Shimla.—DNA

14 August celebrations at Pakistani missions around world

Pakistan Ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan hoisted the national flag to the tune of the national anthem of Pakistan at embassy

DNA

MINSK: To commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the Independence of Pakistan, a flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the Residence of the Embassy of Pakistan in Minsk today on 14 August 2023. The ceremony was attended by members of the Pakistani community along with their families.

Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan hoisted the national flag to the tune of the national anthem of Pakistan. On the occasion, messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out. Addressing the participants, the Ambassador paid a rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's leadership and that of other Independence Movement leaders, whose unwavering struggle culminated in the liberation of Muslims of the subcontinent. Expressing the resolve to nurture Pakistan into a progressive Islamic society, the need for unity among the nation during these testing times was underlined. An assortment of Pakistani cuisine was also served to the participants at the conclusion of the official ceremony. Pakistan Ambassador to Russia Shafiq Ali Khan on Monday said relations with Russia was the priority of Pakistan foreign policy. Addressing an event in Moscow, Russia to mark 76th anniversary of Pakistan's independence, the Ambassador said that relations between Pakistan and Russia are on very positive trajectory. He expressed confidence in further strengthening relations between the two countries. The Ambassador praised the invaluable role of the Pakistani community in Russia in enhancing cooperation and bringing the two countries closer to each other. The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow hosted an event to celebrate the 76th anniversary of independence of Pakistan. A Russian string quartet of Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory Home performed classical adaptations of Pakistani songs 'Jeevay Jeevay', 'Sohni Dharti' and 'Dil Dil

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

spirit of freedom and unity. The event took place at the embassy premises, where Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar unfurled the Pakistani flag at 9:00 am amidst a gathering of enthusiastic Pakistani nationals residing in Japan. Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar expressed his heartiest gratitude to all attendees for their unwavering support and shared enthusiasm in commemorating this

mission along with their families were present. Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out to the audience. The Charge d' Affaires in his remarks paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and other leaders of the freedom struggle, who carved out a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent, where they could live in ac-

embassy residence in Ankara on Monday. Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid hoisted the national flag to the tune of national anthem in the presence of dignitaries from all spheres of life. The event was well attended by Pakistani community residing in Ankara, said a message received here. Felicitating the nation particularly Pakistani community in Turkiye on Independence Day, Ambassa-



under the sounds of the national anthem. Then the guests, employees, and the Ambassador delivered a speech. The embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo commemorated the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan on Monday here with a fervent celebration that echoed the

significant day. High Commission for Pakistan, New Delhi celebrated 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan with national zeal and patriotic spirit on Monday. Aizaz Khan, Chargé d' Affaires, hoisted the national flag on the occasion. Officers and staff of the High Com-

cordance with their own values and traditions. He stated that supreme sacrifices rendered by our founding fathers could not be forgotten. The 76th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated with traditional zeal and enthusiasm, bringing together the vibrant diaspora at Pakistan

der Dr. Yousaf Junaid stated that August 14 is a day to honour great sacrifices made by our forefathers, reaffirm our resolve to work wholeheartedly for inclusive and sustainable development of the country, in line with the vision of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam.

Dutch open trailblazing skatepark for LGBTQ people, women

AMSTERDAM: Skateboarders in colourful outfits zip around a skatepark unique in Amsterdam, one of the first in the world to provide a safe space for LGBTQ and women skaters. A sign saying "Skateboarding is for Everyone" hangs on a wall while a rainbow-hued logo is painted above the wooden ramps in the south of the Dutch capital. "There is no judgement," says Tem, a 22-year-old wearing a black helmet and T-shirt and a pair of blue and white checked trousers while riding an 80s-style freestyle board. The skater, who works as a food volunteer, added that it was a "comfortable environment where I feel like I can learn to skate without the icky vibe in a public skatepark". Despite its image as an alternative sport of baggy-troused rebels, skateboarding has long had issues with sexism, homophobia and a sometimes macho culture. So it's no surprise that the Netherlands, which was the first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage and is renowned for its liberal attitudes, should provide an alternative. "I feel like I have the space to be myself and to skate and to have fun with friends, which is all we want," the skatepark's manager Flip Zonne Zuiderland, 25, tells AFP. The park is a trailblazer, as NGOs have previously promoted skateboarding for women in countries such as Afghanistan and in the Palestinian territories, but not for LGBTQ skaters. "For sure, it might be the first," Zonne Zuiderland says. A collaboration between two organisations, Women Skate the World and New Wave, the skatepark's origins lie in impromptu skate sessions during the first summer of Covid. It started out as a group chat being like "hey, guys, there's a bunch of queer people skating at an outdoor park, who wants to come?" Zonne Zuiderland says. "It started out with 10 people and within a few months it was about 40." When winter came they started having twice-monthly nights at another indoor Amsterdam skatepark, Noord, but it was "way too little" so they wanted a place of their own. With donations and public funding they found an empty warehouse, and created one. It's now a safe space for an up-and-coming generation of skaters who might otherwise be put off by what Zonne Zuiderland says can be an "aggressive group with a no pain, no gain mindset". While women and LGBTQ athletes have become increasingly accepted in skateboarding, particularly after veteran US professional Brian Anderson came out as gay in 2016, the sport still has far to go. "Because I'm trans, when I was still identifying as a girl, I would even get standing ovations because I could ride on a board. I never felt taken seriously," says Zonne Zuiderland, who is also an actor and filmmaker. But the park is not just for LGBTQ people and women, even if that was the initial idea, Zonne Zuiderland adds. "Respect is the biggest focus," he says.—DNA

Peace efforts 'hostage' to Yerevan's policy of 'revanchism'

BAKU: Baku on Monday said peace efforts have become "hostage" to Yerevan's policy of "de-escalate tension and revanchism." The Foreign Ministry in a statement said Armenia continues to attempt using the UN Security Council as a tool for its "political, military and informational manipulation campaign." "Armenia's appeal to the Security Council on groundless allegations

of 'worsening humanitarian situation' and 'continued blockade' in the region yet again comes at a time when Armenia itself deliberately and intentionally obstructs all the efforts made through international partners to find a balanced, law-based and reasonable solution on the ground," the statement said. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when Armenia military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh,

a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. Most of the territory was liberated by Baku during a war in the fall of 2020, which ended after a Russian-brokered peace agreement and also opened the door to normalization. Tensions, however, have risen in recent months on issues including the Lachin corridor, the only land route giving Armenia access to Karabakh. Recalling

that Armenia's efforts came after Azerbaijan established a border checkpoint at the entrance of the Lachin road, the ministry said Yerevan "has started propaganda campaign worldwide, imposing series of military and other obstructions for the normal functioning of the border checkpoint, as well as for the use of other routes, such as Aghdam-Khankendi road." It said an agreement was reached for the delivery of humanitarian cargo to Karabakh, and to hold a meeting between residents of the two sides in Yevlakh, but Yerevan "backstepped" at the last moment by "introducing politically motivated and illegitimate preconditions and various pretexts.—APP

Iran's FM to visit Saudi Arabia 'in near future'

Iran reopened its embassy in the Saudi capital Riyadh, the consulate and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation mission in the port city of Jeddah in early June

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian will be visiting Saudi Arabia "in the near future" on the invitation of his Saudi counterpart, ministry spokesman said on Monday.

Addressing a weekly press conference in Tehran, Nasser Kanaani said Amirabdollahian was by his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan and the visit will take place soon. He, however, did not give an exact date of the visit, which will be the first official visit by an Iranian foreign minister to the Arab country in more than seven years. During the trip, the two sides will hold consultations and discussions on various issues, including the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the economic field, Kanaani said. He stressed that relations between the two countries are "progressing step by step." The spokesman also referred to an official invitation from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi to visit Riyadh. He, however, said the date of the trip has not been decided yet. Last week, Iran's state news agency IRNA said the embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran has resumed its operations. The Saudi foreign minister, during his visit to Tehran in June, had announced that the Saudi embassy in Tehran will be reopened soon. During the visit, Prince Farhan and his Iranian counterpart Amirabdollahian also agreed on forming joint political and economic committees to pursue common interests. Iran and Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties in January 2016 after the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhad were stormed by angry mobs following the execution of a Saudi Shia cleric. The two neighbors started negotiations to revive ties in April 2021, brokered by Iraq and Oman. After nearly two years, the breakthrough was reached courtesy China. Iran reopened its embassy in the Saudi capital Riyadh, the consulate and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation mission in the port city of Jeddah in early June.

UAE's firm to develop carbon projects in Zimbabwe

MONITORING REPORT

DUBAI: In a landmark development for climate action and community empowerment, Dubai-based company under the patronage of the Member of Dubai Ruling Family Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook Al Maktoum, "Blue Carbon" and the Government of Zimbabwe have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing carbon projects and sustainable initiatives in the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector on 7.5 million hectares of land under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. Under this historic partnership, Blue Carbon and the Zimbabwean government are embarking on a transformative endeavour dedicated to the advancement of

environmental conservation, the well-being of local communities, and the stimulation of economic growth. This visionary partnership will create a lasting impact on a massive scale, as the combined efforts of both entities converge to facilitate pioneering conservation initiatives. Spanning across an impressive expanse of 7.5 million hectares within Zimbabwe, this initiative holds the potential to effect profound positive changes. Blue Carbon was formed to create environmental assets, nature-based solutions and register carbon projects under eligible methodologies. Beyond the immediate goal of carbon emissions reduction, the heart of these carbon projects pulsates with the intent to bring about tangible improvements at

the grassroots level. The project's blueprint extends beyond the mere realm of environmental betterment, extending its reach to encompass the holistic welfare of local communities. One of the standout features of this collaboration is the establishment of the Community Welfare Programs, where the capital received from carbon credits will be used, among other things, to finance various social projects tailored to uplift the living standards of the communities residing in the project areas. These initiatives will encompass crucial sectors such as healthcare, education, capacity building, the creation of cottage industries, etc. Investments in education will open doors to new opportunities, equipping individuals with

essential skills and knowledge to flourish in the changing world. Capacity building programs will be designed to empower the local workforce, enabling them to actively participate in carbon projects and benefit from sustainable livelihoods. This pioneering partnership aligns with the goals of the Paris Agreement and underscores the dedication of both Blue Carbon and the Government of Zimbabwe towards driving transformative change for a greener, sustainable, and more equitable future. The signing ceremony occurred in Zimbabwe with the presence of Hon. Ngobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry and Josiane Sadaka, CEO of Blue Carbon. "We believe that effective climate

action should go hand in hand with community empowerment," said Hon. Ngobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu. "Through this collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, we are confident that our carbon projects will not only make a positive impact on the environment, but also lead to meaningful improvements in the lives of the people who need it the most", added Ms. Sadaka. The signing of this MoU marks the beginning of an exciting journey, where sustainability and community-driven initiatives converge for a brighter and more resilient future. Blue Carbon and the Government of Zimbabwe are set to inspire others to adopt similar partnerships, ultimately accelerating global efforts to combat climate change and promote social development.

FTO emphasizes significance of 14 August

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Monday said that Independence Day represents the culmination of colossal sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters who dreamt of and worked tirelessly for a free and sovereign Pakistan. Speaking at a function held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank to celebrate "Independence Day", he said it is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the struggles and achievements of our nation and to renew our commitment to its progress and prosperity, said a news release issued here. He said as we gather together on this auspicious occasion, we are reminded of the sacrifices, struggles, and unwavering determination that led us to the cherished freedom we enjoy today. He said August 14th marks a significant milestone in our nation's history, a day when we broke free from the shackles of colonial rule and embarked on a journey towards self-governance and sovereignty. This day is a testament to the unity and resilience of our people, he remarked. From the countless heroes who laid down their lives for the cause of independence to the collective spirit that drove us to overcome challenges, our nation's story is one of courage, hope, and progress, he added. He said as we raise our flags high and sing our national anthem with pride, let us remember those who made it possible for us to breathe the air of liberty. Meher Kashif Younis said Independence Day isn't just a celebration; it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and democracy.—APP

Niger's junta vows to try Bazoum for 'high treason'

DAKAR: Niger's military junta vowed Sunday to prosecute ousted President Mohamed Bazoum for "high treason" and undermining the country's "internal and external security."

The statement was read by Col. Amadou Abdramane, the spokesperson for the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country (CNSP), the group of soldiers that seized power after detaining Bazoum.

"The Nigerien government has so far gathered... evidence to prosecute the deposed president and his local and foreign accomplices before the competent national and international bodies for high treason and undermining the internal and external security of Niger," the statement said.

It pointed out that lobbies connected with some West African politicians had spread false news about the "transitional government." It also noted the junta's dissatisfaction over some elements of the international community being in solidarity with "ousted government officials." —Agencies

Poland arrests two Russians distributing Wagner 'propaganda'

WARSAW: Poland has arrested two Russians for allegedly distributing propaganda leaflets for mercenary group Wagner in the country's two biggest cities, Warsaw and Krakow, the interior minister said on Monday. "Both were charged with... espionage and arrested," minister Mariusz Kaminski said on Twitter, which has been rebranded as X. The Polish counter-intelligence agency named the two men as Alexei T. and Andrei G., without providing further personal details. It said both Russians were detained on Friday after they distributed "around 300 leaflets in public places in Krakow and Warsaw". The leaflets contained links to "recruitment websites" for the Wagner mercenary group, which has played a key role in Russia's war on Ukraine. "The Russians had on them more than 3,000 propaganda leaflets promoting the Wagner group. The material was given to them in Moscow," the agency said. The suspects, who had planned to leave Poland on Saturday, were set to receive "up to 500,000 rubles" (\$5,000) for their activities.—Agencies

Briefs

Shehbaz Sharif given guard of honour at PM House

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday was given guard of honour at the Prime Minister House here as he handed over the responsibilities of his office to the newly appointed Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reviewed the guard of honour as the contingents of the armed forces presented a salute to him. On the occasion, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar bid farewell to the outgoing prime minister. — APP

Afghanistan hotel blast kills at least 3

DNA
KABUL: A powerful explosion Monday, killed three people and injured at least seven at a hotel in Khost province, Afghanistan near the Pakistan border, raising questions about ongoing confrontations between Taliban and Daesh. The Khost media office said those killed in the blast were mostly from Pakistan's Waziristan border region, having a history of militant operations. Despite the severity of the event, Pakistan's foreign office is yet to comment officially. The Taliban-run administration in Afghanistan faces an insurgency from Islamic State militants, perpetuating deadly attacks on civilians and security forces. Concurrently, Pakistan experiences escalating violence by its Taliban militants, raising concerns about Afghanistan's role in curbing cross-border militancy. The Taliban's focus on internal stability has led to operations against Islamic State cells. However, post-foreign troop withdrawal in 2021, Afghanistan's violence toll has surged, with over 1,000 civilian casualties reported by the United Nations. This incident accentuates regional instability, as Afghanistan and its neighbours grapple with militant factions' challenges.

Sunak blames 'criminal gangs' for Channel migrant deaths

DNA
LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak blames the "criminal gangs" facilitating small boat Channel crossings for the "horrific" weekend deaths of at least six migrants, his spokesman said Monday. Six Afghan men died and dozens more required rescuing after a small vessel bound for the southeast English coast from France sank in the Channel in the early hours of Saturday. "The blame for the tragedy we've seen in the Channel in recent days lies squarely in the hands of criminal gangs who are exploiting people's lives for profit," Sunak's spokesman told reporters.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented Guard of Honor at Prime Minister's House, Islamabad. — DNA

Kakar receives guard of honour at PM House

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was presented guard of honour in a ceremony at the Prime Minister House on Monday. A smartly turned-out contingent of armed forces presented the guard of honour. National anthem was also played on the occasion. Earlier, Kakar took oath as the eighth caretaker prime minister of Pakistan on Monday. President Arif Alvi administered oath to the caretaker prime minister during a simple ceremony at the President House in the federal capital. Former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, who was also present at the ceremony, congratulated the newly-appointed interim premier. National Assembly speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman, PTI Senator Shehbaz Waseem, PPP's Faisal Karim Kundi and others also attended the ceremony.

Two dead, 85 injured in firing

NAZIR SYIAL
KARACHI: Two people were killed while 85 were injured in celebratory firing carried out in Karachi on the eve of Pakistan's 76th Independence Day, officials said on Monday. Jamsheed Quarters Station House Officer (SHO) Gul Baig said a 25-year-old woman was travelling along with her family on a motorbike and was hit by a bullet fired from an unknown direction when she was passing through the People's Chowrangi. She was taken to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) where doctors pronounced her dead, according to police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed. In another incident, Baghdad SHO Ghulam Yasin said a man asleep on the roof of his house in Lyari's Aath Chowk was shot dead by a stray bullet. The Station House Officer added that the man was taken to Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) where doctors pronounced him dead.

Any attempt to sabotage Sino-Pak friendship not to succeed

"China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan"

DNA
BEIJING: While strongly condemning the terrorist attack targeting Chinese engineers in Gwadar, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Monday said that any attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not succeed. "China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly

guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan," Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing which resumed here at the International Press Center (IPC) after the summer holidays. He made it clear that "any attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the development of CPEC will



not succeed." Sharing the details of the incident, he said that on August 13, a convoy of Chinese engineers was attacked by roadside bombs and gunshots. No Chinese citizens were killed or injured. Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese side strongly condemned those terrorist attacks, and has asked the Pakistani side to hold the perpetrators accountable. He said that the Chinese Embassy and the Consulate

in Pakistan have launched emergency response measures immediately and reminded Chinese citizens, companies, and institutions, working on projects in Pakistan to stay vigilant and take measures to bolster security, closely follow the security situation, guard against security risks and keep themselves safe. The spokesperson said that China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan.

Kim orders making more missiles

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for an increase in missile production to help secure "overwhelming military power" and be ready for war, state media KCNA said on Monday, as South Korea and US up for annual military drills. Kim gave the order as he visited key munitions factories that produce tactical missiles, missile launch platforms, armoured vehicles and artillery shells on Friday and Saturday. His field inspection was the latest in a string of visits to arms factories, where he ordered mass production of weapons, and came days before South Korea and the US are to begin annual military drills, which Pyongyang sees as a rehearsal for war. — Agencies

Chinese citizens advised to adopt precautionary measures

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan vehemently denounced this act of terrorism, emphasizing its commitment to collaborating with the Pakistani authorities to collectively combat terrorism and ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, establishments, and projects in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese citizens in Pakistan should remain vigilant and adopt precautionary measures to mitigate security risks, Chinese Embassy said in a statement issued here. The Embassy strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a Chinese convoy in Gwadar on Sunday afternoon. The embassy urged Pakistani authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into

the attack, take decisive action against the perpetrators, and implement effective measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. In the statement, it was stated that "a convoy transporting Chinese citizens was targeted near the port of Gwadar in Balochistan, Pakistan. Fortunately, there were no casualties among the Chinese citizens, and appropri-

ate measures were taken to ensure their safety." Prompt emergency responses were initiated by both the Embassy and the Consulate General in Karachi. The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan vehemently denounced this act of terrorism, emphasizing its commitment to collaborating with the Pakistani authorities to collectively combat terrorism and ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, establishments, and projects in Pakistan. Given the prevailing security conditions, the Chinese Embassy advised "Chinese citizens in Pakistan to remain vigilant and adopt precautionary measures to mitigate security risks, thus guaranteeing the safety of their lives and assets" Gwadar Pro reported. — DNA

UAE reject arms supply in Sudan

RIYADH: The UAE categorically refuted claims made by a media outlet that it was supplying arms and ammunition to warring parties in Sudan. The UAE has not supplied arms and ammunition to any of the warring parties in Sudan since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023, and does not take sides in the conflict in the country, the director of strategic communications at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Afra Al-Hameli said. "Since the beginning of the conflict, the UAE has called for de-escalation, a ceasefire, and the initiation of diplomatic dialogue through bilateral and multilateral meetings alongside its partners," Al-Hameli added. The UAE has consistently supported the political process and efforts to achieve national consensus toward forming a government, she said. It will continue to support all efforts aimed at achieving security in Sudan and enhancing its stability and prosperity until a ceasefire is secured, Al-Hameli continued. The Gulf country continues to monitor the humanitarian situation affecting the Sudanese people and its impact on neighboring countries, and seeks to provide all forms of support to alleviate humanitarian suffering, the official said. Through operating air and sea bridges, the UAE has provided approximately 2,000 tons of medical aid, food, and relief materials for the most vulnerable groups including the sick, children, elderly, and women. The UAE has also built a field hospital in the Chadani city of Amdjarass in July for those in need of medical care regardless of nationality, age, gender, or political association. The hospital has successfully treated 4,147 cases. The UAE also recently inaugurated a coordination office for Emirati aid in the city. — Agencies



MOSCOW: A view of three tallest buildings located in the heart of Moscow Arbat, displaying digital flags of both Pakistan and Russia on the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan. — DNA

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