



FIR

Islamabad ABC Certified

Editor in Chief: Ch Muhammad Aslam
Vol: 27 Issue: 219 Pages: 8 Price: 30 Saturday August 15 2026



PM briefs President on Pak-Saudi-Turkiye defence pact

Chinese envoy calls on DPM/FM Dar, extends felicitation on Pakistan's independence day

PM briefs President on Pak-Saudi-Turkiye defence pact



STAFF REPORT, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad on Friday and briefed him on a recently signed defence pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, according to a statement issued by the Presidency. For his part, President Zardari "expressed his best wishes for the effective implementation of the tripartite agreement with regard to defence cooperation, regional peace and stability and promotion of the security of the Muslim ummah", the Presidency's statement on its X account said. He also appreciated PM Shehbaz's and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army

Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir's efforts for "further strengthening the longstanding fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan into a robust strategic partnership", the statement added. The joint defence agreement, signed on August 7 in Makkah, aims to strengthen collective deterrence and empowers its signatory states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them. Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia will form political and military mechanisms under the defence pact, Turkiye's defence ministry said on Thursday, adding the alliance would also deepen defence industry

cooperation. Both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Dar have said the pact is defensive in nature, with the latter saying that it is also "open to any country in the region" willing to uphold its fundamental principles. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Saturday said Turkiye expected Egypt to join the pact "in the next stage", telling the Anadolu state news agency only "a few technical issues" stood in the way. Meanwhile, Kuwait, Bahrain and Somalia are among the countries that have welcomed it. Iran's comments also took a rather positive tone, stressing its stance of pursuing "security mechanisms based on

cooperation between regional countries". Counter-terrorism also discussed. Apart from discussions on the Makkah pact, "the professional capabilities of the security forces and law enforcement agencies in operations against Fitna-al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij were appreciated" during Friday's meeting, the statement by the Presidency said. The state has designated Balochistan-based terrorist groups as Fitna-al-Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan, and Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Pakistan, Norway to deepen cooperation on security, illegal migration

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Norway have agreed to strengthen coordination in counterterrorism, tackling illegal migration, police training and mutual legal assistance, with both sides expressing a desire to expand cooperation in security and law enforcement. The agreement came during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Norwegian Foreign



Minister Espen Barth Eide at the Ministry of Interior on Friday. The two officials reviewed bilateral ties as well as regional developments and other matters of common interest. Naqvi said measures taken by Pakistan had led to a 47 per cent decline in illegal immigration. He reiterated the government's zero-tolerance approach towards irregular migration and said Pakistan's steps had been acknowledged by the European Union. He stressed that expanding opportunities for lawful migration was important for addressing the issue of illegal movement of people. The meeting also covered the activities of banned groups based in Afghanistan. Naqvi expressed concern over the continued use of Afghan soil for attacks in Pakistan and called for coordinated efforts to eliminate terrorism. Norwegian FM acknowledged Pakistan's role in efforts to ease tensions between the United States and Iran and exchanged views with Naqvi on developments in the region. The Norwegian foreign minister also praised the Pakistani community in Norway for its contributions to different fields of society. Naqvi described Eide's visit as a significant opportunity to further develop relations between Pakistan and Norway. Eide reached Pakistan on Thursday on the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. During the visit, the two foreign ministers held talks covering bilateral relations and regional and international issues. Dar said Pakistan valued its partnership with Norway and wanted to broaden cooperation in various areas. Eide, meanwhile, appreciated Pakistan's efforts towards promoting peace at the regional and international levels.

Pakistan emerges as geopolitical hinge power, championing regional peace, connectivity: Report



clear signal of its strategic relevance by hosting direct talks between Washington and Tehran. The report noted that Pakistan is proactively stepping forward to play an increasingly effective and dynamic role in the evolving global order. In this context, the signing of the historic Makkah Joint Defence Agreement alongside Saudi Arabia and Turkiye reflects Pakistan's rising importance to regional security and stability. A core strategic advantage for Pakistan lies in its unique ability to maintain interest-based partnerships with both Washington and Beijing concurrently, while also retaining essential diplomatic channels open with both the Gulf States and Iran. The report underscores that Pakistan is consolidating its position as a key middle power—one that works constructively with multiple global centers of power without being restricted to any single geopolitical camp. This diplomatic agility is backed by forward-looking economic initiatives. Commercial prospects with the United States in sectors such as cryptocurrency and critical minerals form an integral part of Pakistan's modern economic diplomacy.

APP- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has increasingly consolidated its position as an indispensable "hinge power" on the global geopolitical stage, leveraging its unique diplomatic channels, strategic location, and proactive foreign policy to foster international peace, security, and economic collaboration. According to an analysis published in the Financial Times, Islamabad is successfully converting its simultaneous, active engagement with the United States, China, the Gulf States, and Iran into a major strategic asset. Demonstrating its diplomatic weight, Pakistan provided a



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairs a roundtable conference with pharmaceutical industry experts and key stakeholders. Adviser to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Division Haroon Akhtar Khan and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal also attended the conference

Flag hoisting at Supreme Court building marks 79th Independence Day

APP- ISLAMABAD: A dignified and inclusive flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan building on Friday to commemorate the 79th Independence Day. The ceremony was attended by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Judges of the Supreme Court, the Registrar, officers, staff and their children. In a symbolic expression of Pakistan's constitutional commitment to equality, inclusion and religious harmony, the national flag was hoisted by children of the minority community, the Chief Justice and Judges of the

Supreme Court, a Hindu Pandit, a Christian Priest, and a Muslim Cleric. The national anthem was played by the Police Band, adding a sense of solemnity and national pride to the occasion. The participation of people from diverse religious communities in the flag-hoisting ceremony underscored the message that Pakistan belongs equally to all its citizens and that the country's strength lies in its diversity, unity and shared commitment to the ideals of the Constitution. The Chief Justice interacted warmly with the

children and guided them through Court Room No.1, acquainting them with the working environment of the Supreme Court and making the occasion a meaningful and memorable experience for them. The celebrations also included the traditional cutting of the Independence Day cake by the Chief Justice, Judges and the children, symbolizing the shared joy and spirit of the national occasion. In his Independence Day message, the Chief Justice extended felicitations to the people of Pakistan and the legal fraternity.

Independence Day: President approves military awards, commutes sentences of prisoners

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has approved military awards for 1,172 personnel from the armed forces and civil armed forces in recognition of their services. The president has approved multiple summaries sent by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, covering parliamentary sessions, prisoner sentence remissions and national awards. He has approved the summoning of the National Assembly and Senate sessions on August 17. The National Assembly session

will begin at 5pm, while the Senate session will be held at 6pm. On the occasion of Independence Day and Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the president approved a special 100-day remission in the sentences of eligible prisoners. The president further approved national awards for citizens associated with various fields of civilian life. The approvals were granted as part of several summaries forwarded by the prime minister to the president for consideration.



Governor Sindh, Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah accompanied by his cabinet offering fateha on the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to mark Independence Day celebrations at Mazar-e-Quaid



Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja cuts cake to celebrate Independence Day at national CERT

Tariq tells PTI political rights cannot come at cost of citizens' rights

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Friday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to pursue its political agenda through democratic means, saying constitutional rights of political parties could not be exercised at the expense of the rights and daily lives of ordinary citizens.

Addressing an Independence Day ceremony here, he said Pakistan needed political stability, unity and economic development rather than confrontation, violence and polarisation.

The minister said all political parties had the right to their respective ideologies, programmes and constitutional freedoms, but no group could be allowed to disrupt public order or prevent citizens from going about their routine activities.

Tariq Fazal tells PTI political rights cannot come at cost of citizens' rights

Referring to previous PTI protests in Islamabad, he said residents of the capital also had constitutional rights, including access to workplaces, markets, hospitals and educational institutions.

He said the government would not allow any political activity that created a law-and-order situation in the capital, recalling the deaths of four Rangers personnel during earlier protests.

Dr Tariq said Pakistan's political history showed that prolonged confrontation between political parties served no national interest. Recalling the political



rivalry between the PML-N and PPP during the 1980s and 1990s, he said the two sides had eventually recognised the need to respect each other's political existence and keep competition within the democratic arena.

He said PTI promoted a politics of division and country's youth should not be exposed to political hatred and polarisation.

He said more than 60 per cent of Pakistan's population comprised young people, making them a major national asset. Their energies, he added, should be directed towards education, employment, technology, entrepreneurship and national development.

The minister also criticised the Pakistan Peoples Party for questioning the credibility of the recent elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the elections were transparent and credible, saying individual complaints regarding irregularities should be dealt with through the relevant electoral and legal mechanisms rather than being used

SSP Operations inspects Faisal Mosque, G-6 Imambargah security, orders heightened vigilance

APP- ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza on Friday visited Faisal Mosque and the G-6 Imambargah during Friday prayers to review security arrangements, directing deployed personnel to remain on high alert and intensify action against suspicious persons and criminal elements. An ICT Police spokesperson told APP that the SSP met police officers deployed at both places and personally reviewed security measures and checking arrangements. Qazi directed the personnel to perform their duties with complete vigilance, commitment and professional responsibility, stressing that there should be no compromise on security during religious gatherings. He ordered officers to maintain a close watch on suspicious individuals and criminal elements and take prompt action in accordance with law wherever required. The SSP Qazi stressed that honesty, integrity and professional policing were essential to controlling crime and providing a secure environment to residents of the federal capital. He also directed personnel conducting security checks to treat citizens with respect and courtesy, while ensuring that established security procedures were implemented effectively. "Making citizens feel safe and protected is our responsibility," Qazi said, adding that protection of lives and property and effective control of crime remained top priorities of Islamabad Police.

Saudi scholar greets Pakistan on Independence Day

APP- ISLAMABAD: The President and Acting Rector of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), and prominent Saudi scholar Prof. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, extended heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan on the country's Independence Day.

In a message issued by his office, the rector said Pakistan was founded on the conviction that binds Muslims together—the concept of the 'Muslim Ummah' and the 'ties of faith'. "This week, in the sanctified precincts of Makkah Al-Mukarramah, that historic bond was consolidated once again through the Makkah Accord," he said.

The rector said the dignity and sanctity of one Muslim nation is a concern shared by the entire Muslim Ummah.

He said he had a personal bond with Pakistanis because of his stay in the country, adding that the Pakistani people are blessed with a level of talent and resilience possessed by few other nations. He expressed confidence that the International Islamic University Islamabad would secure a prominent position among the world's leading universities.

Prof. Alahmed prayed for unity, peace and prosperity among the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

Capt. Shaheen reaffirms Independence Day resolve to serve Pakistan

APP- ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt on Pakistan's 79 years of independence reaffirmed his Independence Day resolve to serve Pakistan with renewed dedication, professionalism and integrity, urging the organisation's employees to make the welfare of the country's most vulnerable citizens the foremost priority of their public service.

He was addressing a special Independence Day ceremony held at the PBM headquarters in Islamabad, attended by employees from the head office, while staff from provincial and regional offices participated through an online link.

Capt. Shaheen reaffirms Independence Day resolve to serve Pakistan

Paying tribute to the heroes whose sacrifices culminated in the creation of Pakistan, Capt. Shaheen said a dignified nation never forgot those who had laid

down their lives for its freedom.

Captain said safeguarding independence and building a prosperous Pakistan required national unity, a resilient economy, scientific and technological advancement and a strong and courageous defence force.

The Managing Director said Pakistan's armed forces had demonstrated their professional capabilities during the recent Marka-e-Haq, earning international recognition and reaffirming the country's ability to defend its sovereignty.

He said Pakistan's continued standing as a sovereign, dignified and independent state was a matter of immense pride for the nation.

Highlighting Pakistan's diplomatic engagement, Capt. Shaheen said the country's role in facilitating efforts towards resolving the US-Iran dispute reflected its constructive contribution to regional and international peace.

Minister extends heartfelt congratulations to nation on Pakistan's 80th Independence Day

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Public Affairs Rana Mubashir Iqbal has extended his warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the country's 80th Independence Day.

In his message, the minister said that "August 14 is not only a day of celebration but also a solemn reminder of the sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for the creation of Pakistan. Their vision, unity, and determination gifted us a homeland where we could live with freedom, dignity, and justice." He emphasized that Independence Day should inspire every Pakistani to work with renewed zeal for the progress, prosperity, and stability of the motherland. "This is the time to strengthen our unity, uphold the values of democracy, and contribute positively to building a stronger and self-reliant Pakistan. Let us pledge to transform the dreams of our founding fathers into reality by fostering harmony, tolerance, and national pride," the minister added.



Children dressed in traditional attire and holding national flags participate in a ceremony to mark Pakistan's 79th Independence Day in the city

ITP diverts traffic around Jinnah Avenue for Independence Day parade, announces parking plan

APP- ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday enforced special traffic diversions around Jinnah Avenue and Blue Area for the Independence Day parade, closing several approaches towards D-Chowk and Express Chowk while designating separate parking areas for participants.

An ITP official told APP that motorists had been advised to use designated alternate routes to avoid inconvenience during the

parade. The official said citizens attending the event should park their cars and motorcycles at Fazl-e-Haq Service Road, Blue Area, and Nazimuddin Road, Blue Area.

The route-wise diversions and alternate routes are as follows: Diversion 1 — China Chowk to D-Chowk

Jinnah Avenue from China Chowk to D-Chowk will remain closed to traffic in both directions.

Pak Navy celebrates 80th Independence Day with traditional zeal, fervor

APP KARACHI: Pakistan Navy celebrated the 80th Independence Day of Pakistan with national spirit, traditional zeal and military traditions.

A dignified Change of Guard ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. A smartly turned-out contingent of cadets from Pakistan Naval Academy and sailors, assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with traditional enthusiasm, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Navy).

Rear Admiral Muhammad Umair, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy presented the Naumi Salam to the Father of the Nation. The Chief Guest laid floral wreath at Mazar-e-Quaid on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff. The Chief Guest offered Fatiha and recorded his



remarks in the Visitors' Book, paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his visionary leadership and unparalleled services towards the creation of Pakistan, the press release said. The day commenced with 21 Guns Salute at Pakistan Navy units and thanksgiving prayers in naval

mosques, seeking peace, prosperity and national unity.

Flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at Pakistan Navy units and establishments across Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Petaro, Sujawal, Sanghar, Gwadar and Ormara to commemorate the Independence Day.

Philippines Ambassador extends warm greetings to Pakistan on 80th Independence Day

APP-ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan, H.E Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, has extended warm felicitations to the government and people of Pakistan on the historic occasion of the country's 80th Independence Day.

In a message issued here, Ambassador Fernandez hailed Pakistan's committed and continuous efforts toward achieving national economic prosperity. In respect of the national holiday, known locally as Yaum-e-Azadi, the Philippine Embassy in Islamabad officially closed its offices for the day to join the host nation in its celebrations. Ambassador Fernandez highlighted the enduring relationship between the two nations, which spans more than seven decades and encompasses a wide range of cooperation in trade and community linkages.

Pakistan is currently home to a vibrant community of over 3,500 Filipino residents and workers. This dynamic diplomatic exchange was recently mirrored in June 2026, when Pakistani leadership extended similar warm greetings to the Philippines on its 128th Independence Day anniversary, he said. "Our two countries share a deep appreciation for national identity, cultural heritage, and the aspirations of ordinary citizens for peace, dignity, and opportunity," Ambassador Fernandez noted. "These common experiences have helped foster the goodwill and mutual respect that have characterized Philippines-Pakistan relations for more than seven decades." Reflecting on the deeper meaning of sovereignty, the Ambassador emphasized that true independence requires a continuous dedication to societal values.



Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photo with parliamentarians, singers, musicians, and children at the Azadi Cultural Show at Jinnah Convention Centre



اورست بھی عطا کی۔ فواد علی خان نے متحدہ عرب امارات میں مقیم پاکستانی کمیونٹی کی خدمات کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستانی نہ صرف متحدہ عرب امارات کی ترقی میں اپنا کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں بلکہ پاکستان کی معیشت اور وطن میں اپنے خاندانوں کی فلاح و بہبود میں بھی اہم حصہ ڈال رہے ہیں۔

پاکستانی سفارتخانے کی جانب سے جاری بیان کے مطابق تقریب میں صدر پاکستان، وزیراعظم اور وزیر خارجہ کے پیغامات بھی پڑھ کر سناے گئے۔

یوم آزادی کی مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے ہمیں اپنے کشمیری اور فلسطینی بھائیوں اور بہنوں کو بھی یاد رکھنا چاہیے جو سات دہائیوں سے زائد عرصے سے آزادی اور حق خودارادیت کے لیے جدوجہد کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مجتہد وزیراعظم نے صدر مملکت کو یوم آزادی کی مبارکباد دی۔ ملاقات میں نائب وزیراعظم و وزیر خارجہ سینیٹر محمد اسحاق ڈار، وزیر داخلہ و انسداد منشیات سید حسن رضا نقوی، سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی ملک محمد احمد خان اور سینیٹر شیریں رحمان بھی موجود تھے

جوں کشمیر اور فلسطین کے عوام کے جائز حقوق کے لیے پاکستان کی سیاسی اور سفارتی حمایت کا اعادہ کیا۔ پاکستانی سفیر نے فرانس میں مقیم پاکستانی تارکین وطن کی جانب سے پاکستان اور فرانس کے تعلقات کے فروغ میں کردار کو بھی سراہا۔ انہوں نے اس عزم کا اظہار کیا کہ پاکستانی سفارتخانہ فرانس میں مقیم پاکستانیوں کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے متحدہ کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت

تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے قائم مقام قونصل جنرل پاکستان ویٹی فواد علی خان نے پاکستانی کمیونٹی کو یوم آزادی کی دلی مبارکباد پیش کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 14 اگست قومی تاریخ میں محض ایک دن نہیں بلکہ آزادی، قربانی، عزم اور قومی تشخص کی علامت ہے

پاکستان نے 2026ء کو قائداعظم محمد علی جناح کا سال قرار دیا ہے تاکہ بانی پاکستان کی 150 ویں سالگرہ منائی جا سکے۔

سفیر نے کہا کہ قائداعظم کی عظیم فکری بصیرت کا تقاضا ہے کہ قوم ان کے اصولوں کو مضبوطی سے اپنائے اور پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی میں اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قائداعظم نے قوم کو ایمان، اتحاد اور نظم و ضبط کے تین سہری اصول دیے اور ان اصولوں پر کاربند رہنا آنے والی نسلوں کے لیے روشن مستقبل کی ضمانت بن سکتا ہے۔ ممتاز زہرا بلوچ نے کہا کہ آزادی کی خوشیاں

انہوں نے قانونی اور بینکاری ذرائع کے ذریعے پاکستان کو تینویں زر مبادلہ سمیٹنے پر کمیونٹی کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا اور اسے قومی معیشت کو مضبوط بنانے کے لیے اودرہیز پاکستانیوں کے عزم کا عملی مظہر قرار دیا۔ قائم مقام قونصل جنرل نے Parallel Palette کے تعاون سے

قونصلیت جنرل پاکستان، ویٹی میں منعقدہ آرٹ نمائش کا بھی دورہ کیا۔ نمائش میں پاکستانی فنکاروں کے اپنے فن پارے پیش کیے گئے تھے جو قائداعظم کی فناریات اور پاکستان سے ان کی محبت سے متاثر ہو کر تخلیق کیے گئے تھے۔

انہوں نے سونپنا فواد، انٹینس بیگ اور دیگر شریک پاکستانی فنکاروں کی تخلیقی صلاحیتوں اور اس نمائش میں ان کی شرکت کو سراہا۔ یہ نمائش حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے 2026 کو سال قائداعظم کے طور پر منانے کے سلسلے میں قائداعظم محمد علی جناح کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرنے کے لیے منعقد کی گئی۔ اپنے خطاب کے اختتام پر فواد علی خان نے قوم کے شہداء اور ان کے اہل خانہ کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا اور پاکستانیوں پر زور دیا کہ وہ اپنے ملک کی خدمت کے لیے خلوص اور لگن کے ساتھ وابستہ رہیں اور ان اقدامات کو قائم رکھیں جو قیام پاکستان کی تحریک کا محرک تھے۔ تقریب کا اختتام پاکستان کی مسلسل ترقی، امن اور خوشحالی کے لیے اجتماعی دعا کے ساتھ ہوا۔

پیس میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں پاکستان کے 79 ویں یوم آزادی اور بانی پاکستان قائداعظم محمد علی جناح کی 150 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر خصوصی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا، اس موقع پر فرانس میں پاکستان کی سفیر ممتاز زہرا بلوچ نے قومی ترانے کی دھن کے ساتھ قومی پرچم لہرایا۔ انہوں نے پاکستانی کمیونٹی کے ممتاز ارکان، جن میں بڑی تعداد میں بچے بھی شامل تھے، کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ فرانس میں

وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف کی صدر مملکت

آصف علی زرداری سے ملاقات

یوم آزادی کی مبارکبادی، وطن عزیز سے دہشت گردی کے ناسور کے مکمل خاتمے کے عزم کا اعادہ داخلی اور خارجی امور سمیت فتنہ الہندوستان اور فتنہ انجارج کے دہشت گردوں کے خلاف کارروائیوں میں پاکستان کی مسلح افواج اور قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی پیشہ وارانہ صلاحیتوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے وطن عزیز سے دہشت گردی کے ناسور کے مکمل خاتمے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے

قونصلیٹ جنرل پاکستان ویٹی میں یوم

آزادی پر پرچم کشائی کی تقریب

تقریب میں متحدہ عرب امارات میں مقیم پاکستانی کمیونٹی نے بڑی تعداد، قونصلیٹ جنرل کے افسران و اہلکاران اور دیگر معزز مہمانوں نے شرکت کی

پیرس میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں پاکستان کے 80 ویں

یوم آزادی اور بانی پاکستان قائداعظم محمد علی جناح کی

150 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر خصوصی تقریب کا انعقاد

فرانس میں پاکستان کی سفیر ممتاز زہرا بلوچ نے قومی ترانے کی دھن کے ساتھ قومی پرچم لہرایا۔ انہوں نے پاکستانی کمیونٹی کے ممتاز ارکان، جن میں بڑی تعداد میں بچے بھی

شامل تھے کا خیر مقدم کیا

جناح کی بصیرت افروز قیادت میں پاکستان معرض وجود میں آیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قائداعظم نے قوم کو نہ صرف ایک آزاد وطن فراہم کیا بلکہ ایمان، اتحاد اور نظم و ضبط کے اصولوں پر مبنی ایک واضح ویژن

تعمیل کا قیام کے لیے کی جانے والی تاریخی جدوجہد اور ان قربانیوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا جن کے نتیجے میں قائداعظم محمد علی

قائم مقام قونصل جنرل پاکستان ویٹی فواد علی خان نے پاکستانی کمیونٹی کو یوم آزادی کی دلی مبارکباد پیش کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 14 اگست قومی تاریخ میں محض ایک دن نہیں بلکہ آزادی، قربانی، عزم اور قومی

میں متحدہ عرب امارات میں مقیم پاکستانی کمیونٹی نے بڑی تعداد، قونصلیٹ جنرل کے افسران و اہلکاران اور دیگر معزز مہمانوں نے شرکت کی۔ یہاں جاری بیان کے مطابق تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے

قونصلیٹ جنرل پاکستان ویٹی نے پاکستان کے 79 ویں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر پرچم کشائی کی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا جس میں قومی جوش و جذبہ اور ملی وقار کے ساتھ آزادی کا جشن منایا گیا۔ تقریب

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری اور وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے داخلی اور خارجی امور سمیت فتنہ الہندوستان اور فتنہ انجارج کے دہشت گردوں کے خلاف کارروائیوں میں پاکستان کی مسلح افواج اور قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی پیشہ وارانہ صلاحیتوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے وطن عزیز سے دہشت گردی کے ناسور کے مکمل خاتمے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے۔ ایوان صدر کے میڈیا ونگ کی طرف سے جاری بیان کے مطابق وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری سے ہمدردیوں کا اظہار کیا۔

وزیراعظم نے صدر مملکت کو یوم آزادی کی مبارکباد دی۔ ملاقات میں نائب وزیراعظم و وزیر خارجہ سینیٹر محمد اسحاق ڈار، وزیر داخلہ و انسداد منشیات سید حسن رضا نقوی، سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی ملک محمد احمد خان اور سینیٹر شیریں رحمان بھی موجود تھے۔ وزیراعظم نے صدر مملکت کو مکہ مکرمہ میں سعودی عرب، ترکیہ اور پاکستان کے مابین طے پانے والے تاریخی امن معاہدے کے حوالے سے کا ذکر کیا۔ صدر مملکت نے دفاعی تعاون، علاقائی امن و استحکام اور امن و سلامتی کے فروغ کے حوالے سے سرخوشی امن معاہدے پر موثر عملدرآمد کے لیے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ صدر زرداری نے سعودی عرب، ترکیہ اور پاکستان کے درمیان برادرانہ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط و ترقیاتی شراکت داری میں ڈھالنے کے لیے وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف اور فیملہ مارشل و چیف آف ڈیفنس فورسز جنرل سید عامر میر کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔

ملاقات میں داخلی اور خارجی امور سمیت فتنہ الہندوستان اور فتنہ انجارج کے دہشت گردوں کے خلاف کارروائیوں میں پاکستان کی مسلح افواج اور قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی پیشہ وارانہ صلاحیتوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا گیا اور وطن عزیز سے دہشت گردی کے ناسور کے مکمل خاتمے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا۔ صدر نے موجودہ علاقائی صورتحال کے تناظر میں عوام کو درپیش معاشی مشکلات میں ریلیف فراہم کرنے، اشیائے ضروریہ کی بلا قفل فراہمی اور انہیں مناسب نرخوں پر دستیاب بنانے کے لیے موثر اقدامات کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ صدر مملکت نے اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ علاقائی اور عالمی امن کے فروغ کے لیے پاکستان کی موثر سفارتی کاوشوں سے ملک کے عالمی مقام کو مزید تقویت ملے گی اور اس کے مثبت اثرات ملکی معیشت اور عوام کی زندگیوں پر مرتب ہوں گے۔

The world needs more, not fewer, risk-taking tech entrepreneurs

ARNAB NEIL SENGUPTA

Up until the dawn of modern telecommunication, messages were usually delivered by human envoys. During a war, for example, a messenger would be sent from one camp to another and, if found to be bearing unfriendly news, he often ended up as a casualty himself, a victim typically of beheading until the advent of the gun.

In the age of the internet, the practice of shooting the messenger is taking on a new form: blaming the news media or a tech entrepreneur for disseminating unwanted information about a favored cause, ideology, personality or organization, and even bringing criminal charges against them. This is becoming a common occurrence just when the world needs more, not fewer, tech innovators and entrepreneurs. The arrest of Telegram founder Pavel Durov, all of 39 years old, in France is a case in point. Last week, he was released on a bail of C5 million (\$5.5 million) after four days of detention in France, but he is banned from leaving the country and likely faces a lengthy trial there. The Paris Public Prosecutor's Office

announced that he faces 12 charges, including illegal transactions, child sexual abuse, fraud and refusal to cooperate with authorities.

It is not just young Durov, unschooled in geopolitical skullduggery, who has received a rude awakening. With troubling frequency, the chief executives of tech companies are finding themselves in the crosshairs of attacks from both the left and the right, facing allegations that range from colluding with the White House to kowtowing to leaders of America's adversaries. They are being accused, as in the case of the Dubai-based Telegram, of being simultaneously at the Kremlin's beck and call and acting as a tool of the Kremlin's sworn enemy, the Ukrainian government. Even though, as a recent media report noted: "In Russia, Telegram channels widely cover subjects that are otherwise strictly censored in state media. That includes everything from front-line reports of the conflict in Ukraine to trials of Kremlin critics and manifestos dispatched from political prisoners." For his part, Elon Musk, practically from his first day as the owner of X, has drawn flak from an array of critics, most of them ideological allies of the

previous management, whom he accused of stifling free speech and engaging in censorship. Since then, the circle of Musk's political enemies on both sides of the Atlantic has only expanded, particularly after his declaration in May 2022 via X that while in the past he had voted Democratic, in the future he could no longer support the party and would vote Republican instead. These days, almost no major American or European newsroom is complete without at least one full-time reporter assigned to the Elon Musk beat, which involves doing serial hatchet jobs on the CEO of Tesla, SpaceX and X but failing to make a dent in his net worth.

In April this year, the US House of Representatives passed legislation that would ban TikTok in the US if the popular social media platform's China-based owner did not sell its stake within a year. Shou Zi Chew, the TikTok CEO who has been grilled by US legislators twice since March 2023, has vowed to "continue to do all we can, including exercising our legal rights, to protect" the platform. During the second congressional hearing held earlier this year, which focused on the safety of

children on social media platforms, Shou was not the only big-tech baron in the line of fire. There was also Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, Snap's Evan Spiegel, X's Linda Yaccarino and Discord's Jason Citron, with Zuckerberg taking the most heat. For all the bipartisan rebuke the chief executives received, both Republican and Democratic lawmakers understand the necessity to explore ways of dealing with media companies that would not result in a total ban or threaten free speech. They also understand the importance of attracting abrasive tech geniuses with a libertarian streak like Musk and offering them tacit guarantees of freedom from law-enforcement harassment, including arrest. After all, it is not just the threat of new products that keeps America's capitalist engine in motion: the role played by foreign-born scientists and engineers who grow into American entrepreneurs and senior management can hardly be overstated.

The picture is somewhat different on the other side of the Atlantic. Admittedly, European countries are not unabashedly hostile to entrepreneurship and libertarianism, or else French President Emmanuel Macron

would not have bothered to state in a tweet in the context of Durov's arrest that "France is deeply committed to freedom of expression and communication, to innovation, and to the spirit of entrepreneurship." According to Statista, across Europe, the share of the adult population involved in the early stage of a startup varies between 14 percent in Latvia and 2.6 percent in Poland. In 2023, 10.8 percent of France's adult population was involved in a business startup, either as nascent entrepreneurs or as owner-managers of new firms.

Historically, Europe has been a global leader in technology and entrepreneurship. "Today, however, Europe as a whole lags not only the US but also China in high-impact entrepreneurship. And many large European countries, such as France, Spain, Italy and Germany, have a deficit of super-entrepreneurs," the City Journal, a publication of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, said in 2022, referring to the nearly 2,500 individuals in the world who have built up billion-dollar fortunes by creating new firms or growing small businesses into large, successful ventures.

—Arab News

Daesh's global threat endures

DALIA AL-AQIDI

The persistent threat posed by Daesh is a stark reminder that terrorism remains a major concern worldwide. Even though significant efforts have been made to weaken it, the group has shown a troubling ability to adapt and continue its operations. This threat extends beyond the Middle East and poses a danger to the global community. As a result, it is crucial to maintain strong security measures, especially regarding America's borders, to prevent terrorists from entering the country. Recent events have brought the threat of the terrorist group back into focus. The CIA last month helped to stop a plot to attack a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna. According to CIA Deputy Director David Cohen, suspects linked to Daesh were planning to kill "tens of thousands" of concertgoers. This plot was in its advanced stages and could have resulted in a horrific mass-casualty event. However, thanks to the intelligence shared by the CIA, Austrian authorities were able to arrest the suspects and prevent a tragedy. This plot was a sobering reminder that Daesh and its followers are still capable of causing great harm.

Unfortunately, this was not an isolated case. So far this year, Daesh has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks in Turkiye, Iran and Russia, with affiliates also involved in violent incidents in Germany and other countries. The US Central Command reported that the terrorist group was responsible for 153 attacks in Iraq and Syria in the first half of 2024, indicating that the group's violent activities are far from over.

The danger extends to other regions as well. Daesh-Khorasan, a branch of the original group, has shown its ability to carry out attacks both within Afghanistan and outside its borders. The deadly terrorist attacks in Kerman, Iran, on Jan. 3 and in Moscow on March 22, which killed hundreds, highlight the global reach of Daesh's extremist ideology.

Robert Wood, the US alternative representative for special political affairs, last month spoke about these concerns at the UN Security Council. He pointed out that the threat from Daesh is also spreading across Africa, where instability and weak governments make it easier for terrorist groups to operate. The situation in Africa is particularly worrying. Regions like the Sahel and West, Central and Southern Africa are becoming more unstable, allow-

ing Daesh and Al-Qaeda affiliates to gain strength. "We continue to provide our African partners essential assistance in degrading the capabilities of and countering ISIS and Al-Qaeda affiliates, in a manner consistent with international law," Wood said, using another term for Daesh. He emphasized that vigorous law enforcement and security measures are vital to stopping terrorism and violent extremism.

The situation is even more complex because of the ongoing instability in several parts of Africa, where governments struggle to maintain control. The Sahel region, in particular, has seen a surge in violent extremism, with Daesh and Al-Qaeda affiliates gaining significant ground. The porous borders in these regions make it easier for terrorist groups to move weapons, fighters and supplies, further complicating efforts to combat them. Therefore, Washington and its allies must continue to support these regions, not only through military aid but also by helping to strengthen governance and economic stability.

The global fight against terrorism is not just about military action, it requires addressing the root causes of extremism, such as poverty, corruption and social inequality. Without addressing these deeper issues, terrorist groups like Daesh will continue to find new recruits and maintain their influence.

Despite these efforts, the battle against Daesh is far from over. The group still has about 2,500 fighters in Iraq and Syria and it continues to operate through cells and affiliate organizations in West and North Africa. Daesh also has a troubling ability to recruit members all around the world, particularly in Europe. The group often targets immigrants or the children of immigrants who feel marginalized, exploiting their grievances to draw them into its ranks. These recruits are usually found in crowded urban areas with high unemployment rates, making them vulnerable to extremist influence. The number of former Daesh fighters and sympathizers living in Europe and the US is unknown, adding another layer of complexity to the fight against terrorism. In America, there are growing concerns that Daesh operatives could exploit weaknesses in the immigration system to enter the country. FBI Director Christopher Wray in June warned the US Senate that "dangerous persons" could be among those crossing the country's southern border.

—Arab News



Netanyahu wants a fait accompli in the West Bank ... What are we doing about it?

EYAD ABU SHAKRA

The closed rooms where the region's crises are negotiated have been brimming with both announced and secret meetings. With them has emerged a flurry of news reports in the media and endless rumors and positions on social media platforms. All of this is happening while decisions on the fate of the Arab region are made abroad. Even if we actually wanted to take adequate positions in response to the crime of redrawing maps with blood, it is clear that the Arabs do not have the capability, the international community does not have the will and the Americans have no intention of dealing with this crime.

On the other hand, I am no longer confident that the "crisis" we hear Benjamin Netanyahu's government is "suffering" from is real. Nor am I confident about the so-called confusion of the Iranian leadership, which seems to have abandoned the idea of removing Israel within seven minutes. Rather, what recent days have shown makes one wish that Israel was indeed suffering from a crisis and that Iran was confused. In the past few days, Netanyahu's government has begun the second phase of its semi-explicit plan to exterminate the Palestinians as a people, root them out of their land and do away with their cause by attacking Tulkarm and Jenin. Of course, the same old pretext is always available: "terrorist" cells affiliated with Iran have been established around the two cities, especially in their camps. Meanwhile, nothing in the US takes precedence over November's presidential election. Not only that, but it seems that all the world's concerns are timed and synchronized to the schedule of the American elections. Even the major global powers, which have a greater capacity to change things than us Arabs, foremost among them Russia and China, are watching to see which way the winds will blow in the race to the White House between two candidates and parties that differ radically on almost every issue ... except total support for Israel. After Tel Aviv, Moscow may have the strongest influence — albeit indirectly — on this electoral battle, especially in light of the contrast between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris' views on the greatest global threat to American unipolarity.

Trump has, on several occasions, downplayed the threat posed by Russia — even after Ukraine. He has also hinted at his "personal" ability to deal with Vladimir Putin. Meanwhile, he and the Republican

leadership have taken a tough stance on the Chinese threat first and the Iranian threat second. Moreover, several international political figures have emphasized, for some time, Putin's support for far-right policies in most Western democracies, which he is betting on to create internal disruptions. His opponent, Harris, the Democratic candidate, as well as being the partner and heir to Democratic policies by virtue of being Joe Biden's vice president for the past four years, has been somewhat gray in her views. Analysts broadly agree that Biden's presidency has essentially been a continuation of Barack Obama's term, during which Biden served as vice president for eight years.

Thus, Harris does not have any particular personal feelings about the ambitions of either Russia or China. Nonetheless, Obama's reading of the Middle East's political map may have become an institutional Democratic Party approach to the region. Both the Iranian and Israeli governments are well aware of this. Today, Netanyahu is escalating in order to kill several birds with one stone. First, he is furthering an expansionist messianic project under the pretext of needing the support of the unhinged extremists in his government. Second, he is trying to draw Tehran into a battle that it will either lose on the ground or that will destroy its political credibility. Third, he is dragging the Democrats into a regional war against Iran, which he believes the American public is in no mood for, thereby heightening the chances of a Trump victory.

As for Tehran, it wants to avoid such a war, which would expose the tenuous nature of its commitment to the Arab political organization that it has created, invested in and used. It also has no interest in taking a leap into the unknown and facilitating a Trump victory. Indeed, past experiences have shown the former president to be far more amenable to the proposals of the Israeli extreme right than the Obama-Biden school. Meanwhile, the Israeli war machine is rushing to impose a fait accompli in the West Bank, after having destroyed Gaza and displaced its people. It is likely betting on a Republican victory in November that would free its hand completely. On the Palestinian side, bitter experiences and the latest situation currently unfolding in Gaza do not seem to have led to more rational and realistic assessments and priorities, foremost among them the need to unify stances and stop gambling on the basis of false assumptions.

—Arab News

World court's opinion on Israeli occupation hardly a surprise

YOSSI MEKELBERG

One possible reason July's advisory opinion by the UN's top court, which stated that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories goes against international law, did not attract much international attention is that most observers felt this was no more than stating the very obvious. However, as the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is currently entrenching at a faster pace, the prospect of an Israeli military presence in Gaza for years to come has become very real. And because some extreme elements at the heart of Israel's government are advocating building settlements in the Gaza Strip, stating and amplifying the obvious is more important than ever. Adding to the significance of this advisory opinion is that it marked the first time that this court had delivered a position on the legality of the 57-year occupation, let alone it being crystal clear about its unlawfulness.

Although this advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice is not legally binding, it carries significant moral and political weight and, given the political resolve, could be translated into a binding resolution by the UN Security Council. The long and learned legal document could also serve as a guide for the behavior of individual countries, international organizations and businesses that clarifies how they should engage with the occupation, the settlements, the settlers and those who sustain them.

What links the political and legal aspects of this document is that it was the UN General Assembly that requested that the court give its view on Israel's policies and practices toward the Occupied Territories and on the legal status of the occupation, including East Jerusalem. It is now for the UNGA and its member states to decide how they will translate this view of the court into a meaningful resolution and policies that will end the occupation and lead to an end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based

on the right of self-determination for both peoples and their living in peace and security side by side. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's response to the ruling reflected an utter disregard for international law and deliberate obliviousness to the international isolation he is leading his country into. Beyond calling the court's depiction of the occupation as illegal "absurd" and a "decision of lies," he went on to say: "The Jewish people are not occupiers in their own land — not in our eternal capital Jerusalem, nor in our ancestral heritage of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)." This is a denial of both the fact that these territories were acquired by military force and that, as per international humanitarian law, any occupation should be a temporary one, let alone that the Zionist movement accepted the partition of Mandatory Palestine, which facilitated the establishment of Israel and the international recognition it enjoys within its pre-June 1967 borders. It is the behavior — or, more accurately, the misbehavior — of Israel in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza that has brought on this decision. Under international law, the occupying power should not change the conditions that led to its acquiring sovereignty over the occupied territory and it is obliged to respect the existing laws and institutions of the occupied territory within reason. This is all based on the assumption that an occupation is temporary, as it should be. An argument is made by the right in Israel that the Occupied Territories were not under the control of the Palestinians when they were occupied in 1967 and hence there was a necessity to establish governing structures and mechanisms. As valid as this argument is, these structures and mechanisms should only have been employed for a limited time, until the transfer of political power to the local population to exercise their right to self-determination, and not as a tool to oppress them and perpetuate Israeli control over these territories.

—Arab News

Letters to the Editor

From waste to worth

Food waste is a silent crisis that deserves more attention than it currently receives. It's unsettling to witness how much food goes to waste in restaurants every day, particularly when so many in our country struggle with hunger and malnutrition. As someone who has seen the impact of poverty up close, I find it difficult to reconcile this reality with the staggering statistic that nearly 36 million tons of food are wasted annually in Pakistan. The environmental consequences are severe, from unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions to the depletion of valuable resources, all of which could be mitigated if we simply used what we already have more wisely. It's clear that food waste is not just a missed opportunity to feed those in need. It's a broader societal failure that reflects poorly on our priorities. While we often talk about inequality in many contexts, from education to healthcare, we rarely discuss how food waste is yet another form of inequality—one that underscores our disregard for the resources we waste and the people we fail to serve. That's why it's encouraging to see some businesses addressing food waste in practical ways by redistributing leftover food to those in need. This simple yet effective approach takes

place daily after 10:00 pm, which demonstrates how even small actions can have a significant impact. It highlights that tackling food waste doesn't require grand gestures but can start with thoughtful initiatives that provide immediate relief to the less fortunate. If more businesses and individuals adopted such practices, we could make meaningful progress in combating food waste while also addressing hunger in our communities. Before we can solve broader societal issues, we must first confront the everyday injustices right in front of us.

BATOOL MUFTI
Islamabad

Toxic air threat

Air pollution in the country has reached toxic levels and poses an outright threat to people's lives. According to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) Annual Update for 2024, virtually the entire population of Pakistan breathes air that doesn't meet its own national air quality standards. The fine particulate matter (PM2.5) standard is set at 15 micrograms per cubic meter in Pakistan, but our actual PM2.5 concentration is estimated to be around 40 µg/m³. Due to these high levels of air pollution, the AQLI report claims that if

Pakistan could simply meet its own air standards, it could raise people's life expectancy by 2.3 years. Meeting the WHO air pollution guidelines would result in an even greater rise in life expectancy by 3.3 years. It is a critical situation requiring careful action, as our air is so polluted that it is actually shortening the lives of the people. In Pakistan, air pollution is now a greater threat to life than drinking and even diseases like HIV/AIDS. Given that we all breathe the same air, there is simply no way to escape this problem regardless of class or socioeconomic status. As such, the poorest people in more developed countries often have more breathable air than the richest Pakistanis.

This issue is not unique to Pakistan. Nations like India and Pakistan in South Asia face similar problems. The use of substandard fuels such as wood, the burning of agricultural and other waste, and the lack of enforcement of fuel standards must be addressed at the local level by individual countries. Accelerating the use of emissions-free renewable energy will also be crucial. Failure to take such steps will only cost the people of Pakistan and the region overall years of life they could have otherwise enjoyed.

MUNAWAR SIDDIQUI
Lahore



High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq, joined by members of the Pakistani community, cuts a cake to mark the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan during a flag-hoisting ceremony at Pakistan House

Pakistan's strength, stability result of forefathers' sacrifices: Nazriya Pakistan Council Chairman

APP- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is a divine blessing which our forefathers achieved through immense sacrifices. The Hindus had believed that the newly independent Pakistan would not survive for more than three months and would eventually return to India. However, under the wise and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the world witnessed that Pakistan not only stood on its own feet despite extremely difficult circumstances, but also achieved remarkable progress, stability and strength within a short period of time.

Chairman of the Nazriya Pakistan Council Trust, Mian Muhammad Javed, expressed these views while addressing the flag-hoisting ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Quaid on Friday, Islamabad, on the occasion of Pakistan's 80th Independence Day.

Presiding over the ceremony, he said

that Pakistan had today earned great respect and prestige in the comity of nations by successfully confronting a country many times larger in size and resources.

He said that Pakistan's defence had become so strong and secure that, following Saudi Arabia, several countries were entering into defence agreements with Pakistan. He said that the country's growing strategic importance was a matter of pride for every Pakistani.

Addressing the students and young participants, Mian Muhammad Javed said, "You are the bright future of Pakistan. You are talented, capable and full of potential; therefore, there is no rea-



son to fear for Pakistan's future." He urged the younger generation to devote their abilities to education, character-building, national service and the progress of the country.

Chairperson of the Taleem Network

Pakistan (TNP), a project of the Nazriya Pakistan Council Trust, Razina Alam Khan, said that the objective of the organisation was to acquaint the younger generation with the two-nation theory, so that they could understand the ideological and historical basis on which the Muslims of the subcontinent separated from India and established Pakistan.

She emphasised that it was essential for the younger generation to understand the fundamental principles that distinguished the Muslims of the subcontinent from the Hindu community and ultimately provided the ideological foundation for the creation of Pakistan.

Earlier, the national flag was hoisted, followed by the recitation of the National Anthem of Pakistan by all participants. Hafiz Ikram Mahmood subsequently led a collective prayer for the progress, prosperity, security and stability of Pakistan.

Indonesia Ambassador reaffirms enduring friendship with Pakistan on "80th Independence Day"

APP- ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo has extended warm felicitations and greetings to the government and people of Pakistan on the occasion of the country's 80th Independence Day, reaffirming the longstanding bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly nations. In his message on the Independence day of Pakistan, Ambassador Sukotjo highlighted the special significance of the August celebrations for both countries, noting that Pakistan observes its Independence Day on August 14, while Indonesia celebrates its Independence Day just three days later on August 17. The envoy said the close timing of the national days provided a unique opportunity for both nations to celebrate their shared spirit of independence, friendship and solidarity. The ambassador emphasized that Indonesia-Pakistan relations were rooted in longstanding historical, religious and cultural connections, which have continued to bring the peoples of the two countries closer together. The Ambassador noted that Indonesia and Pakistan have maintained more than 75 years of diplomatic relations marked by mutual respect, trust and cooperation.

Fahd felicitates nation, overseas Pakistanis on Pakistan's 79th Independence anniversary

APP- ISLAMABAD: Minister of State / Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon has extended his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan and overseas Pakistanis on the occasion of the 79th Independence anniversary.

In his message, Fahd Haroon said Independence Day honours the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the sacrifices of those who made Pakistan possible, and renews the national resolve to build a stronger, more peaceful, prosperous and self-reliant country.

He paid tribute to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his leadership in advancing Pakistan's national interests and strengthening its partnerships with brotherly and friendly nations.

He congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on the landmark trilateral defence cooperation between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, calling it a milestone in strengthening strategic ties, collective security and regional stability, and a reflection of Pakistan's enduring bonds with both nations and its constructive role in regional peace.

Independence Day at Sahiwal Power Plant: A celebration of patriotism, Pak-China friendship



APP- ISLAMABAD: Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, where Pakistani and Chinese employees came together to mark the national occasion in an atmosphere of patriotism, camaraderie and mutual respect. The celebrations reflected not only the spirit of Pakistan's Independence Day but also the strong bond between the Pakistani and Chinese workforce at the power plant, said a press release.

Independence Day at Sahiwal Power Plant: A celebration of patriotism, Pak-China friendship

Chinese management participated actively alongside their Pakistani colleagues throughout the celebrations, presenting a beautiful example of the friendship and cooperation that characterizes the Pak-China relationship.

The day's activities began with a walking activity, in which employees from different departments participated together. The morning walk provided a healthy

and refreshing start to the celebrations while also giving colleagues an opportunity to interact outside their regular work environment.

At a power plant where employees routinely work in demanding operational and technical environments, such activities provide an opportunity to promote health, teamwork and a positive workplace culture.

The participation of Chinese management alongside Pakistani employees further strengthened the sense of unity and togetherness.

The celebrations then moved to the Sports Centre where an energetic basketball match was held.

Employees enthusiastically participated in the sporting activity, creating an atmosphere filled with excitement, friendly competition and team spirit.

The basketball match was particularly symbolic of the close working relationship that has developed between the Pakistani and Chinese workforce.

QAU celebrates 80th Independence Day

APP- ISLAMABAD: A national flag-hoisting ceremony was held at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, on Friday to commemorate Pakistan's 80th Independence Day. Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, along with Chairpersons and Directors of various departments, senior faculty members, officers, administrative staff and students, attended the ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal said that the Independence Day celebration was an opportunity to renew the nation's commitment to the principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline and to work collectively for a brighter, stronger and more prosperous Pakistan.

QAU celebrates 80th Independence Day

He said that Quaid-i-Azam University, established in the name of the Founder of Pakistan, Q u a i d - i - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was playing an important role in national development and progress through quality education, research and innovation.



Provincial Minister for Labor and Manpower Muhammad Mansha Ullah Butt, cutting Azadi Cake at Historic Fort

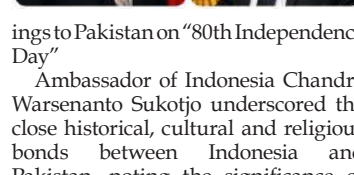
Foreign envoys extend warm greetings to Pakistan on "80th Independence Day"

APP- ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from friendly countries have extended warm felicitations to the government and people of Pakistan on the occasion of the country's 80th Independence Day, reaffirming their commitment to stronger bilateral ties, peace and regional prosperity.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov conveyed heartfelt greetings on behalf of the diplomatic community, praising Pakistan's constructive diplomatic engagement and efforts toward peace and dialogue.

He also highlighted the longstanding Turkmenistan-Pakistan friendship and appreciated the government, Foreign Ministry, state institutions, media and business community for their support to the diplomatic corps.

Foreign envoys extend warm greet-



ings to Pakistan on "80th Independence Day"

Ambassador of Indonesia Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo underscored the close historical, cultural and religious bonds between Indonesia and Pakistan, noting the significance of their national days falling just three days apart. He wished Pakistan contin-

ued peace, prosperity and development, concluding with "Pakistan Zindabad."

Senior ICT Police officers take to field, review Independence Day security across Capital

APP- ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Safe City Muhammad Haroon Joiya and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Law and Order/Training Muhammad Ateeq Tahir on Friday inspected security arrangements across key roads, public and recreational places and other sensitive locations in Islamabad as police maintained heightened deployment for Independence Day celebrations.

An Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police official told Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) that the two senior officers visited various duty points across the federal capital to personally review security deployment and operational preparedness.

During the inspections, they directed police officers and personnel deployed in the field to perform their duties with vigilance, responsibility and professionalism and

maintain an effective security presence at their assigned locations.

The officers ordered enhanced monitoring at key roads, public gathering points, recreational places and other sensitive locations, particularly in view of increased public movement and Independence Day gatherings across the city.

They directed deployed personnel to continuously monitor the security situation and ensure immediate and effective response to any suspicious activity or untoward incident.

The senior officers also instructed police personnel to remain at their designated duty points, deal with citizens courteously and professionally and provide them with every possible assistance during the celebrations.



An eye-catching view of fireworks illuminating the night sky over the Federal Capital at midnight during celebrations marking the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan.



ایف آئی آر رپورٹ



دیر بالا میں چیک پوسٹ پر حملہ: 'نارٹ

ویژن آلات سے دیکھا تو مسلح شدت

پسندوں نے ہمیں چاروں طرف سے گھیر لیا تھا

'رات کوئی آٹھ بجے کا وقت تھا، ہم اپنی پولیس چوکی میں موجود تھے اہلکار نارٹ ویژن آلات سے علاقے کا جائزہ لے رہے تھے کہ اتنے میں مسلح شدت پسندوں کی پیش قدمی نظر آئی جو ہماری چوکی کی جانب ہی تھی۔' خیر پختونخوا کے ضلع دیر بالا سے ٹیلیفون پر باتیں کرتے ہوئے پولیس اہلکار نے اپنا نام علی شیر بتایا اور کہا کہ انھوں نے مسلح شدت پسندوں کا بھرپور مقابلہ کیا ہے۔

وہ کہتے ہیں 'ہم سب چوکس ہو گئے تھے اور اپنے ہتھیار سنبھال لیے تھے، ہمیں لگ بھگ چاروں جانب سے گھیرے میں لے لیا گیا تھا اور تھوڑی دیر بعد ہم پر فائرنگ شروع کر دی گئی تھی۔ ہم نے جوابی کارروائی شروع کی اور یہ جھڑپ لگ بھگ ساری رات جاری رہی۔'

علی شیر نے بتایا کہ یہ حملہ بدھ کی رات آٹھ بجے کے قریب کیا گیا اور جھڑپ صبح 6 بجے تک جاری رہی۔ پولیس کے مطابق اس حملے میں ان کا کوئی جانی نقصان نہیں ہوا۔

ایک پولیس اہلکار نے بتایا کہ مسلح شدت پسند دو بندو چیک پوسٹ کی جانب جانے والے راستے پر موجود ہیں اور ان کی مدد کے لیے جانے والے پولیس افسر اور ایک سیاسی رہنما کی گاڑیوں پر بھی فائرنگ کی گئی ہے لیکن وہ اس میں محفوظ رہے ہیں۔

پولیس کے مطابق مسلح شدت پسندوں کا اس میں جانی نقصان ہوا ہے اور لگ بھگ بارہ گھنٹوں کے محاصرے کے بعد مسلح شدت پسند واپس پہاڑوں پر چلے گئے ہیں جبکہ پولیس اہلکار بحفاظت واپس دیرپنچ گئے ہیں۔

پولیس اہلکار نے بتایا کہ یہ حملہ بدھ کی رات آٹھ بجے کے قریب کیا گیا اور جھڑپ صبح 6 بجے تک جاری رہی، پولیس کے مطابق اس حملے میں ان کا کوئی جانی نقصان نہیں ہوا۔

ایک پولیس اہلکار نے بتایا کہ مسلح شدت پسند دو بندو چیک پوسٹ کی جانب جانے والے راستے پر موجود ہیں اور ان کی مدد کے لیے جانے والے پولیس افسر اور ایک سیاسی رہنما کی گاڑیوں پر بھی فائرنگ کی گئی ہے لیکن وہ اس میں محفوظ رہے ہیں۔

پولیس کے مطابق مسلح شدت پسندوں کا اس میں جانی نقصان ہوا ہے اور لگ بھگ بارہ گھنٹوں کے محاصرے کے بعد مسلح شدت پسند واپس پہاڑوں پر چلے گئے ہیں جبکہ پولیس اہلکار بحفاظت واپس دیرپنچ گئے ہیں۔

ہم اپنی پولیس چوکی میں موجود تھے اہلکار نارٹ ویژن آلات سے علاقے کا جائزہ لے رہے تھے کہ اتنے میں مسلح شدت پسندوں کی پیش قدمی نظر آئی جو ہماری چوکی کی جانب ہی تھی۔' خیر پختونخوا کے ضلع دیر بالا سے ٹیلیفون پر باتیں کرتے ہوئے پولیس اہلکار نے اپنا نام علی شیر بتایا اور کہا کہ انھوں نے مسلح شدت پسندوں کا بھرپور مقابلہ کیا ہے۔

وہ کہتے ہیں 'ہم سب چوکس ہو گئے تھے اور اپنے ہتھیار سنبھال لیے تھے، ہمیں لگ بھگ چاروں جانب سے گھیرے میں لے لیا گیا تھا اور تھوڑی دیر بعد ہم پر فائرنگ شروع کر دی گئی تھی۔ ہم نے جوابی کارروائی شروع کی اور یہ جھڑپ لگ بھگ ساری رات جاری رہی۔'

علی شیر نے بتایا کہ یہ حملہ بدھ کی رات آٹھ بجے کے قریب کیا گیا اور جھڑپ صبح 6 بجے تک جاری رہی۔ پولیس کے مطابق اس حملے میں ان کا کوئی جانی نقصان نہیں ہوا۔

ایک پولیس اہلکار نے بتایا کہ مسلح شدت پسند دو بندو چیک پوسٹ کی جانب جانے والے راستے پر موجود ہیں اور ان کی مدد کے لیے جانے والے پولیس افسر اور ایک سیاسی رہنما کی گاڑیوں پر بھی فائرنگ کی گئی ہے لیکن وہ اس میں محفوظ رہے ہیں۔

پولیس کے مطابق مسلح شدت پسندوں کا اس میں جانی نقصان ہوا ہے اور لگ بھگ بارہ گھنٹوں کے محاصرے کے بعد مسلح شدت پسند واپس پہاڑوں پر چلے گئے ہیں جبکہ پولیس اہلکار بحفاظت واپس دیرپنچ گئے ہیں۔

پولیس کے مطابق مسلح شدت پسندوں کا اس میں جانی نقصان ہوا ہے اور لگ بھگ بارہ گھنٹوں کے محاصرے کے بعد مسلح شدت پسند واپس پہاڑوں پر چلے گئے ہیں جبکہ پولیس اہلکار بحفاظت واپس دیرپنچ گئے ہیں۔

اس میں جانی نقصان نہیں ہوا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ وہ دو بندو چیک پوسٹ سے قریب دو گھنٹے کے فاصلے پر تھے جب ان پر فائرنگ ہوئی تھی۔' ٹارورنگ نے بتایا کہ ان پر اتنی شدت سے فائرنگ کی گئی اور اس میں ہر قسم کا اسلحہ استعمال ہوا کہ جس سے حالات خراب ہونے کا اندیشہ بڑھ گیا تھا جس پر وہ وہاں سے واپس روانہ ہو گئے تھے۔ دیر بالا میں شدت پسندوں کی جانب سے محاصرے کے بعد جب ویڈیو سامنے آئیں تو مقامی سطح پر لوگوں کو سخت ہونے اور پولیس کی مدد کے لیے لشکر تیب دینے کی اپیلیں کی گئیں اور لوگ مسلح ہو کر پہنچ گئے تھے۔ مقامی اہلکاروں نے بتایا کہ مسلح لشکر موقع پر جانے کے لیے تیار تھے لیکن انھیں مقامی طور پر نظامیہ کی جانب سے اجازت نہیں دی گئی تھی۔ مقامی لوگوں نے بتایا کہ پولیس سے مدد کے لیے ہنگامہ راجہ اور عیشیہ درہ کے عوام مسلح ہو کر نکل آئے تھے۔ ٹارورنگ نے بتایا کہ مقامی لوگ پولیس کی مدد کے لیے تیار تھے اور اس میں بڑی تعداد میں لوگ پہنچ گئے تھے لیکن ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انھیں شدت پسندوں کی تعداد کا علم نہیں تھا کیونکہ مسلح شدت پسند پہاڑوں میں موجود تھے۔ ان سے جب پوچھا کہ مسلح شدت پسند اس علاقے میں کیسے آئے تو ان کا کہنا تھا

کہ 'ان لوگوں کا کوئی مستقل ٹھکانہ نہیں ہے یہ کچھ دیر ایک جگہ پر اور پھر دوسری جگہ چلے جاتے ہیں جس وجہ سے ان کے کسی ایک ٹھکانے کے بارے میں کچھ نہیں کہا جاسکتا۔' انھوں نے الزام عائد کیا کہ 'یہ ماضی کی غلط پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے یہاں آئے ہیں کیونکہ ان شدت پسندوں کی پناہ گاہ یہاں تھیں اور یہ لوگ پھر افغانستان سے ان علاقوں کی جانب آئے ہیں۔' رینجیل پولیس افسر آر پی او ملائند سید فدا حسین شاہ نے بتے کہ پولیس اہلکاروں اور علاقے کے عائدین سے ملاقاتیں کی ہیں اور کہا ہے کہ پولیس نے بہادری سے مقابلہ کیا ہے۔ اس کے بعد اسی مہینے میں دو بندو درہ، سلام کوٹ اور ہاتن درہ کے پہاڑی علاقوں میں پولیس اور انسداد دہشت گردی کے جھڑپوں کی مدد سے عسکریت پسندوں کے ساتھ جھڑپوں کی اطلاعات موصول ہوئی تھیں اس میں پانچ عسکریت پسند ہلاک ہوئے تھے جبکہ جھڑپ میں سات پولیس اہلکار زخمی ہوئے تھے۔ اس جھڑپ کے دوران دو مقامی شہریوں کی جان بھی چلی گئی تھی۔

اگست 2025 کے آخر میں افغانستان سے ملحقہ سرحدی علاقے میں ایک سکیورٹی چوکی پر بھی بڑا حملہ کی اطلاع موصول ہوئی تھی۔

Fakhar’s ton powers Greens past Gold



SPORTS DESK, KARACHI: Fakhar Zaman continued his remarkable run in the National Champions Cup 2026-2027, smashing his second successive century as Pakistan Greens demolished Pakistan Gold by 128 runs at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Friday.

The victory took Greens to the top of the table with two wins from two matches. On the other hand Gold's second consecutive defeat ended their hopes of reaching the final with one league game still to play. Set to chase a tough target of 315, Gold were bowled out for 186 in 37 overs after Greens had posted 314 all out in their allotted 50 overs.

Fakhar was once again the architect of Greens' imposing total, producing a commanding 115 off 105 balls with seven fours and four sixes. His innings followed the

century he scored in Greens' opening match and further underlined his importance to the side's campaign.

Gold began their chase positively, with Shamyul Hussain launching an aggressive assault in the early overs. He added 52 for the opening wicket with Muhammad Akhlaq in only 40 balls, giving Gold hope of mounting a serious challenge.

Faheem Ashraf, however, helped Greens regain control. He removed Akhlaq for four in the seventh over before bowling a maiden to slow the scoring rate.

Shamyul continued to attack and reached 53 from 40 balls, striking six fours and two sixes, but his dismissal by Shadab Khan proved to be the turning point. From there, Gold collapsed, losing nine wickets for just 112 runs.

Greens' bowlers shared the workload

effectively, with eight of their nine bowlers picking up at least one wicket. Mohammad Hasnain was the pick of the attack, claiming 3-32 in six overs, while Mehran Mumtaz marked his 50th List A appearance with an impressive 2-35 from nine overs.

Kamran Ghulam made 26, Haider Ali scored 30 and Abdul Samad contributed 20, but none could convert their starts into a substantial partnership.

Earlier, Greens endured a brief setback when Sameer Minhas was dismissed by debutant Abdul Subhan in only the second over. What followed, however, was a dominant batting display.

Fakhar joined Omair bin Yousuf and the pair put together 181 runs, completely shifting the momentum in Greens' favour. Greens scored 68 runs during the opening powerplay, while Fakhar brought up his

half-century from 38 deliveries.

Their century partnership came from just 84 balls, and Greens reached 150 in the 23rd over as Gold's attack struggled to contain the pair.

Fakhar eventually completed his 21st List A century from 83 balls. Omair also reached a significant milestone, completing 2,000 List A runs while making his 12th half-century in the format.

Omair's innings of 74 came from 73 balls and included nine fours and a six before Shaheen Shah Afridi finally provided Gold with a much-needed breakthrough, bowling him. Gold briefly fought back, taking three wickets for 21 runs across 27 balls. But Shadab Khan ensured Greens retained control, striking a valuable 61 from 51 balls, including four fours and two sixes.

Babar hurt, withdraws from practice match

SPORTS DESK, Pakistan Test captain Babar Azam has been advised to take rest for the remainder of the ongoing three-day practice match against the Professional County Club (PCC) Select XI after being struck on his right hand.

Babar sustained the injury on the second day of the practice fixture, prompting the Pakistan team's medical



staff to assess it. Following an examination by the team doctor, the team management decided to take a precautionary approach and withdraw the star batter from the remaining match. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Babar had been advised to rest after the assessment, with no immediate indication that the injury would prevent him from continuing with the team's preparations.

"Following an assessment by the team doctor and taking precautionary measures, Babar has been advised to take rest from the remaining practice match," the PCB said. The development comes as Pakistan fine-tune their preparations in England, where the team is using the practice match against PCC Select XI to assess players and conditions ahead of their upcoming Test commitments. Babar's availability for the next stage of preparations will be closely watched, given his importance to Pakistan's batting line-up and his role as Test captain.

Nawaz ruled out of Champions Cup

SPORTS DESK, Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz has been ruled out of the Al Batal Presents University of Lahore National Champions Cup after sustaining an injury to his right middle finger, it was confirmed on Friday. Nawaz was taken for scans on Thursday, 13 August, which confirmed the injury, ruling him out of action for a minimum of three weeks.

He picked up the injury while fielding for his team Sparco Paints Pakistan Gold in their 12 August fixture against Al Batal Productions Pakistan Blues. He did complete his quota of 10 overs in the game which, Gold lost by six wickets at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

After two weeks, Nawaz will report to PCB's Sports and Exercise Medicine Department to commence conditioning and progress through the required Return-to-Play (RTP) protocols under medical supervision.

Key talking points as La Liga begins



SPORTS DESK, BARCELONA: Spain's top flight kicks off the 2026/27 season on Saturday, although defending champions Barcelona and Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid are not in action yet. AFP Sport looks at five talking points going into the first round of fixtures.

Giants must wait

Due to many of their players being involved in the latter stages of the World Cup, Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid will not play their first matches until next weekend.

Hansi Flick's Barca, back-to-back La Liga winners, visit Elche on August 23, a day after Mourinho's first match at the helm of Real Madrid in his second spell at the club, away at Espanyol.

Much of the intrigue heading into the season concerns whether the Portuguese coach can revive a Madrid side after two seasons without a major trophy, as well as how Los Blancos

several summer signings bed in.

As well as the postponements for Barca and Madrid's matches against Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad respectively, Atletico Madrid's first game against Malaga was pushed back by a few days to August 19.

Real Betis's scheduled visit to Valencia will also not take place on the opening weekend for the same reason.

Atletico's Alvarez issue

Atletico Madrid kick off their season with the Julian Alvarez transfer saga still unresolved, although the Rojiblancos say they are not planning on selling him to Barcelona.

The forward wants to move but has returned to training with his teammates. With his holidays finishing later than most after Argentina reached the World Cup final, and amid the speculation of a potential departure, it is not likely that Alvarez

starts Atletico's first match. However he could be involved in some capacity and face heavy criticism from Atletico's supporters at the Metropolitan stadium on Wednesday.

Diego Simeone's side finished last season empty-handed and came fourth in La Liga, with the Rojiblancos hoping to be significantly stronger in the top flight this season, with or without the Argentine forward.

Perez at Villarreal

Villarreal impressed in La Liga last season as they came third under Marcelino Garcia Toral, who departed at the end of the campaign and has been replaced by Inigo Perez.

The 38-year-old coach earned praise for his work at Rayo Vallecano, whom he led to the Conference League final, earning the step up to helm the Yellow Submarine.

With exciting attacking players in the squad including Ayoze Perez, Nicolas Pepe and Alberto Moleiro, Perez and Villarreal seems on paper a good match and they could be an exciting team to watch this season.

They visit Racing Santander on Sunday before an early test against Atletico Madrid on August 23, one of their rivals for a top four spot.

Back from the depths

Three historically significant clubs returned to La Liga after lengthy absences in Racing Santander, Deportivo La Coruna and Malaga.

Many will remember the latter two from their participation in the Champions League, with Depor reaching the semi-finals in 2004, losing out to Mourinho's Porto.

Malaga reached the quarter-finals in 2013, but like Depor slumped down into Spain's third tier.



Deputy Commissioner Captain(R) Ali Ijaz is distributing trophies to successful players on the occasion of Independence Day match at Punjab Squash Club

Pakistan face England in FIH World Cup opener

SPORTS DESK, KARACHI: Pakistan will launch their FIH Men's World Cup campaign against England on Saturday with a young Green-shirts side eager to make a strong impression after an eight-year absence from the global showpiece.

The Pool D opener at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands, is scheduled to begin at 10pm PST. Pakistan team manager Muhammad Awais Qarni said the players were fit, excited and ready for the challenge. "Yes, the boys are fit and very excited," Awais told The Express Tribune from Amstelveen on Friday. "It's a young team and barring Ammad Shakeel Butt and skipper Abu Bakar,



the rest of the players are set to play their first World Cup." Pakistan have used their preparations in the Netherlands to expose the squad to different conditions. They played warm-up matches against South Africa and Japan, losing 3-1 to the former before securing a 2-1 victory over Japan.

Bangladesh dominate day two despite fiery Starc-Miraz incident

SPORTS DESK, Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc and Bangladesh all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz were involved in a heated on-field exchange during the second day of the opening Test at Marrara Stadium on Friday. The incident took place during the fifth delivery of Starc's 21st over when Miraz pushed the ball towards point and called for a quick single. The pair collided while the Bangladesh batter attempted to complete the run, leading to a brief confrontation.

Under the Laws of Cricket, bowlers must avoid entering the protected area of the pitch during their follow-through, while batters are also expected to avoid running through the centre of the wicket.

Miraz initially appeared to be watching Starc before shifting his focus towards the ball, only to find himself almost face-to-face with the Australian pacer.

Umpire Kumar Dharmasena quickly stepped in and warned the Bangladesh all-rounder against running on the protected area. Television cameras captured the exchange, with Starc telling Miraz: "It's my follow-



through, now your follow-through. Get off the wicket." Miraz responded by explaining that he had been tracking the ball and had not noticed Starc in his path.

The situation cooled quickly and did not develop into a more serious confrontation.



A family celebrates Independence Day on Mall Road in the city, expressing their patriotic spirit



Pakistan Customs and Hong Kong Customs sign a Cooperative Arrangement on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance

DPM/FM Dar reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to peace, security, prosperity

APP- ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace, dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect among nations.

In a message on the occasion of 80th independence day of Pakistan, Ishaq Dar extended greetings to the people of Pakistan, overseas Pakistanis and all those participating in Independence Day celebrations.

Paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the deputy PM said the founding leader's visionary leadership, determination and commitment transformed the demand for a separate homeland into reality.

He also paid tribute to the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement for their courage, dedication and sacrifices.

Mr. Dar said Pakistan had made significant progress over the past eight decades in fields including education, science and technology, economic development, sports and culture. He described Pakistan as a resilient nation of more than 250 million people, united by a shared history, heritage and common aspirations.

The deputy prime minister said Pakistan had also strengthened its position internationally through expanding diplomatic engagement, economic and connectivity partnerships, as well as defence and security cooperation.

Highlighting recent diplomatic developments, he referred to the Makkah Accord signed with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, describing it as a landmark agreement reflecting a shared commitment to deeper strategic cooperation,

collective security and addressing regional and international peace and security challenges.

He also recalled the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, saying it reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to safeguard its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity while remaining committed to international law, responsible statecraft and regional peace.

Ishaq Dar paid special tribute to Pakistan's armed forces, police and paramilitary forces, praising their courage and professionalism and acknowledging the sacrifices made in defending the country and maintaining peace and stability.

On regional security, the DPM/FM said recent events had highlighted the need for peaceful resolution of long-standing disputes, particularly the

Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He reiterated Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Pakistan has always stood for peace, dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect among nations," Dar said, reiterating that Islamabad would continue to pursue these principles.

The deputy prime minister called on the nation to draw inspiration from the ideals behind the creation of Pakistan and reaffirm its resolve to strengthen institutions, preserve national unity and harness the potential of the Pakistani people.

He expressed the hope that these efforts would help build a stronger, more prosperous and peaceful Pakistan for future generations.

Tajik Ambassador extends warm "Independence Day" greetings to Pakistani nation

APP- ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan, Yusuf Toir Sharifzoda, has extended heartfelt felicitations to the government and people of Pakistan on the country's 80th Independence Day, reaffirming Tajikistan's commitment to further strengthening the longstanding friendship and strategic partnership between the two brotherly nations. In his message, Ambassador Sharifzoda described it as a great honour to convey warm greetings to the Pakistani nation on its national day and expressed his best wishes for the country's continued peace, prosperity and progress. The ambassador highlighted the deep-rooted historical, civilizational and cultural links between Tajikistan and Pakistan, noting that the peoples of the two countries had maintained close and friendly relations for centuries. He said Pakistan holds a special place in Tajikistan's foreign relations, stressing that Dushanbe attaches great importance to the friendly ties and strategic partnership between the two countries. "Today, relations between Tajikistan and Pakistan are expanding in a spirit of mutual trust and understanding, with ample opportunities for their further development," he said.

80th Independence Day calls for renewed commitment to inclusive, prosperous Pakistan: CEO FGP

APP- ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Anwar, Founder and CEO of Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP), has extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Pakistan on the country's 80th Independence Day and called for a renewed national commitment to democracy, equality, peace and shared prosperity. Paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and all those who struggled for the creation of Pakistan, Anwar said that independence is not only a historic achievement but also a continuing responsibility. The nation must work collectively to uphold constitutional values, the rule of law, equal citizenship and respect for human dignity. "Quaid-e-Azam envisioned Pakistan as a democratic and inclusive state where every citizen would enjoy equal rights and opportunities, regardless of faith, gender, ethnicity or social background. Transforming this vision into reality must remain our common national purpose," he stated. The CEO of FGP emphasized that Pakistan's young population is its greatest strength. Greater investment is needed in quality education, skills development, entrepreneurship, civic awareness and decent employment. Women and girls must also be provided with equal access to education, technology, economic opportunities and leadership roles.

August 14: symbol of faith, freedom, national resolve: Gilani



APP- ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday said August 14 was not merely a date but a symbol of faith, freedom, sovereignty and national resolve.

Addressing the national Independence Day ceremony at the Convention Centre in Islamabad, he said the day reminded the nation of the historic struggle of Muslims of the subcontinent.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry and other government officials attended the ceremony.

A large number of people, students and artists, also attended the event. Students and artists presented national songs on the occasion.

Gilani paid tribute to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and those who sacrificed their lives during the Pakistan Movement.

August 14: symbol of faith, freedom, national resolve: Gilani

He also paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the security and defence of the country. "The Pakistani nation is proud of

its brave armed forces," he said. He added that the entire nation stood with the armed forces in defending the country.

The chairman said women were a key force behind national development. He called for equal opportunities for women in education, healthcare, employment and economic empowerment.

He described the youth as Pakistan's most valuable asset and future.

He stressed the need to provide them with education, skills and opportunities in science, technology and the digital economy.

Gilani said national unity, the rule of law, merit and justice were essential to overcoming the country's challenges.

He said investment in industry, agriculture, exports and modern technology was necessary to strengthen the national economy.

Expanding opportunities in education, healthcare, employment and business was also vital for sustainable development, he added.

"Pakistan is not merely a piece of land but an ideology and a national commitment," Gilani said.

He stressed that the law must be

equal for all. He also called for protecting vulnerable people and respecting the rights of minorities.

The chairman said Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir represented the colours of Pakistan's unity.

He said the country's diverse languages, cultures and traditions were not a weakness but a national strength.

The chairman said Pakistan wanted peaceful relations with neighbouring and other countries based on cooperation and mutual respect.

He said Pakistan preferred dialogue, cooperation and diplomacy over war.

Gilani described the Makkah Defence Agreement as an important diplomatic and strategic achievement for Pakistan.

He said the agreement had created new opportunities for regional cooperation, confidence-building and collective security.

He said Pakistan's diplomatic and defence successes were the result of the vision of its political and military leadership.

"Pakistan is moving forward under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir," he said.

Gilani reiterated Pakistan's support for the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

He also said Pakistan would continue supporting justice, freedom and sovereignty for the oppressed people of Palestine.



A view of Railway Headquarters decorated with lights in connection with Independence Day celebrations

Shaza Fatima stresses digital sovereignty, stronger cybersecurity

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday stressed the growing importance of technology and cybersecurity, saying national sovereignty now also depended on protecting Pakistan's digital space.

Addressing a flag-hoisting ceremony on Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, she said independence in 2026 was no longer limited to physical borders. It also included digital sovereignty. She said technology was playing an increasing role in national security, governance, the economy, health, education, agriculture and industry.

"Today, we are celebrating the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan. It is an important day in our history, and we are celebrating it with great passion and enthusiasm. Undoubtedly, this is the day of the living nations," she said.

The minister said the Independence



creating physical boundaries and a territory that people could call Pakistan. "But today, in 2026, that independence, that freedom means, on the one hand, our physical boundaries and our nation-state, but on the other hand, increasingly, it is also about digital sovereignty," she said.

She said the world was undergoing a major shift towards technology, with digital tools becoming important in health, education, finance, agriculture and industry. She said national security had also become part of the technology landscape. "Last year, when we fought a war against our enemy, where our border guards, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif, and under the leadership of the Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Defense Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Sahib, just like our army protected our physical boundaries through conventional warfare.

Day celebrations should also be a time for national introspection.

"On the one hand, we are celebrating all these things, but on the other hand, we have to do a little introspection. In the last 79 years, which will be 80 years next year, what have we done, how have we contributed, and moving forward, which is our vision for 2047, God willing, we have to do a little introspection," she added.

She said independence in 1947 meant

Shifa International Hospitals celebrates Independence Day with patriotic spirit

APP- ISLAMABAD: The 79th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic spirit at Shifa International Hospitals on Friday, with employees, patients, members of civil society and the general public attending a flag-hoisting ceremony.

Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Director General of Immigration and Passports, was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Mr Randhawa appreciated Team Shifa for its commitment to providing modern and quality healthcare.

Recalling his recent personal experience at the hospital when his mother was admitted, he praised the professionalism, compassion and quality of care provided by the medical and support teams.

Highlighting the importance of the Pakistani passport, he said it was not merely a travel document but also a symbol of Pakistani citizenship, dignity and sovereignty.

He said every genuine Pakistani passport carried the country's honour across the world.

Mr Randhawa congratulated the nation on the 79th Independence Day and the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement. He described the agreement as an important milestone that strengthened collective security and brotherly ties with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Dr Zeeshan Bin Ishtiaque, Chief Executive Officer of Shifa International Hospitals, highlighted the importance of this year's Independence Day celebrations.



Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi is expressing solidarity with the Consul Generals of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Oman at a grand ceremony held at the Governor House to mark Pakistan's Independence Day