

US felicitates Pakistan

WASHINGTON: United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio has extended felicitations on Independence Day of Pakistan. In a message, Rubio appreciated Islamabad's engagement on counterterrorism and trade. He also reiterated President Donald Trump's intention to explore "new areas of economic cooperation in critical minerals and hydrocarbons" between the two countries. — Agencies



@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

No. 194

Regd. No. 241

SAFAR 20 1447 -- FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

Top civil, military leaders honoured

President confers awards to recognize contributions during Marka-e-Haq

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday conferred prestigious national awards to federal ministers, civil servants, armed forces personnel, journalists, and other civilians, in recognition of their extraordinary valor, courage, and respective contributions during the Marka-e-Haq Operation Bunyan-Um-Marsoos.

The civil and military awards were conferred at a special investiture ceremony, held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on the occasion of the Independence Day. The ceremony commenced with the national anthem and a recitation from the Holy Quran.

The president, accompanied by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, was warmly welcomed at the venue by a smartly turned-out contingent of the President's Bodyguard. The highlight of the investiture ceremony was the special standing ovation of the attendees to the families of the martyrs, injured soldiers and widows of the martyrs who received the awards in lieu of the martyred soldiers.

The federal cabinet members, members of the parliament, civil and military officers and members of the civil society rose in their seats and rendered resounding applause for their sacrifice.

President conferred Hilal-i-Juraat on Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sindhu, Nishan-i-Imtiaz on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Law & Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudry, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed



Ashraf, MNA, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Advisor to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs and Inter Provincial Coordination, Rana Sana Ullah Khan.

The president also conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz upon Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his successfully diplomatic engagement post Marka-e-Haq that exposed India's false and concocted narrative during the war. Hilal-i-Imtiaz was conferred on Senior Defence Analyst, Lt. Gen (R) Muhammad Saeed, SAPM on Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi, Minister for Climate Change and Environment Coordination, Musadik Masood Malik, Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson, National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, Ambassador at Large on Economic Diplomacy, Umar Farooq, Former Federal Minister, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Senator, Faisal Ali Sabzwari, Senator, Bushra Anjum, Former Foreign Secretary, Amb (R) Jalil Abbas Jilani, Former Foreign Secretary, Amb Tehmina Janjua, Attorney General of Pakistan, Mansoor Usman Awan, DG (I.B.), Fuad Asadullah Khan, Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema, and Advisor to the Prime Minister, Dr. Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah.

The Sitara-i-Imtiaz was conferred

on Chairman PTA, Maj Gen (R) Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Foreign Secretary, Amna Baloch, Secretary Interior, Capt. Muhammad Khurram Agha, Home Secretary Punjab, Noor-ul-Amin Mengal, Chief Secretary AJ&K, Flight Lieutenant (R) Khushal Khan, Secretary Information Technology, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Secretary Information, Ambreen Jan, Secretary Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza, and Commissioner Indus Water Treaty, Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah.

The Tamgha-i-Imtiaz was awarded to DG PFSA, Dr. Muhammad Amjad, DIG Operations, Punjab, Waqas Nazir, DIG Security, Punjab, Kamran Adil, DIG Special Branch, AJK, Hassan Qayyum, Prosecutor General Punjab, Syed Farhad Ali Shah, RPO Bahawalpur, Rai Babar Saeed, DPO Bahawalpur, Hasan Iqbal, DPO Sheikhupura, Bilal Zafar Sheikh, CPO Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Mehmoood Hamdani, SSP Special Branch, Punjab, Muhammad Maaz Zafar, Commissioner Rawalpindi, Abdul Aamer Khattak, DC Bahawalpur, Dr. Farhan Farooq, DC Sheikhupura, Shahid Imran March, AC Muridke, Touseef Bhatti, AC Okara, Rab Nawaz, DG Rescue 1122, Dr. Rizwan Hussain, Director Civil Defence Punjab, Zaighum Nawaz, Commissioner Poonch, Masood Ur Rehman, DC Neelum Nadeem Janjua, AC Hajira, Waleed Anwar,

SP Neelum, Khawaja Siddique, DSP Hajira, Jabeen Kausar, International Affairs Expert, Ahmed Hassan Arabi, Senior Defence and Security Analyst, Dr. Qamar Cheema, PIO, Mubashir Hassan, PSO to Prime Minister, Muhammad Anas Iqbal, JS to Prime Minister, Salman Sharif, Joint Secretary to Prime Minister, Maliha Shahid, Speech Writer to Prime Minister, Arshad Mahmood Malik, ARY News Anchorperson, Waseem Badami, Geo News, Hamid Mir, Hum News, Mansoor Ali Khan, Express TV, Javed Ch, ARY News Anchorperson, Aneeqa Nisar, Dunya News, Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami, Samaa News, Talat Hussain, Geo News, Saleem Safi, Express News, Amir Ilyas Rana, Media person, Muneeb Farooq, Ansar Abbasi, Naseem Zehra, Badar Shehbaz, and Nadeem Malik.

However, Tamgha-i-Shuja'at (civilians) was conferred on Munir Ahmed S/o Mumtaz Mirza, Muhammad Hussain S/o Ghulam Muhammad, Ghulam Abbas S/o Muhammad Yousaf, Bashir Alam Awan (Councillor), Khawaja Ghulam Ahmed (VDC Members), Numberdar Akbar Mir S/o Rehman Mir, Muhammad Shafqat Khan S/o Muhammad Ayub and Rizwan Uz Zaman (Journalist).

The president granted the Military awards to the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force for conspicuous courage and supreme sacrifice rendered during Operation "Bunyan-Um-Marsoos". 8 Sitara-i-Jurat, 5 Tamgha-i-Jurat, 24 Sitara-i-Basalat, 45 Tamgha-i-Basalat, 146 Imtiaz Asnad, 259 COAS Commendation Cards and 1 Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) have been granted.

The officers conferred with Sitara-i-Jurat were Wing Commander Bilal Raza, GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Hamid Ibne Masood, GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader M Yousaf Khan, GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Osama Ishfaq, GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Hassan Anees, GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader

Talat Hassan, GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Fida Muhammad Khan, GD(P), Air Force, and Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Ashhad Amir, GD(P), Air Force.

The officers and men conferred with Tamgha-i-Jurat included L/Hav Amir Sheraz (Shaheed), Baloch, Nk Abdul Rehman (Shaheed), SSG, L/Nk Ikram Ullah (Shaheed), AK, Sep Adeel Akbar (Shaheed), Punjab, and Capt Ali Hassan, FF.

The Sitara-i-Basalat was conferred on Sep Nisar Ali (Shaheed), PR (Pb), Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik, HI(M), Baloch, Lt Gen Nauman Zakria, HI(M), SI, AC, Lt Gen Syed Aamer Raza, HI(M), AC, Lt Gen Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, HI(M), AD, Lt Gen Shahid Imtiaz, HI(M), AK, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, HI(M) EME, Maj Gen Wajid Aziz, HI (M), Punjab, Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah, Punjab, Maj Gen Syed Muhammad Jawad Tariq, FF, Maj Gen Tajdeed Mumtaz, Baloch, Capt Muhammad Haider Ali, Arty, Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz, HI(M), Navy, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib, HI(M), Navy, Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, HI(M), Navy, Rear Admiral Shahzad Hamid HI(M), TBt, Navy, Capt Muhammad Atif Amin, PN, Navy, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Ehsan Ulhaq, GD(P), Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Attaullah Zeb, GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Zia Aftab, GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Muhammad Noman Ali Khan, GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Ali Javed Hashmi, Engg, Air Force, and Air Commodore Sajjad Haider, AD, Air Force.

The following officers and men conferred with Tamgha-i-Basalat were Hav Muhammad Naveed (Shaheed), AD, Nk Muhammad Waqar Khalid (Shaheed), Punjab, L/Nk Dilawar Khan (Shaheed), FF, Brig Muhammad Abrar Afzal, CMI, Brig Mubashar Ahmad Abbasi, FF, Brig Affan Ihtasham, AC, Lt Col Zaheer Abbas, AK, Lt Col Muhammad Shahzib Rafi, Arty, Maj Shehryar Sajid, Sigs, Lt Muhammad

Two killed in Balochistan F.P. Report

QUETTA: Two individuals, including a law enforcement officer, lost their lives in separate assaults involving grenades and gunfire across Balochistan province on Thursday. One person also sustained wounds in a grenade explosion. In Quetta's Kili Zairin area, unidentified motorcycle-riding assailants targeted a police vehicle with a hand grenade.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visits under construction IT Park.

4 cops martyred, 7 injured in militant attacks in Dir

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Four policemen were martyred and seven others injured when militants carried out coordinated attacks on a Quick Response Force (QRF) van in Upper Dir and multiple police posts in Lower Dir late on Wednesday night, officials and police sources said. The attacks were carried out at a time when the nation is celebrating its independence day across the country.

In Upper Dir's Panakot area, gunmen ambushed a QRF van shortly before midnight, killing three police officials including LHC Akbar Hussain, LHC Nasr Minullah, and driver Ismail on the spot. Six others, including policemen and Frontier Constabulary personnel identified as LHC Jalal, Rahimullah, Niaz, Abdul Ghaffar, Rahim, and Riasat Khan, sustained injuries and were shifted to hospital.

Police said the attackers targeted the vehicle with automatic weapons, but the elite force personnel travelling in a separate vehicle remained unharmed. All units in the area were placed on high alert following the assault.

In Lower Dir's Maidan subdivision, militants attacked three police posts in Lajbok, Shadas, and

Kolal Dherai, in separate incidents during the night. Constable Sanaullah was martyred in the Lajbok attack, which occurred around 12:45am, while another constable, Sultan Zareen, sustained minor injuries in the assault on Shadas post at about 1:15am. The third attack, on Kolal Dherai post around 2:30am, was repulsed without casualties. Funeral prayers for the fallen policemen in both districts were held with full police honours. In Upper Dir, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed, Additional IGP Counter-Terrorism Department Shaukat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Malakand Sher Akbar Khan, and other senior officials attended the funerals of the three policemen martyred in the Panakot attack.

In Lower Dir, the funeral of Constable Sanaullah was attended by District Police Officer Abdul Salam Khalid, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan, Commandant Dir Task Force Brigadier Sanaullah, and a large number of people from different walks of life. The martyred constable's body was later taken to his native village in Lajbok for burial. Speaking to reporters

during his visit to Upper and Lower Dir, IGP Zulfiqar Hameed paid rich tribute to the fallen policemen, describing them as "the pride and honour of the force" who had "lit the lamps of peace with their blood." He said the militants' "cowardly attacks" had failed to dent the morale of the police, adding that the force's resolve was "stronger than ever" to pursue and eliminate terrorist elements.

"Their sacrifices will not go in vain," he said. "We will intensify operations against these anti-state elements, and the families of our martyrs will never be left alone. Every possible measure is being taken to modernize the police, strengthen our response capacity, and ensure peace in the province," the IGP added.

The IGP also visited DHQ hospital Timergara to inquire after the injured policemen and directed health officials to provide them with the best possible treatment. He praised the quick response of police units during the night-long engagements, saying it had thwarted potentially larger losses. Security forces later conducted search operations in both districts, but there were no immediate reports of arrests.

Flash floods kill 46 in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (Reuters): At least 46 people died and more than 200 were missing following sudden, heavy rain in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), officials said on Thursday, the second such disaster in the Himalayas in a little over a week.

The incident occurred in Chasoti town of Kishtwar district, a stopover point on a popular pilgrimage route. It comes a little over a week after a heavy flood and mudslide engulfed an entire village in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand. The flood washed away a community kitchen and a security post set up in the village, a pit stop along the pilgrimage route to the Machail Mata temple, one of the officials, who declined to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the media about the incident.

"A large number of pilgrims had gathered for lunch and they were washed away," the official said. "The news is grim and accurate, verified information from the area hit by the cloudburst is slow in arriving," Omar Abdullah, the chief minister of IIOJK said in a post on X. Television footage showed pilgrims crying in fear as water flooded the village.

The disaster occurred at 11.30 am local time, Ramesh Kumar, the divisional commissioner of Kishtwar district, told news agency ANI, adding that local police and disaster response officials had reached the scene. "Army, air force teams have also been activated. Search and rescue operations are underway," Kumar said. A cloudburst, according to the Indian Meteorological Department, is a sudden, intense downpour of over 100 mm (4 inches) of rain in just one hour that can trigger sudden floods, landslides, and devastation, especially in mountainous regions during the monsoon.

The local weather office in Srinagar predicted intense showers for several regions in Kashmir on Thursday, including Kishtwar, asking residents to stay away from loose structures, electric poles and old trees as there was a possibility of mudslides and flash floods.

PM orders early completion of IT Park in Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing displeasure over the slow pace of construction of the Technology Park, directed that the IT Park should be completed as soon as possible.

"This project must be completed within the time frame specified in the initial instructions," prime minister said during his visit to the under-construction Technology Park here. He further instructed that the provision of facilities in the project must meet international standards.

"All responsible stakeholders should accelerate their efforts for the completion of this project," the prime minister stressed. Briefing the prime minister, the officials informed that the IT Park consisted of two underground floors, a ground floor, and nine upper floors.

The Park will include offices, an incubation center, a business support center, R&D laboratories, a Level III data center, an auditorium, and parking for 1,200 vehicles. The prime

minister was further told that objective of the IT Park was to create jobs for youth, boost economic growth, enhance global IT competitiveness, and bridge the digital divide.

Shehbaz hoists national flag to mark 78th Independence Day: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hoisted the national flag to mark the celebration of the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan.

The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan Monument - an iconic structure representing the national unity and strength of the Pakistani people. The event was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Senate Chairman, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, federal ministers and dozens of students.

As the prime minister arrived at the venue, the children attired in national cultural dresses, presented him flowers. Prime Minister Shehbaz, who wore black sherwani over white shalwar and kameez, hoisted the national flag as the crowd stood in respect. The ceremony also

marked the playing of the national anthem and national songs.

Later, the prime minister laid a wreath at the monument, offering prayers for Pakistan's development, progress, and prosperity. The Independence Day was dawned with the booming of 31-gun salutes in Islamabad and 21-gun salutes in all provincial capitals.

Senator Aimal Wali Khan calls on Premier: Senator Aimal Wali Khan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and invited him to attend the All Parties Conference organized by the Awami National Party (ANP).

The prime minister directed the formation of a committee to represent the Pakistan Muslim League-N in the Conference. Senator Aimal Wali Khan congratulated the Prime Minister on the occasion of Independence Day. Overall political situation of the country was also discussed during the meeting. Advisor to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah and Special Assistant Talha Burki were also present in the meeting.

(Continued on Back Page)

Glacial flood cuts off KKH, Punjab issues evacuation orders

F.P. Report

GILGIT, LAHORE: Hundreds of tourists and locals were left stranded in Gilgit-Baltistan on Wednesday after a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) wiped out portions of the Karakoram Highway (KKH). At the same time, authorities in Punjab issued evacuation orders for communities along the Sutlej River, warning of severe monsoon rains and rising floodwaters.

The disaster unfolded in Gulmit, Gojal (Hunza), where intense glacier melt triggered a massive flood through the Juchar nullah on Tuesday evening. The surge destroyed a women-run restaurant, a government tourist facility centre, farmland, orchards, and key infrastructure, including power and internet lines, according to emergency responders.

A bridge and large sections of the KKH were washed away, cutting off all routes to and from China via the Kunjerab Pass. Local residents said they had never witnessed such powerful flooding in the area. The destruction of fibre optic lines also resulted in the complete loss of mobile and internet connectivity.

Additionally, floodwaters damaged a power transmission line near Sost, leaving several communities in the dark. Efforts to reopen the highway have been stalled by continuous mudflows and rising water, making even

pedestrian movement dangerous.

In nearby Hassanabad, Hunza, flooding linked to the Shishper Glacier continued to erode land, destroying two more homes and threatening others. Electricity was also cut off to Roshanabad Mohallah after a pole collapsed. With KKH partially destroyed, traffic is now being rerouted through Sas Valley in Nagar.

Flash floods also hit Shigar district, damaging homes in Dogoro village of Basha. Meanwhile, a glacial flood in the Horchas nullah damaged crops and blocked access to the route leading to K2.

The regional government reported that restoration efforts are underway, though officials warned that the increasing frequency of climate-induced disasters is reshaping the geography of Gilgit-Baltistan. Rising river levels, landslides, and erosion are complicating rescue and repair operations. Authorities have pledged to speed up relief efforts across affected districts including Shigar, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghizer, Astore, and Diamer.

In Punjab's Kasur district, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has directed immediate evacuation of people living along the Sutlej River amid forecasts of severe flooding. Officials warned that river levels are expected to rise further next week, coinciding with what is anticipated to be the seventh—and

most intense—monsoon spell of the season, which has already led to 164 deaths across the province.

During an emergency visit to Kasur, PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia urged citizens to move to safer areas without delay. He chaired a high-level meeting with local officials to prepare for potential flooding. Preparations are in full swing, including the clearing of storm drains and reinforcement of embankments. The upcoming weather forecast predicts heavy rainfall across upper Punjab between August 13–17, followed by further downpours in other regions from August 18–21.

Major cities such as Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, and Sialkot are at risk of urban flooding. Additionally, the PDMA has issued warnings for possible landslides in Murree and Galliat. So far, the ongoing monsoon season has resulted in over 164 deaths, 582 injuries, the destruction of 216 homes, and the loss of 121 livestock.

Monitoring data indicates low-level flooding along the Indus River at Kalabagh, Tarbela, and Chashma, with Tarbela Dam nearly full at 96% capacity. Kasur's Deputy Commissioner stated that necessary preparations have been made to address any flooding, including the deployment of staff and equipment at sensitive locations and the ongoing de-silting of drainage systems.



KARACHI: Armed forces commanders paying homage to Quaid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during Guard of Honour ceremony on the occasion of 78th Independence Day celebration, held at Jinnah Mausoleum.

Rescue 1122 KP observes Independence Day

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A graceful and dignified ceremony was held at the Provincial Headquarters of Rescue 1122 in Peshawar to mark Pakistan's Independence Day. The event commenced with the national flag hoisting, a salute to the flag, and the recitation of the national anthem. The atmosphere resonated with patriotic fervor as the crowd chanted "Pakistan Zindabad."

Director General Rescue 1122, Mr. Muhammad Tayyab Abdullah, offered a special prayer for the safety, progress, and prosperity of the country. He also visited the Yadgar-e-Shuhada (Martyrs' Memorial) to pay homage to the fallen heroes of Rescue 1122, offering prayers for their elevated ranks in the hereafter and patience for their families.

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of an Independence Day cake, in which a large number of Rescue personnel and children enthusiastically participated. A young girl delivered an inspiring speech highlighting the importance of 14th August, receiving warm applause from the audience.

Turbat Varsity marks August 14

F.P. Report

TURBAT: The University of Turbat (UoT) held a ceremony on Thursday to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day and the historic Marka-e-Haq. University officials, faculty, and staff were in attendance. The event began with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an, followed by heartfelt tributes to the independence movement's heroes and the martyrs of Marka-e-Haq.

Several dignitaries, including Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Gul Hasan, addressed the audience. Dr. Hasan noted that August 14th is not just a day for celebration, but also a time to reflect on the sacrifices made for freedom. He reminded attendees that Pakistan's founders sacrificed their lives to establish a free nation.

He highlighted the importance of Marka-e-Haq, saying it demonstrates that wars are won not only with weapons, but also with unwavering faith and commitment. He commended the bravery of Pakistan's armed forces in achieving victory in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-al-Marsoos, which he described as a response to Indian aggression.

Dr. Hasan said commemorating this day reflects UoT's commitment to fostering patriotism and national pride. He reiterated the university's dedication to providing quality education to develop capable leaders. Other speakers highlighted the significance of unity, adherence to the Constitution, the rule of law, and economic stability. They urged citizens to dedicate themselves to the nation's development.

They stressed the importance of truth and justice, encouraging young people to contribute to the nation's strength through education and ethical conduct. The speakers also called for a commitment to eradicating prejudice and working towards a just and prosperous Pakistan.

PTI rallies across Sindh for Imran's release

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) supporters rallied across Sindh on Independence Day today, demanding the release of Imran Khan and restoration of what they term the "public mandate."

The main demonstration in Karachi commenced at midnight on August 13th at Millennium Mall. PTI Sindh president Haleem Adil Sheikh presided over the gathering, which began with the national anthem. Groups from various city locations joined the procession, waving national and party flags.

On the evening of August 14th, another significant march proceeded from Insaf House to the Quaid-i-Azam mausoleum. This procession was spearheaded by PTI Karachi division president Raja

Azhar and other prominent party figures, including Dr Masroor Sial, Arsalan Khalid, Faheem Khan, Fauzia Siddiqui, Serina Khan, Fizza Zishan, Jansher Junejo, and Shujaat Ali Khan. Police intervention to halt the march and apprehend Raja Azhar was met with resistance from party loyalists. Reports indicate that some participants were subjected to physical force by law enforcement.

In Hyderabad, Haleem Adil Sheikh led a procession from Tonga Chowk to Hyder Chowk. Similar gatherings occurred in Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Khipro, Ghotki, Larkana, and other towns throughout Sindh. Addressing the crowds, Haleem Adil Sheikh connected Imran Khan's cause to the "true freedom" envi-

sioned by Allama Iqbal. He emphasized the demand for the return of the "stolen mandate" and the establishment of the rule of law, linking political stability to economic progress.

Sheikh praised the Karachi participants, proclaiming them the "true founders of Pakistan" and affirming their support for Imran Khan. He lamented the lack of development and democratic benefits reaching the populace despite Pakistan's resources. Various PTI branches, including the Women's Wing, Labor Wing, Insaf Lawyers Forum, Insaf Youth Wing, Insaf Students Federation, and Kisan Wing, participated. The Insaf Lawyers Forum also organized "Haqiqi Azadi" rallies at the City Court in Karachi, Hyderabad Bar, and Larkana Bar.

WSSP celebrates Independence Day

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) celebrated Independence Day with national zeal and enthusiasm. In this regard, cake-cutting ceremonies were organized in zonal offices, and walks were held. Glowing tributes were paid to the leaders who sacrificed for independence and to those who laid down their lives for the defense and stability of the country, especially the martyrs of Marka-i-Haq (the Battle of Truth). All offices were illuminated, and prayers were offered for the development of the country and

the nation.

Meanwhile, in light of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's directives, a special cleanliness campaign titled "PakSaaf-o-Shafaf" Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" is in progress with full swing, more than 2,500 personnel are taking part, and waste is being collected using nearly 400 small and large vehicles. The campaign is focused on cleaning drainage channels and removing garbage dumps from vacant spaces. Machinery is also being used for drain cleaning.

In collaboration with elected local representa-

tives, a public awareness drive is also underway, urging citizens to dispose of waste only once a day at designated points. Walks are being held daily, sessions are organized for various segments of society, and cleanliness messages are being spread through religious scholars to raise awareness about citizens' responsibilities. Awareness teams are visiting homes to persuade people to dispose of garbage at designated places, use water only as needed, and pay their bills on time. In addition, work on replacing water supply pipelines in various areas has also been further expedited.

Youth dies due to alleged wrong injection at private hospital

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A youth died in Larkana due to an alleged wrong injection at a private hospital in Dokri city, on Thursday.

According to details, 22-year-old Asghar Ali son of Gul Hassan Khokhar, developed a boil yesterday due to an alleged wrong injection by doctors at a private hospital in Dokri city. His heirs admitted him to a hospital in Larkana where he died in agony.

According to the heirs, the wrong injection by doctors at the private hospital in Dokri caused poison to enter his body, which is why he died. On the other hand, after offering the funeral prayers for the youth, he was handed over to his mother in the graveyard of village Yar Muhammad Khokhar.

Throwball Competition held: The Sports Department of the Sindh Government organized the

Throwball Girls Championship at the Khuhra Sports Complex on the fourth day of the ongoing Sports Festival in Larkana. On this occasion, the District Sports Officer welcomed the guests participating in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Throwball Girls Championship has been organized by the Youth Department in Larkana as part of the celebration of Independence on August 14. The final match was between the teams of Government Girls Degree College Larkana and IBA Public School Larkana, in which the team of Government Girls Degree College won the final match by 21 points and became the runner-up of the championship, while Sachal School Larkana also won the third position.

SMBBMU celebrates Independence Day:

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) Larkana organized a grand function on the occasion of "Muarka Haq" and Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, hosted by the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nusrat Shah.

The guests of the function were Special Commissioner Larkana Tahir Hussain Sangi and MPA Jamil Soomro. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh Khair Muhammad Sheikh, Chairman District Council Ijaz Ahmed Leghari, Mayor Larkana Anwar Ali Lahar and other guests were also present at the function. On this occasion, a multimedia report presented the activities of SMBBMU and the free medical campuses set up in different cities, while the children and faculty of Sweet Home presented national songs and speeches.

Independence Day in Dubai celebrated

DUBAI: The Pakistani community in the United Arab Emirates marked Pakistan's Independence Day with fervent displays of patriotism and pride, culminating in a record-breaking gathering of approximately 60,000 people at Dubai Expo City on August 10th.

Flag-raising events took place at the Pakistani Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate in Dubai, attracting families from all over the Emirates. Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi led the ceremony in Abu Dhabi, joining citizens and community leaders in honoring the national occasion. In his address, Ambassador Tirmizi underscored the importance of unity, faith, and discipline as guiding principles for Pakistan's future. He acknowledged the nation's strength and solidarity in overcoming obstacles and lauded recent landmark achievements in national security.

The envoy also highlighted the significant role of overseas Pakistanis in strengthening ties between the two countries, citing their contribution of \$7.9 billion in remittances last year and their crucial service to the UAE's development. Ambassador Tirmizi announced the introduction of a digital platform for tracking passport and National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP) applications, praising the embassy's IT department for this innovative development. He also shared that discussions are underway with several Pakistani private educational institutions to establish branches in the UAE, aiming to improve access to quality, affordable schooling. — Agencies

Naqvi pays tribute to nation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated the nation on Pakistan's Independence Day, calling it a day of sacrifice, struggle, and the fulfillment of the dream of freedom.

In his special message, Naqvi said Pakistan is a great blessing from Almighty Allah and it is the duty of every citizen to value and protect it. Quoting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said the creation of Pakistan was destined, not a gift, but the result of a long and determined struggle.

The interior minister reminded the nation that blood, tears, and martyrdom were the price paid for independence. "Today's Pakistan stands firmly on the foundation of those sacrifices," he said, saluting the millions of Muslims who made invaluable contributions to keep the flame of freedom alive.

Naqvi praised the martyrs who laid down their lives for the peace and defense of the country, calling them "the crown of honor for the nation." He assured that their supreme sacrifices will always be remembered. He also paid tribute to the courage and resilience of the families of the martyrs, saying they are like family to the entire nation.

Highlighting Pakistan's recent achievements, Naqvi said that by inflicting a crushing defeat on the enemy in the "battle for truth," the country has proven that the motto of "Faith, Unity, Discipline" remains its greatest strength, identity, and guarantee of survival. "This is the Pakistan of 2025, fully capable of defending itself," he said, adding that the nation's victory has made this year's Independence Day celebrations even more special.

KP Chief Secy affirms decisive action to restore peace

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a media interaction following a ceremony at the Peshawar Civil Secretariat, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah, stated that the security forces are conducting intelligence-based actions in certain Merged Districts to clear areas affected by the presence of terrorists and to provide a secure environment for the local population.

Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah addressed the temporary displacement of some families, noting that they have moved to safer locations as a precautionary measure. The government is providing these families with all necessary facilities, and the provincial cabinet has approved the release of two billion rupees for this purpose. He expressed confidence that these areas will soon be completely

secured, allowing the affected residents to return to their homes.

Shahab Ali Shah highlighted a key shift in the security dynamic, stating that terrorists are not only facing the formidable strength of the security forces but are also encountering robust public resistance. He emphasized that this popular defiance is playing a crucial role in the restoration of peace. He revealed that a detailed consultation was held yesterday between the local Jirga of Bajaur and security forces and the district administration to effectively advance the ongoing security clearance. The Chief Secretary made it clear that all actions in these areas are being taken in consultation with the local Jirga.

He identified two critical elements for the successful restoration of peace: the preparedness of the govern-

ment and security forces, and the awareness and cooperation of the public. Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah described the resurgence of terrorists in the merged districts as 'purposeless', which primarily harms the local populace. He explained that the presence of terrorists leads to the closure of businesses, disrupts educational institutions and hospitals, and cripples daily life.

He acknowledged the nation's significant sacrifices in this struggle, which had previously led to a marked improvement in the security situation and the establishment of peace. However, he attributed the recent resurgence of militancy to the volatile situation in the neighboring country, expressing hope that this wave would be temporary. He concluded by assuring that once peace is re-established, the pace of developmental projects will accelerate.

Pak army, FC committed to border security

F.P. Report

ZHOB: Commandant Zhub Militia, Brigadier Azhar Khan, has reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army and Para military force - the Frontier Corps Balochistan are unwavering in their noble mission to safeguarding the nation's frontiers, maintaining law and order, and promoting public welfare.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 'Independence Day cricket tournament' at Anar Jan Stadium here at Zhub Militia Headquarters, the newly appointed Brigadier Khan stressed that sustainable peace hinges on active community support.

"Zhub's historical and rich cultural importance is immense, and the dedication, passion and talent of

its youth in both nation-development and sports are commendable," he expressed pleasure. The ceremony drew a large turnout, including Wing Commander Lt Col Tanzeel, Maj Saad Tariq, principal BRC Guldar Wazir, notables Malik Abdul Sattar Mandokhel, Sardar Baz Khan Nasar, Sattar Kakar, Sardar Asmatullah Miankhel, Malik Gul Zaman Nasar, Kamal Babar, along with FC officers, journalists, BRC students, and a large number of sports enthusiasts.

In his welcome remarks, Major Saad congratulated both the winners and runners-up, noting that the tournament symbolized unity, sportsmanship, and the spirit of independence.



LAHORE: Commuters passing through a road during heavy downpour of monsoon season, at Mall road.

Magistrate orders exhumation in dead cause by torture

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Judicial magistrate has ordered the exhumation and post-mortem of a domestic worker who allegedly died as a result of torture by influential landlords. Judicial Magistrate Ali Raza has directed the Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital to form a medical board for the procedure, which is scheduled for August 16.

According to reports, a few days ago, influential landlord Syed Najam-ul-Hassan Shirazi and others allegedly subjected their domestic worker, Waseem Riaz, to brutal torture before forcing him to ingest poisonous pills, leading to his death. City Police registered a case against Syed Najam-ul-Hassan Shirazi and six other suspects; however, even after four days, no arrests had been made.

Relatives of the deceased, along with other family members, staged a protest against the incident. Despite this, police carried out the burial without any legal action or post-mortem examination. Notably, Waseem Riaz had recorded a video statement from an ambulance, detailing the torture he suffered.

The court has now ordered the exhumation and

post-mortem on August 16 to determine the exact cause of death. The DHQ Hospital's Medical Superintendent has been instructed to form a medical board to conduct the examination on the specified date.

DPO orders timely redressal of complaints: Under the supervision of District Police Officer Hafizabad, held 'Kuli Katcheri' at Hameedpura Police Post and Kassoki Police Station. The purpose of these sessions was to establish direct communication between the public and the police, address citizens' grievances, and ensure prompt justice.

During the open courts, public complaints and issues were carefully heard, and instructions were issued on the spot for the resolution of several matters. The DPO strictly directed the concerned officers to give priority to complainants' cases, ensure action on all applications within the stipulated time, and provide effective and lasting solutions by following up on each case.

DPO Atif Naz emphasized that open courts are an important means of promptly addressing public issues and building public trust in the police, adding that this initiative will continue in the future.

Pakistan Day celebrated in Tank

F.P. Report

TANK: Pakistan Day was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm in Tank, just like the rest of the country. Various events were organized across the district to commemorate the day.

The celebrations began with a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Deputy Commissioner's office, attended by officials from various departments and a large number of citizens. After the ceremony, rallies were organized by the district administration, Nawab of Tank, and the Saraiki National Movement.

Addressing the rally participants, Deputy Commissioner Tanveer Khan Khattak and Sector Commander FC South emphasized the importance of unity and solidarity among the people. They highlighted that Islam teaches brotherhood, tolerance, and respect for one another. They also stressed the need for the younger generation to be well-versed in both religious and modern scientific education to counter global conspiracies against Islam and Pakistan.

Independence Day celebrations light up sports complex

Peshawar glows with patriotic spirit



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Like rest of the country, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa came alive last night with vibrant colours, fireworks and cultural performances as Peshawar hosted a spectacular Independence Day celebration brimming with national pride and festive spirit.

The Directorate General of Sports, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Culture and Tourism Authority Khyber jointly organised the grand event at the night in

Peshawar Sports Complex, drawing thousands of citizens, athletes, families, women and children, as well as people from diverse walks of life.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jehan, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He was joined by Provincial Minister Public Health Pakhton Yar Khan, Director General Sports Tashfeen Haider, Director Youth Affairs Dr. Noman Mujahid, Director General Culture and Tourism Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Habib Ullah Arif, General Manager Culture and Tourism Authority KP Muhammad Ali Syed, senior departmental officials and other distinguished guests.

Addressing the gathering, the Provincial Minister said Pakistan's creation was the result of the timeless sacrifices of the nation's forefathers.

He emphasised that the true essence of Independence Day lies in honouring those leaders who devoted their lives to achieving the country's freedom.

"We will continue our struggle for the progress, prosperity, and true independence of our homeland so that Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan earns its rightful place as a dignified and great nation on the world map," the Minister stated.

He added that efforts are underway under the vision of founding chairman Imran Khan to realise the dream of a welfare-oriented, free, and new Pakistan.

He also commended the Directorate General of Sports for holding Independence Day festivals across the province, paying tribute to all those who made sacrifices for the country's freedom.

The celebrations commenced at 8:00 PM and continued until midnight, captivating audiences with dazzling fireworks, gymnastic and martial arts displays that infused the night cultural richness.

Children were entertained with magic shows and families enjoyed a variety of recreational activities in the gathering.



PESHAWAR: A father taking picture of his children attired in green and white dresses in front of Bala Hisar Fort to celebrate Independence Day of Pakistan.

Independence Day Junior Squash C'ship ends



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Independence Day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Junior Squash Championship concluded at Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar. In the U-17 category Muhammad Ali Khan won gold, Under-15 final Danish Sikandar clinched the gold medal, in U-13 category Arman Ali won gold and in the Girls' Under-15 event, Maliha Shah claimed first place.

The closing ceremony was graced by Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jehan and Provincial Minister for Public Health Pakhton Yar, who distributed prizes among the players. They were joined by squash legend Qamar Zaman, Chairman of the Provincial Squash Association and Secretary Public Health Daud Khan, DG Sports Tashfeen Haider, former World No 2 Mohib Ullah, Shafqat Ullah, Wazir Khan and head coach and organizer Munawar Zaman among other dignitaries.

The finals of the Independence Day KP Junior Squash Championship 2025 were played yesterday at the Qamar Zaman Squash Court Peshawar Sports Complex. In the Under-17 final Muhammad Ali Khan defeated Muhammad Rihan Bahadur 3-0. In the Under-13 final Arman Ali overcame Fahad Khan 3-1, while in the Under-15 final Danish Sikandar beat Muhammad Fawad Khan 3-1. In the Girls' Under-15 final Maliha Shah triumphed over Parkha Ahmad with a score of 3-0.

During the closing ceremony squash legend Qamar Zaman thanked the guests and highlighted that the Provincial Squash Association organizes 24 different events annually providing equal opportunities for senior, junior and female players. He emphasized that such events help further polish the skills of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa players and enable them to bring pride to the nation.

Civil Secretariat marks Independence Day

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Civil Secretariat Peshawar hosted a dignified ceremony on Thursday to commemorate Independence Day and Marka-e-Haq. The event was attended by notable officials, including Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Qasim Ali Shah, Minister for Public Health Engineering Pakhtunyar Khan, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Advisor on Anti-Corruption Musaddiq Abbasi, and Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah. A large gathering of administrative secretaries, officers, scholars, students, and children also participated.

Both Provincial Minister Qasim Ali Shah and Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah addressed the gathering. Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, in his address, highlighted that the "Independence Day and Marka-e-Haq Week" was celebrated across the country with immense fervor and national unity, with active participation from all state institutions. He commended the excellent arrangements and grand events,

emony commenced with a flag-hoisting ceremony, during which a police contingent presented a formal salute to the national flag, followed by the national anthem. A minute of silence was observed at 07:59 AM. The event's proceedings began with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a Naat Sharif and a national song performed by children.

Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah outlined the government's ambitious agenda for public welfare and provincial development. He said that the "Good Governance Roadmap" has been launched, and the country's largest sanitation program is set to be initiated next month. This historic initiative will implement sanitation drives at the village council level for the first time, supported by the acquisition of modern machinery.

He also referred to the "Clean Drinking Water for All" program, recently announced by the Chief Minister, which aims to provide safe drinking water to all citizens.

Flag Hoisting held at KTH



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In an atmosphere filled with patriotism and unity, MTI-Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) marked Pakistan's Independence Day with a grand flag-hoisting ceremony and vibrant celebra-

tions. Hospital Director Dr. Zafar Afridi, accompanied by managers, the Nursing Department, and the Security Department, participated in a dignified parade held in honor of the national flag.

The program commenced with heartfelt

prayers for the safety, prosperity, and longevity of Pakistan. Following this, the national flag was hoisted with utmost respect and pride, accompanied by the resonating sound of the national anthem, stirring patriotic emotions among all attendees.

A cake-cutting ceremony was also held, with active participation from Dr. Zafar Afridi, heads of various hospital departments, nursing staff, and the security team. The presence of children, patients, and their attendants added warmth, joy, and a festive spirit to the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zafar Afridi stated that Independence Day is a reminder of unity, sacrifice, and our duty to serve the nation, emphasizing that MTI-KTH considers service to patients and the community as a national responsibility.

The Independence Day celebrations at MTI-KTH not only reflected national solidarity but also showcased a strong bond of compassion and harmony between the hospital staff and the people they serve.

IPS honors national heroes with dignified flag hoisting

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, the Institute of Professional Studies organized a grand and dignified flag-hoisting ceremony to pay tribute to the immense sacrifices of national heroes and to celebrate the nation's hard-earned freedom with great zeal.

The event was attended by Director IPS Education System, Dr. Bilal Afridi, the institute's respected Principal, Mr. Samson Jacob, Mr. Omed, and a large number of the institute's dedicated academic and administrative staff. In the morning, the green crescent flag was raised

high into the sky, symbolizing unity, sacrifice, determination, and patriotism.

The ceremony began with the national anthem, during which the air resonated with chants of "Pakistan Zindabad". Participants exchanged Independence Day greetings and expressed heartfelt wishes for the country's progress and prosperity.

Addressing the gathering, Director Dr. Bilal Afridi said that Independence Day is not merely a celebration, but a reminder of our responsibilities, sacrifices, and the need for national unity. He emphasized that along with education, instilling a spirit of love and service for the country in the younger gen-

eration is the need of the hour.

In his address, Principal Mr. Samson Jacob stated that educated youth can play the most vital role in Pakistan's development, and the institute is committed to providing students with both excellent academic education and strong

moral values.

The event concluded with special prayers for the peace, stability, and prosperity of Pakistan. Afterwards, sweets were distributed among participants, and everyone expressed gratitude to the management for making the occasion memorable.



Independence Day held at Fatimid Foundation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Fatimid Foundation Peshawar organized a special ceremony to commemorate Pakistan's Independence Day. The event was attended by a large number of thalassemia, hemophilia, and other blood disorder patients, along with their parents. The patients celebrated the day by cutting a cake and singing patriotic songs. The participants collectively recited the national anthem. Administrator Badr Hussain addressed the participants, praising the children's love for their country and highlighting the importance of patriotism. He paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, acknowledging his leadership and tireless efforts in creating Pakistan. The participants were engaged in a quiz session, where they were asked questions about Pakistan's history, culture, and national identity.

Flag Hositing ceremony held at PHC

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A dignified flag hoisting ceremony was held at Peshawar High Court on the occasion of Independence Day / Marka-e-Haq. Chief Justice Peshawar High

Court, Justice Syed Muhammad Atiq Shah, hoisted the national flag.

On the occasion, a contingent of police presented a salute to the national flag, and the national anthem was played. One minute of silence was

observed during the ceremony.

The event was attended by judges of the Peshawar High Court, office-bearers and members of bar associations, lawyers, officers, and staff of the Peshawar High Court.

Special Independence Day ceremony held at KPITB

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Science, Technology and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, attended Independence Day ceremony at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) as the chief guest, hoisted the national flag, and cut the cake. The event was attended by senior provincial govern-

ment officials, KPITB staff, and a large number of citizens.

In his address, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz said that August 14 is not just a day of celebration, but a reminder to renew our pledge to make our homeland truly free, sovereign, and developed. He emphasized that real freedom demands sacrifice, determination, and continuous struggle.

He paid tribute to the people of Pakistan who have struggled for true

freedom, and to the founder and chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan — who has been in imprisonment for the last two years and continues to lead this struggle. Dr. Ayaz stated that under the leadership of Imran Khan, the nation has waged a historic struggle against corruption, slavery, and injustice, and today, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur is carrying forward this mission.

78th Independence Day celebrated at Peshawar Medical Complex

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 78th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotism at Peshawar Medical Complex. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Mohib Ullah Afridi, CEO of HBK Arena, CEO Shah Jehan Afridi, Hospital Director Riaz Afridi, PR Manager Ayesha Farman, Finance Manager Murtaza Khan, and the dedicated staff of the complex.

The ceremony began with the national anthem, followed by the flag hoisting, special prayers, and a cake-cutting ceremony. The attendees paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the

nation's heroes and reflected on the journey of Pakistan's independence.

On this occasion, CEO Shah Jehan Afridi remarked, "Independence Day is not just a celebration, but a reminder of the unity, sacrifice, and responsibilities we owe to our country."

Let us renew our commitment to a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan."

Hospital Director Riaz Afridi added, "We honor the sacrifices of our forefathers and pledge to continue serving the nation with sincerity, compassion, and dedication."

PR Manager Ayesha Farman emphasized, "This day reflects the strength of our nation and reminds us



of the collective effort needed to build a brighter future."

The event was a true display of patriotism, unity,

and dedication - a beautiful tribute to Pakistan's independence and a renewed vow to contribute towards national progress.



In brief

Rockets fired on ceremony F.P. Report

WANA: As festive of Independence Day celebrations begin at Cadet College Wana and the Frontier Corps (FC) camp descended into chaos and fear on Thursday, when armed militants fired three rockets at the venues. Moments later, heavy gunfire broke out between militants and security forces near the Farhad FC camp, leaving one security personnel dead, according to initial reports. The violence was not confined to Wana. In the Azam Warsak area of Tehsil Birmal, a fierce clash between militants and security forces claimed the life of a civilian, identified as Abdul Samad, and left two others, including Raz Muhammad Ada Khel, critically injured. Security forces swiftly sealed off the area with armored vehicles and ground patrols, further heightening tensions among residents. Elsewhere, in Kaniguram Bazaar of Upper Waziristan, unidentified gunmen opened fire, killing Liaquat Burki — also known as Pir Sahib — on the spot. Eyewitnesses at the Wana celebrations described scenes of panic, with children, women, and other attendees running for cover as the rockets struck. In Tehsil Birmal, militants have set up roadblocks on most key entry and exit routes, choking the flow of essential goods and causing a severe shortage of food supplies. For the tribal people, what was meant to be a day of joy once again turned into a day of mourning.

Independence Day celebrated F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: The 78th Independence Day and Maraka-e-Haq victory was celebrated with national enthusiasm in Lakki Marwat, Bannu and Karak districts on Thursday. In Lakki Marwat, deputy commissioner Zeeshan Abdullah performed the flag hoisting at the DHQ Complex Tajazai. School students raised full-throated Pakistan Zindabad slogans. DC along with police, army and line departments' officials planted saplings, cut cake and led the Independence Day rally. On the directives of DEO Liaqat Ali, the education department with support of boy scouts association held a function at Government Shaheed Muhammad Ghassan Khan Centennial Model High School No. 1 in Lakki city. Deputy DEO Shaukat Ali Khan performed the flag hoisting and distributed cash prizes among students who presented tableaux and sang national songs. MNA Sher Afzal Marwat's coordinator and educationist Pir Muhammad Anwar Zakori, ADEOs Dr Ihsanullah and Jamshed Khan, ASDEO Nisar Muhammad Khan Ghaznikhel, principal Shafqatullah Khan, acting principal Waheed Ahmed Khan, Scout Leaders Waseem Sajjad, Gohar Nayab and Muhammad Iqbal Khan, teachers and students were present on the occasion. School students also took out a rally to express their jubilation over Independence Day and Maraka-e-Haq victory. The rally passed through the District Headquarters Complex Road and culminated outside the office of deputy commissioner. In Bannu, Brig Naveed Ahmad along with DC Fahim Khan hoisted the national flag at a ceremony held on the premises of commissioner's office which was attended by army and civil administration officials and students of educational institutions. Fahim and AC Allah Nawaz also led a Jashne-e-Azadi rally.

KUST holds flag-hoisting ceremony on Independence Day



Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) hosted a dignified flag-hoisting ceremony to mark Pakistan's Independence Day. The event was graced by Commissioner Kohat Syed Mutasim Billah Shah, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Rahimullah Mehsud, Additional Deputy Commissioner Hamid Iqbal, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Law Minister Aftab Alam, and other distinguished guests.

Following the ceremony, a vibrant program was held at Iftikhar Auditorium with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas as the

chief guest, alongside Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naseeruddin, deans, and faculty members.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the significance of technology, noting that it played a vital role in achieving success in the battle for truth. He emphasized that the sacrifices of martyrs can never be forgotten, as their courage secured the nation's independence. He urged students to harness modern knowledge and scientific advancements in the service of the country.

Commissioner Kohat Syed Mutasim Billah Shah paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces for their

exemplary role in defending the homeland, while Provincial Law Minister Aftab Alam remarked that Independence Day is a reminder of unity and sacrifice, with the Battle for Truth proving Pakistan's ability to thwart enemy ambitions.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of students and children, with the hall echoing to the chants of "Pakistan Zindabad" and national songs. Later, a cake-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the occasion, and commendation certificates were awarded to officers, guards, and students for outstanding performance.

WSSCM commemorates Independence Day

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM) commemorated Independence Day in a simple and dignified manner. WSSCM organized various events, including a flag hoisting ceremony, flag march, tree plantation drive, special cleanliness campaign and the cutting of cake. Various teams of the company cleaned the city, on Thursday.

The head office was decorated with Pakistani Flag and illuminated. The cake cutting ceremony was held in the head office where Chairman Board of Directors Engineer Adil Nawaz was the chief guest while BoD members Haroon Rashid, Javed Hussain, Mubena Raziuddin, Chief Executive

Officer Shahid Khan and Regional Municipal Officer Zeeshan Arif were also present on the occasion.

Flag march started from Mohabbatabad Phatak, passed through College Chowk and various bazaars, and concluded at the Sewage Treatment Plant. Vehicles of all sizes decorated with Pakistani flags took part in the march. Adil Nawaz stated, that love for the country is a part of faith. Independence is a great blessing and living nations celebrate their Independence Day with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, students of Sarhad University Mardan Campus, in collaboration with WSSCM staff, carried out a tree plantation drive, inaugurated by CEO Shahid Khan and Campus Director Naseer Afridi. On

the occasion, Shahid Khan paid rich tributes to martyrs of Marakehaq and stated Pakistan Army is our pride who defended the country during operation Bunyan ul Marsos.

Similarly, a ceremony was held at the Software Technology Park, UET Mardan, where CEO Shahid Khan and Durshal Mardan Project Director Pir Amad, along with representatives of various IT companies, cut the cake to celebrate Independence Day. Tributes were paid to the martyrs who laid down their lives in the operation Bunyan ul Marsos. In Union Council Rorya, a special cleanliness drive was launched with active participation from local residents. The campaign included both cleaning of the area and tree plantation activities.

August 14 celebrates with fervor in Khyber

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Like other parts in the country, 78th Independence Day was celebrated on Thursday across the district Khyber with great enthusiasm and patriotic zeal. The Day was dawned with special prayers in the Morning Prayer for the prosperity and solidarity of the country.

The main function was organized in Khyber House, Peshawar where Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khyber Capt (Rtd) Bilal Shahid was the chief guest on the occasion besides Additional DCs Irshad Ali, Ahsanullah, Gul Nawaz Afridi, tribal elders and officials were among the participants.

The district administrator hoisted the national flag and a smart contingent of police officers saluted to it. A cake

was cut to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. In his message DC, Khyber said that the Day reminded us to remember those who laid down their lives for the sake of the motherland.

In the Police Line, Shahkas, Jamrud a ceremony was initiated in which District Police Officer (DPO) Mazhar Iqbal besides other police officials hoisted the national flag and presented a salute. In Landi Kotal, main function was arranged in Assistant Commissioner (AC), Office where in the presence of Tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid, tribal elders, councillors, officials and students Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Afraseyab Zubair hoisted the national flag inside the tehsil compound.

The students presented

national songs and tableaux that enthralled the participants. Similarly in connection with I-Day, a simple but impressive gathering was initiated in district Rescue 1122 center, Jamrud where District Emergency Officer Engineer Sahreq Riaz Khattak and Emergency officer Nauman Khan along with other workers hoisted the national flag. They paid tribute to the troops who rendered matchless sacrifices in Maraka-e-Haq.

Meanwhile in connection with I-Day celebrations, various sports events including cycling, martial arts, shooting and football competitions were also organized across the district. Earlier, all the important and historical buildings were illuminated with colorful lights that added to the festivity of the Day.

Independence Day celebrated in Nowshera Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: District Administration and Cantonment Board Nowshera organized flag hoisting ceremonies to commemorate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. The events were held at the Deputy Commissioner's office and the Cantonment Board office respectively, on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner hoisted the national flag in the presence of members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, District Police Officer and other officials. A cake-cutting ceremony was also held to mark the occasion. The Cantonment Executive Officer, hoisted the national flag and cut a cake at the Cantonment Board office. During the ceremony at the Deputy Commissioner's office, speeches were delivered by Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ullah Mahsud, members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, including Zulfiqar Khan, Muhammad Idris Khan Khattak, and Zafar Alam Khan.

The students who excelled in their matriculation exams were awarded cash prizes and certificates. The ceremony concluded with the initiation of a tree plantation drive, highlighting the importance of environmental conservation.

PTI chairman hoist national flag in Buner F.P. Report

BUNER: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and Member National Assembly Barrister Gohar Khan hoisted the national flag at the DC office, cut the independence cake and planted a sapling to formally launch the Independence Day celebrations, on Thursday.

On the occasion, DC Kashif Qayum, DPO Saud Khan, Chairman DDAC Abdul Kabir Khan, PTI President Kamran Khan, DD LG Ameer Nizam Durrani, TMO Daggar Zahoor Ahmed, ADC Relief Syed Akram Shah, ADC General Waseem Akhtar, AC Basharat Shah, Khatib Hameed-ur-Rehman, SDFO W/S Syed Rahim and heads of other departments participated in large numbers.

Speaking to the media Barrister Gohar Khan congratulated the people of Buner Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan on the Pakistan's Independence Day. He said that it has been 78 years since the country was liberated, but unfortunately, the situation in Bajaur is still bad. He stressed the need to work together to strengthen the country and its institutions and for the integrity and peace of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Barrister Gohar Khan participated in the grand ceremony of the University of Buner. VC Professor Dr. Jamshed Ali Khan welcomed him. On the occasion, the national flag was hoisted, the independence cake was cut and a sapling was planted.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Jamshed Ali Khan, DC and DPO Chairman DDAC Abdul Kabir Khan addressed the ceremony. They appreciated the Independence Night Shows across the district to celebrate the joys of Independence Day and the struggle for Maraka e Haq and cleanliness, colorful ceremonies and decoration of buildings and markets.

August 14 celebrated with zeal and spirit in Dir



F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Various organizations, educational institutions, district administration, police department, and offices across Lower Dir celebrated Pakistan's 78th Independence Day on Thursday with colourful events marked by flag-hoisting, cultural performances, and tributes to national heroes.

At the University of Malakand, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rasheed Ahmad led the celebrations, which featured a guard of honour, cake-cutting, science exhibition, monsoon plantation, and distribution of souvenirs.

Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the sacrifices of the nation's

forefathers and urged the youth to contribute to national progress through education and dedication.

The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), arranged a function at Government High School Tazagram to mark the Day. Students presented speeches, national songs, and prayers for the country's prosperity. Rescue 1122 organised flag-hoisting events at all its district stations, offering salutes and prayers for the martyrs.

The Alkhidmat Foundation KP (North) General Secretary Dr Khalid Farooq cut the Independence Day cake and distributed flags and gifts among children at the Al-Khidmat hospital Zwall Baba, reiterating the found-

ation's commitment to humanitarian work and assistance for the underprivileged.

Markets, offices, schools and colleges were decorated with national flags and flowers on the occasion. Under the supervision of the district administration, winners of the Independence Day decoration contest for plazas, hotels, markets, and shops were awarded cash prizes and appreciation certificates.

Deputy Commissioner Lower Dir Mohammad Arif Khan distributed the prizes among the owners, praising their patriotic spirit. In the competition, Dir Royal Restaurant secured first position, Zam Zam Bakers and Shops came second, while Zaiqa Mahal Hotel stood third.

Terrorists attacked Choga police station

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Unknown terrorists launched an attack on the Choga police station in Shangla district at midnight of Wednesday and Thursday. The attackers used advanced weapons, but the police officers on duty were able to spot them using night-vision guns and cameras.

Police defended the station despite being attacked with modern weapons. At least one terrorist was injured and taken away by accomplices. The police station sustained damage during the exchange of fire. The security forces launched a search operation in the area on Thursday.

Residents flayed delay in road blacktopping: Despite the passage of two years, the blacktopping of the Shangla Top to Alpuri main road in Shangla district remains incomplete. The condition of the road, particularly the segment from Shangla Top to Topsisin, has deteriorated significantly, resembling ruins with large potholes. This has led to severe difficulties for passengers, drivers, and even damaged new vehicles.

The approximately 10 km stretch from Shangla Top to Alpuri and several kilometers from Shangla Top to Topsisin are in a dilapidated state. A year ago, part of the road was repaired, but blacktopping of the remaining sections was not completed. DEO stresses role of students in nation uplift: District Education Officer Shangla, Muhammad Aurangzeb, stressed that education is essential for building a developed nation. He urged students to prepare themselves to bring pride to their country and nation through their character and education. He was speaking at the 78th Independence Day ceremony held at Government Centennial Model High School Alpuri.

In today's era, students need to acquire education based on modern and scientific foundations to lead the country towards development. The defense of Pakistan's ideological, economic, social, and political boundaries is in the hands of the new generation. The students presented sketches, tableaux, poems, and songs related to Independence Day, adding to the event's charm.

Education key for nation uplift: Sub-Divisional Education Officer Aurangzeb Khalil emphasized the importance of modern education in shaping Pakistan's future, stating that the true value of independence lies in contributing to national development through knowledge, peace, and unity. He was addressing a vibrant Independence Day ceremony at The Sky Hawk School and College, Bela Baba. Speaking to students and faculty, Khalil said, "Our forefathers earned this homeland through immense sacrifices. Today, it is our duty to honor that legacy by becoming educated, responsible citizens who illuminate Pakistan's name on the world map through peace, love, and brotherhood."

He highlighted education as the most powerful weapon for building a stable and prosperous nation, urging youth to embrace modern learning to transform the country's destiny. Reflecting on Pakistan's military strength, he praised the armed forces for their courage and valor during conflicts, particularly the Pakistan-India wars, and reaffirmed Pakistan's position as the seventh nuclear power in the world.

School Director Muhammad Shah Khan also addressed the gathering, calling the day a moment to renew commitment to the sacrifices of the nation's founders. He spoke on the importance of student involvement in national progress and shared the school's achievements. The ceremony began at

7:50 AM with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the national flag hoisting at 8:00 AM, led by Aurangzeb Khalil alongside School Director Syed Sajid Shah and local dignitaries. The national anthem was played, and students presented patriotic songs, speeches, and skits. Outstanding students were awarded prizes for their performances.

District-wide Independence Day celebrated: Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm across Shangla District. The main ceremony was held at the office of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Fawad Khan, who hoisted the national flag alongside District Police Officer Shah Hussain Khan and heads of various line departments. The national anthem was played to mark the occasion. Later, the Deputy Commissioner attended events at Government Centennial Model High School, Alpuri, and participated in a ceremony at Police Lines Shangla, where he and DPO Shah Hussain Khan laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs' Monument.

He also addressed a vibrant Independence Day ceremony at The Sky Hawk School and College, Bela Baba. Speaking to students and faculty, Khalil said, "Our forefathers earned this homeland through immense sacrifices. Today, it is our duty to honor that legacy by becoming educated, responsible citizens who illuminate Pakistan's name on the world map through peace, love, and brotherhood."

He highlighted education as the most powerful weapon for building a stable and prosperous nation, urging youth to embrace modern learning to transform the country's destiny. Reflecting on Pakistan's military strength, he praised the armed forces for their courage and valor during conflicts, particularly the Pakistan-India wars, and reaffirmed Pakistan's position as the seventh nuclear power in the world.

School Director Muhammad Shah Khan also addressed the gathering, calling the day a moment to renew commitment to the sacrifices of the nation's founders. He spoke on the importance of student involvement in national progress and shared the school's achievements. The ceremony began at

Body found F.P. Report

QUETTA: The lifeless form of an unidentified individual was discovered in Quetta's Chasma Achozai district on Thursday, sparking a police investigation. Rescue personnel retrieved the mud-covered remains and transported them to the Sandeman Provincial Hospital morgue.

Medical examiners will conduct necessary procedures for identification and to determine the cause of death. Authorities at the local police station are carrying out a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fatality.

Dur Muhammad Kasi — A teacher, a friend, and a story

Farooq Sarwar

WHENEVER I see Dur Muhammad Kasi, I am reminded of the unforgettable characters created by the Polish Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer and the English novelist Charles Dickens characters that grip the reader's heart and refuse to let go.

Their very presence lends an irresistible charm to the works they inhabit. Kasi Sahib's personality has a similar magic — all-encompassing, captivating, and so rich in stories that you could spend hours in his company without realizing how swiftly time has flown. He is a treasure house of conversations, anecdotes, experiences, and knowledge — the kind that makes you feel as though you are sitting before a magician, wand in hand, lighting

lamps of wonder one after another.

To us, he is more than a senior figure or a teacher — he is a man of many dimensions. In literature, his short stories and research work stand tall. In travel writing, his accounts brim with the colors of countless countries and the fascinating events that happened along the way. In drama, his vision is uniquely his own. And then comes his true mastery — the documentary — where he has won awards at prestigious festivals around the world.

I still vividly remember one of his documentaries, about a fisherman from Gwadar. On the surface, it was the story of a poor, ordinary man — heading out alone at dawn, taking his boat to sea, catching fish, selling them, and making ends meet. Yet, Kasi Sahib presented it with such artistry that the viewer was spell-

bound. Later, I learned that the fisherman's role was played by Sarfaraz Baloch, an exceptionally talented actor from Balochistan, now no longer among us. That documentary went on to win a major European award, bringing pride to Pakistan.

In my life, his place has never been that of just an artist or a director — he has been a true mentor. I was a child star when he first introduced me to television. My very first drama was under his production — it was 1975, a time when appearing on TV was considered a great honor. The recognition at school, the pride of relatives telling others that I appeared on television — all of it was because of Dur Muhammad Kasi.

We worked together on countless dramas, both in Urdu and Pashto, though our collaborations in Pashto serials were more fre-

quent. He understood the depth of drama like few others. At times, our youthful inexperience might have caused him displeasure, yet he never let resentment take root. The very next day, he would call me over and say: "Zoya, you will play the lead role in my new drama — but this time, you must give your best performance." ("Zoya" means "son" in Pashto — and indeed, he has always been like an elder in the truest sense.)

Kasi Sahib carved out his reputation not just in Pakistan but across the world. He is considered a pioneer of documentary filmmaking in Pakistan. Later, he also turned to drama with equal passion, and nowadays he devotes himself to researching the history of Balochistan. His books are appearing in the market, earning praise and admiration.

His contribution to Pashto literature is also significant — dramas, short stories, and several books. His stories, though rooted in the everyday struggles of ordinary people, carry an unmistakable blend of humor, realism, and compassion. In his vision lies a dream — the dream of a society that is beautiful and smiling. He also spent many years working with Peshawar Television. His programs on the poetry of Ghani Khan are still fondly remembered. The way he introduced Ghani Khan's work to the world remains unmatched.

Dur Muhammad Kasi is a man of charm and warmth — a storehouse of knowledge, art, skill, and sincerity. Time slips away in his company. Hospitality is second nature to him — tea, conversation, and, at times, the curling smoke of a cigarette weaving through a gathering — these are

among the beautiful memories of the past. There is, however, one regret worth mentioning — despite having traveled to countless countries and ventured into extraordinary places, he never wrote a travelogue. Had he done so, it would have been a gem of Pashto literature, for his observation and narrative style are rare gifts.

We take pride in our teacher. He is a great name for Balochistan, for the Pashto language, and for Pakistan — one of the world's truly gifted individuals. His sincerity remains unchanged. We affectionately call him Haji Sahib since he performed the Hajj pilgrimage years ago. And even now, like a teacher who promises his student a new gift, we await, in our dreams, the next treasure he will place in our hands.



Spain suffers third wildfire death, Greece beats back flames

MADRID (AFP): Spain on Thursday mourned its third wildfire death this week and Greece began beating back a blaze threatening its third-largest city Patras as an unrelenting heat-wave stoked tinderbox conditions in southern Europe.

The extreme summer heat, which scientists say human-driven climate change is lengthening and intensifying, has fuelled blazes and strained firefighters across the region, including Portugal and the Balkans. The fires have particularly scorched Spain, devouring almost 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) this year -- more than double the area burned during the same period in 2024.

Spanish authorities said one person battling flames in the northwestern Castile and Leon region had died, taking the toll to three after earlier reporting fatalities there and near Madrid this week. France announced it would send two water bombers to Spain, which had appealed to the European Union for aircraft to reinforce hard-pressed firefighting teams battling on several fronts, notably in the northwest.

Regional authorities in Castile and Leon have said almost 6,000 people from 26 localities have been evacuated from their homes. Greece, which has also requested EU assistance against wildfires, gained ground against a major blaze that had closed in on the western port city of Patras. Firefighters there faced "scattered" pockets of flames, but the fire was "still active" in the eastern outskirts of the city of 250,000 people, fire brigade spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said.

Some 600 ground crews and nearly 30 water bombing aircraft deployed from dawn in all locations,



he said, but gentler winds were aiding the firefighting effort. Major outbreaks also stretched emergency services on the tourist island of Zante, the Aegean island of Chios and near the western town of Preveza. Citing data from the EU's Copernicus satellite monitoring programme, the National Observatory of Athens said those fires and the Patras blaze had burned more than 10,000 hectares.

State TV ERT said three men aged 19 to 27 had been detained on suspicion of starting separate fires near Patras. Police confirmed one of the arrests. Portugal mobilised more than 1,900 firefighters against four major blazes, with one in the central area of Trancoso having razed an estimated 14,000 hectares since Saturday. Another front that broke out on in the mountainous central Arganil area occupied more than 800 firefighters.

"The flames were enormous... it was frightening," a woman in the village of Mourisia told Sic Noticias tel-

evision as she gazed at a slope enveloped in thick smoke. Although vulnerable and elderly people had been evacuated as a precaution, Antonio Silva refused to leave the village overnight. "I wanted to be here to help," said the man in his 70s, his face shielded with a mask.

The Balkans appeared to have overcome the worst of an exceptionally strong heatwave that worsened its traditional fire season, destroying homes and prompting the evacuation of thousands. Albanian firefighters continued to struggle against blazes around the country, with reports of more homes lost overnight. In neighbouring Montenegro, easing conditions and water-bombing aircraft helped gain the upper hand against wildfires. Tourist hotspots Rome and Venice were among 16 Italian cities placed on red alert for extreme heat, with peaks of 39C predicted for Florence on the eve of a busy holiday weekend.

Typhoon Podul intensifies as it nears Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP): Typhoon Podul prompted schools and government offices to close in Taiwan on Wednesday, with authorities on the lookout for heavy rains that could bring more damage to agriculture in the region.

It was unclear how serious the storm would be, with high waves and winds over much of the east coast but no major rain as of yet. On Wednesday morning, Podul was southeast of the island, moving at 155 kilometers (96 miles) per hour, and was expected to make landfall later in the day before moving swiftly across the island's southern tip, according to the Central Meteorological Agency.

Such storms typically hit the east coast hard before losing strength as they pass over the Central Mountain Range before continuing toward the Chinese coast. Podul's skirt measured 120 kilometers (75 miles) across and was expected to broaden even while losing strength as the storm moved westward across the Taiwan Strait. The areas affected are well south of the capital, Taipei, along with Taiwan's main international airport and high-tech industrial base. Around a dozen flights that would have traveled south toward the path of the storm were delayed or canceled.

The counties and cities of Tainan, Kaohsiung, Chiayi, Yunlin, Pingtung and Hualien on the east coast and the island group of Penghu in the Taiwan Strait are expected to take the brunt of the storm. Along with flooding, typhoons routinely damage fruit and other cash crops and bring landslides through the island's center. Much of central and southern Taiwan was badly hit by heavy rains in recent weeks that caused severe damage to crops but minimal casualties, while also knocking out electricity to rural areas that took weeks to repair. Recovery crews are on alert due to recent heavy rains.

360 hit by food poisoning

SRAGEN, Indonesia (Reuters): More than 360 people fell ill in Indonesia's town of Sragen in Central Java after consuming school lunches, an official said on Thursday, in the largest food poisoning case to hit President Prabowo Subianto's flagship free meals programme.

Since its launch in January, the free school meals programme has been marred by mass food poisoning cases across the archipelago, affecting over 1,000 people. Sragen government chief Sigit Pamungkas told Reuters 365 people fell ill and a food sample was being tested in a lab. The government would pay for any medical treatment if needed.

Wizdan Ridho Abimanyu, a ninth grader at Gemolong 1 middle school, told Reuters he was woken at night by sharp pain in his stomach. He had a headache and diarrhoea, which he deduced had been caused by food poisoning after seeing schoolmates' social media posts complaining the same.

The likely contaminated lunch was turmeric rice, omelette ribbons, fried tempeh, cucumber and lettuce salad, sliced apple and a box of milk, cooked in a central kitchen and distributed to several schools. "We have asked to temporarily stop the food distribution from that kitchen until the lab results are back," Sigit said. The government's National Nutrition Agency, which oversees the programme, has raised the standards of kitchen operations and delivery in the aftermath of previous food poisoning cases, its chief Dadan Hindayana told Reuters.

The free meals programme has been rapidly expanded to over 15 million recipients so far. Authorities plan to reach 83 million by year-end, budgeting a total cost of 171 trillion rupiah (\$10.62 billion) this year. In a food poisoning case in a city in West Java in May, more than 200 students fell ill and a lab found the food was contaminated with Salmonella and E. coli bacteria, according to media reports.

New Israeli rules keep them from delivering Gaza aid, say NGOs

GAZA (AFP): New Israeli legislation regulating foreign aid groups has been increasingly used to deny their requests to bring supplies into Gaza, a joint letter signed by more than 100 groups said Thursday. Ties between foreign-backed aid groups and the Israeli government have long been beset by tensions, with officials often complaining the organisations are biased.

The rocky relations have become even more strained since Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war. "Israeli authorities have rejected requests from dozens of NGOs to bring in lifesaving goods, citing that these organisations are 'not authorised to deliver aid,'" the aid groups said. According to the letter, whose signatories include Oxfam and Doctors Without Borders (MSF), at least 60 requests to bring aid into Gaza were rejected in July alone.

UK-based Oxfam said that \$2.5 million worth of its supplies, including food, were barred from entering Gaza, while another charity, CARE, said it had not been authorised to bring in aid since March. Another signatory, Anera, said it had millions of dollars' worth of supplies waiting just outside Gaza, in the Israeli port city of Ashdod. "Anera has over \$7 million worth of lifesaving supplies ready to enter

Gaza -- including 744 tons of rice, enough for six million meals, blocked in Ashdod just kilometres away," CEO Sean Carroll said in the joint letter.

In March, the Israeli government approved a new set of rules for foreign non-governmental organisations working with Palestinians. The law updates the framework for how aid groups must register to maintain their status within Israel, along with provisions that outline how their applications can be denied or registration revoked. Registration can be refused if Israeli authorities deem that a group denies the democratic character of Israel or "promotes delegitimisation campaigns" against the country.

"Unfortunately, many aid organisations serve as a cover for hostile and sometimes violent activity," said Diaspora Minister Amichai Chikli, whose ministry has been put in charge of NGO registrations. "Organisations that have no connection to hostile or violent activity and no ties to the boycott movement will be granted permission to operate," he added. The aid groups complained the new rules were leaving Gazans without life-saving assistance.

"Today, international NGOs' fears have proven true: the registration system is now being used to further block aid and deny food and

medicine in the midst of the worst-case scenario of famine", their joint letter concluded. "Our mandate is to save lives but due to the registration restrictions, civilians are being left without the food, medicine and protection they urgently need," said Jolien Veldwijk, Palestinian territories director for CARE. Israel has long accused Hamas of diverting aid entering the territory under the longstanding UN-led distribution system.

Since May, it has distributed aid through the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an organisation that is boycotted by the United Nations and other aid groups for serving Israeli military objectives. According to Gaza's civil defence agency, the GHF's operations have been frequently marred by chaos as thousands of Gazans have scrambled daily to approach its hubs, where some have been shot, including by Israeli soldiers. In late July, the United Nations reported that at least 1,373 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza since May 27 while awaiting or searching for aid.

International NGOs now fear they could be barred from operating in Israel and the Palestinian territories altogether if they do not submit sensitive information about their Palestinian staff to the Israeli government.

Cambodian migrant workers face an uncertain future

KAMRIENG, Cambodia (AP): Hundreds of thousands of Cambodian migrant workers have been heading home from Thailand as the two countries tries work to keep a ceasefire in armed clashes along their border. Tensions between the countries have escalated due to disputes over pockets of land along their 800 kilometer (500 mile) border. A five-day clash in July left at least 43 people dead and displaced more than 260,000 in both Southeast Asian nations.

A fragile ceasefire brokered by Malaysia, with backing from the US and China, appears to be holding while officials try to resolve issues underlying the conflict. The retreat has left many of the workers streaming back to Cambodia wondering how to get by after they left jobs that enabled them to send money back to their families. Kri Phart, a 56-year-old poultry worker, said he began packing after reading a post by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet on Facebook urging migrants to return to Cambodia.

"I have no idea if the fighting will really stop and with fewer and fewer Cambodians in Thailand, I got nervous," said Kri Phart, seated on a stoop with two big bags of belongings and a big elec-

tric fan. "I didn't want to be the last Cambodian migrant in Thailand." "I got scared because of the border conflict," said Kri Phart, one of thousands of Cambodians streaming shoulder-to-shoulder through the Daung International Border Gate last week, hauling rainbow colored bags, appliances and even guitars in the 40 Celsius (104 F) heat. "Many of the Cambodians I knew working in Thailand ran away. Everyday more and more of us fled," he said.

The reasons driving Cambodians to flee Thailand are varied. Human rights activists reported that some migrant workers had been attacked by gangs of young Thais. Others were alarmed by unsubstantiated rumors that the Cambodian government would seize their land and revoke their citizenships if they didn't return home by mid-August. Cambodia's Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training estimates 1.2 million Cambodians were working in Thailand when the border disputes began to escalate in June. Estimates vary, but Sun Mesa, a ministry spokesman said at least 780,000 - about 65% - have returned to Cambodia. He said the workers could find jobs with equal pay and benefits back home. Many

of those who were driven by poverty or climate change to leave for work in Thailand expressed doubts. "Now that I am back, there is going to be no income for a while and this will really put my family in a bad situation," said Thouk Houy, 26, who left a job at a leather factory south of Bangkok that enabled her to send \$70 to \$100 a month back to her parents. "I'm the last of my siblings who is still single, meaning it's my responsibility to support my parents. I don't know how I can do that now that I am back home," she said.

Minor spats between Cambodian and Thai workers at the factory and her mother's nightly pleas for her to go home were factors behind her decision to leave, she said. Handing over her belongings to be strapped into the back of a precariously packed van, Thouk Houy said the clincher was a claim by influential former Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, father of the current prime minister, Hun Manet, that Thailand was preparing to invade. "Now that I'm home, what will I do to make a living?" she said. Migrant workers fill vital roles in Thailand's farming, construction and manufacturing industries.

UN commission finds violence in Syria may included 'war crimes'

DAMASCUS (AFP): A UN commission investigating sectarian bloodshed in Syria's Alawite heartland documented systematic violence at the hands of government forces and allied groups, warning Thursday that some of the acts could constitute war crimes.

The violence in March unfolded along Syria's predominantly Alawite Mediterranean coast, where security personnel and their allies were accused of carrying out summary executions, mostly targeting civilians from the religious minority, with a war monitor saying more than 1,700 people were killed. The Syrian foreign ministry said it was committed to "incorporating the (commission's) recommendations into the ongoing process of institution-building" and of consolidating the rule of law.

The UN commission said in its report on Thursday that the violence committed by "members of the interim government forces and private individuals operating alongside or in proximity to them... followed a systematic pattern across multiple, widespread locations". "The violations included acts that likely

amount to war crimes," it said.

The commission documented cases of "murder, torture and inhumane acts related to the treatment of the dead, widespread looting and burning of homes all of which displaced tens of thousands of civilians". Syria's new authorities have accused gunmen loyal to ousted ruler Bashar al-Assad of instigating the violence by launching deadly attacks that killed dozens of security personnel. The UN commission also found that pro-Assad forces were implicated in the violence.

Human rights groups and international organisations have said entire families were killed, including women, children and the elderly. Gunmen stormed homes and asked residents whether they were Alawite or Sunni before killing or sparing them, they said.

The UN commission documented similar cases involving the killing of Alawite men. During his rule, Assad -- himself an Alawite -- cultivated an image as a defender of minorities, even as his authoritarian tendencies plunged the country into civil war. Since his

December ouster at the hands of Islamist-led rebels, the violence on the coast and in south Syria's Druze heartland have raised questions about the new authorities' ability to provide security and manage sectarian tensions.

The UN commission -- which said it had been granted "unfettered access" to the area by the post-Assad government -- based its findings on more than 200 interviews with victims and witnesses. It said there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that members of the security forces and other private individuals engaged in "serious violations of international human rights law".

"The scale and brutality of the violence documented in our report is deeply disturbing," said commission chair Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, urging accountability and expanded efforts to arrest perpetrators. The commission said it "continues to receive information about ongoing violations in many of the affected areas, including abductions of women, arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances". It said it had "found no evidence of a governmental policy or plan" to

carry out the attacks, though their systematic nature "in certain locations may be indicative of an organisational policy within certain factions or groups".

In a letter to the commission, Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said the government took "serious note of the alleged violations", saying they "appear to be consistent with the findings" of the Syrian inquiry. US envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack called the report "a serious step towards definable and traceable metrics to the Syrian government's responsibility, transparency and accountability".

The commission said it was also investigating recent violence in Syria's Druze-majority Sweida province that it said highlighted the urgency of implementing the report's recommendations. In its own inquiry, the committee formed by the Syrian authorities documented "serious violations against civilians" in March. The committee confirmed "the names of 1,426 dead, including 90 women", and identified "298 individuals by name" who were suspected of involvement in the violations.

Cholera kills 40 as Sudan faces worst outbreak in years, says MSF

DARFUR: At least 40 people have died from cholera in Sudan's Darfur region in what medical charity Doctors Without Borders, known by its French initials MSF, described as the country's worst outbreak in years.

MSF said on Thursday that the vast western region, already devastated by more than two years of fighting between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), is bearing the brunt of an outbreak that began a year ago. "On top of an all-out war, people in Sudan are now experiencing the worst cholera outbreak the country has seen in years," the group said in a statement cited by the AFP news agency. "In the Darfur region alone, MSF teams treated over 2,300 patients and recorded 40 deaths in

the past week."

Nationwide, health authorities have reported 99,700 suspected cases and 2,470 deaths linked to cholera since August 2023. The bacterial infection, transmitted through contaminated food and water, can cause severe diarrhoea, vomiting and muscle cramps. It can kill within hours without treatment, though simple oral rehydration or antibiotics can save lives.

Health officials launched a 10-day vaccination drive in the capital, Khartoum, to slow what aid agencies warn is a fast-moving outbreak worsened by war, mass displacement and heavy rainfall. MSF said millions forced from their homes by the conflict now struggle to access clean water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. In Tawila,

North Darfur, where about 380,000 people have fled ongoing fighting near el-Fasher, residents survive on just 3 litres (3.2qt) of water per day -- less than half the emergency minimum of 7.5 litres (8qt) per person.

"In displacement and refugee camps, families often have no choice but to drink from contaminated sources and many contract cholera," said Sylvain Penicaud, MSF's project coordinator in Tawila. "Just two weeks ago, a body was found in a well inside one of the camps. It was removed, but within two days, people were forced to drink from that same water again."

Since the army retook Khartoum in March, fighting has intensified in Darfur, with the RSF attempting to seize el-Fasher, the last major city in the region still under army

control. The United Nations has described dire conditions for civilians trapped inside. Heavy rains have further contaminated water sources and damaged sewage systems, MSF warned, while people fleeing the fighting are carrying the disease into neighbouring Chad and South Sudan.

MSF's head of mission in Sudan, Tuna Turkmen, described the situation as "beyond urgent". "The outbreak is spreading well beyond displacement camps now, into multiple localities across Darfur states and beyond," Turkmen said. "Survivors of war must not be left to die from a preventable disease." Sudan's war, which began in Khartoum in April 2023, has killed more than 40,000 people, displaced an estimated 12 million and pushed millions towards famine. — Aljazeera

Moldovan tycoon offers \$3,000 a month to anti-govt protesters

CHISINAU (Reuters): Fugitive pro-Russian businessman Ilan Shor has offered Moldovans monthly payments of \$3,000 to join anti-government protests, in a bid to undermine Moldova's pro-European government ahead of parliamentary elections next month.

Moldovan officials have regularly accused Moscow of meddling in their domestic politics by stoking pro-Russian sentiments in a subversive campaign to topple the government as it bolsters ties with the West, accusations Moscow denies. Shor, under Western sanctions for efforts to destabilise

Moldova on Russia's behalf, said he would make daily payments to each protester totaling a monthly \$3,000 if they began protesting in the capital Chisinau starting.

"Yes, I am...compensating you in such a way that already you'll feel the effects of the victory that we will soon achieve," he said in a

video posted to social media. He added that accounts for payment would be opened up directly at the protest site. Moldova's National Police said in a statement that Shor's message was "criminal incitement" and warned Moldovans they risked investigation if they engaged with the offer.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's

Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Beautiful China vision has sown the seeds for the blossoming of an ecological civilization

IT is the right actions based on the right answers to the right questions that determine whether progress can be achieved or not.

This is exactly the case when it comes to the development of China's environmental protection and ecological conservation.

Twenty years ago on Aug 15, 2005, President Xi Jinping, then secretary of the Communist Party of China provincial committee of Zhejiang, made the now well-known remark that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets when answering the question of how development can be ecologically and environmentally friendly. This was subsequently developed into one of his guiding theories for China's sustainable development.

The recognition that economic growth can not be achieved at the expense of the natural environment is the cornerstone of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, which is firmly grounded in the traditional Chinese philosophy of harmony between humanity and nature. Under the guidance of this framework, a host of creative, forward-looking and important initiatives have been taken with the aim of building a Beautiful China that satisfies the ancient ideal. As a result, the country's ecological and environmental protection efforts have produced sweeping, historic and transformative changes.

What makes this guiding theory particularly noteworthy is the fact that it points the way toward integrating ecological protection and economic development, creating a virtuous cycle.

The output value of China's forest and grass industry increased from 726.9 billion yuan (\$101.37 billion) in 2005 to 10.17 trillion yuan in 2024. At the same time, the forest coverage has expanded from 18.21 percent of the country's total territory in 2006 to more than 25 percent now. In the past two decades, of the increased green area worldwide, China has contributed 25 percent, the highest of all countries.

Under the guidance of this theory, China's fight against desertification has made notable achievements. The desertification control rate in Kubuqi Desert in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region has increased from 7 percent, early this century, to 40 percent today. The endeavors various localities have made in environmental protection and ecological conservation have resulted in the considerable improvement of air and water quality.

Likewise, President Xi's insistence on ecological conservation has changed people's mentality about the relationship between environmental protection and economic development.

Under the guidance of Xi's vision of an ecological civilization, the country has applied a system of ecological conservation red lines, established a protected areas system with national parks as the mainstay, carried out major biodiversity protection projects, and conducted stringent enforcement and supervision. A large number of rare and endangered species have been placed under effective protection, and the diversity, stability and sustainability of the ecosystem have kept improving.

That quite a number of villages in various provinces and autonomous regions have shaken off poverty and become prosperous by leveraging their natural resources for eco-tourism has verified the truth that clear waters and lush mountains can produce development dividends if the right approach is adopted.

Behind China's announcement of its dual carbon goals — carbon peaking before the year 2030 and carbon neutrality before the year 2060 — is the shift in mentality and awareness of the need to realize an ecological civilization. As a result, what the country has achieved in its environmental protection and ecological conservation as well as the technological breakthroughs it has made in this regard has become a reference for the world.

More countries are drawing on China's experience in ecological civilization, from eco-cultural villages in South Africa to solar-powered land restoration in Uzbekistan and marine protection in Peru. Guided by the vision that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets", China is advancing its own green transition while cooperating with over 100 countries on clean energy, supplying the majority of the world's photovoltaic modules and wind power equipment.

This approach shows that economic growth and ecological protection can progress together, and China will continue working with the world to ensure a clean, beautiful planet for future generations.

Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



Food alone won't save Gaza's starving population

Omar Shabana

ISRAEL has imposed man-made starvation on the population of Gaza since the aggression against the enclave began in October 2023. This campaign intensified drastically after March 2025, when the Zionist occupation implemented even harsher restrictions on the already scarce aid allowed into Gaza. Since then, hundreds of men, women, and children have died from severe malnutrition. Doctors survive on meagre crumbs of bread and oil each day, often resorting to seawater to ingest much-needed electrolytes. Journalists have become too weak to carry out their duties, and men are too frail to risk their lives at GHF sites. The population now resembles skin stretched taut over bones.

Such severe malnutrition has, unfortunately, been witnessed throughout history, and its effects on the human body are well documented. Systems shut down one by one, fatigue envelops the victims, and the body begins to consume itself to death. Chilling accounts between 1920 and 1940 in the Soviet Union paint a similar picture. Performers collapsed mid-performance, dying where they stood. People dropped dead in the streets as if simply falling asleep. Desperation reached such extremes that court records tell of a mother dismembering her unconscious husband, believing him dead, to feed their children.

What is often overlooked, however, is that recovery from starvation can be just as devastating.

Ironically, one of the earliest recorded accounts of this phenomenon comes from the siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE. For five months, under the command of Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian, the Roman army cut off all aid to the then-holy Jewish city. Like Gaza's population today, Jerusalem's citizens were wasted, disease-ridden, and forced to eat leather. After the Romans breached the gates and captured the city, Flavius Josephus, a Jewish commander who defected to the Romans, reported that many survivors died soon after eating. Malnourished citizens would gorge themselves on food to the point of vomiting, with many dying within hours.

Following World War II, similar accounts emerged involving Japanese prisoners of war. Malnourished soldiers liberated from captivity in the Philippines, New Guinea, and elsewhere gorged themselves on calorically rich food provided by their liberators. Approximately one in five of these prisoners died because of this refeeding process. Medical examinations revealed shrunken organs, heart failure, and other severe complications. Comparable observations have been reported repeatedly in starved civilian populations after famine relief, among post-operative patients, individuals suffering from anorexia nervosa, and chronic alcoholics.

Now commonly known as refeeding syndrome, this condition describes a dangerously rapid metabolic shift from a catabolic

to an anabolic state. In starvation, the body suppresses insulin and relies on breaking down muscle and fat, depleting essential intracellular ions. Once feeding resumes, insulin surges, causing glucose and electrolytes to flood into cells. This sudden cellular shift sharply lowers blood levels of phosphate, potassium, and magnesium. Insulin also promotes sodium and water retention in the bloodstream, leading to fluid overload. If untreated, these changes can cause catastrophic damage to the heart, lungs, nerves, and blood, resulting in arrhythmias, respiratory failure, and death.

It is important to emphasise that refeeding syndrome is not simply "too many calories too quickly"; it is a metabolic shock. Controlled eating alone is insufficient. Patients require carefully planned treatment, beginning with electrolyte and vitamin supplementation before feeding starts. A skilled, multidisciplinary team and routine laboratory testing are essential to ensure recovery proceeds safely. Pharmacists, psychiatrists, lab technicians, and other specialists must work in concert to nurse the malnourished back to health.

In the context of the genocide in Gaza, imagining such care is heartbreaking. The medical infrastructure there has collapsed. Doctors treat only urgent cases. Anaesthetics have all but run out, and vinegar, if found, is used to clean wounds. Children's limbs are amputated while they are fully conscious and in pain. This is not a system

remotely capable of rehabilitating two million starved people. Israel deliberately ensures this by enforcing a blockade on medical supplies and brutally targeting health workers, ambulances, and hospitals.

Tragically, we cannot rely on starving individuals to control their own refeeding. Hunger twists the mind, making a person obsessively fixated on food. The thought "this may be your only chance to eat, so eat as much as possible" becomes overpowering. In the follow up of Ancel Keys' malnutrition experiments, it was noted that several recovered participants went on to work in the food and restaurant industry. The reality is that a severely malnourished person cannot be expected to regulate their eating once food is available.

It is therefore crucial to demand international pressure on Israel to allow the immediate entry of medical equipment, laboratory facilities, and specialist teams into Gaza. Most crucially, they must stop targeting health workers and health facilities. This is nearly as vital as the entry of aid itself. Western governments possess a range of tools to compel Israel to halt its genocidal aggression and permit humanitarian and medical assistance, but they choose not to use them. They are complicit in one of the most horrendous genocides of modern times. Global citizens must press their governments to act. We must remain aware that without medical infrastructure accompanying aid, thousands will possibly die from refeeding syndrome.

Pakistan's month at the helm of UN Security Council

PAKISTAN, a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, assumed the presidency of the council in July. This was not just another rotation of a customary role. It was a demonstration of what principled, proactive and inclusive leadership looks like at a time of great global turbulence. By firmly placing the focus on multilateralism, respect for international law and the pacific settlement of disputes, Pakistan steered the council's work with clarity of purpose and a sense of urgency.

That Pakistan was able to deliver concrete results reflects the strength of its diplomatic credentials. This is the eighth time that Pakistan has been elected by the UN membership to serve on the Security Council as a nonpermanent member. There is a long tradition of excellence and leadership that the Pakistani delegation has been able to draw from. From peace-keeping to peacebuilding, Pakistan has always remained a forceful voice calling for dialogue and diplomacy, championing the rights of the underrepresented, underprivileged and marginalized.

From Day 1, Pakistan's approach has been anchored in its long-standing commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. As president, Pakistan's brief to the council

was rooted in familiar themes: upholding transparency, remaining constructive, and promoting cooperation to deliver the fundamental elements of the UNSC's mandate. Pakistan effectively used both formal and informal spaces to press for concrete outcomes.

Pakistan convened two signature events during its month-long presidency. The first was the high-level open debate on "Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and the Peaceful Settlement of Dispute," chaired by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed Ishaq Dar. The meeting underscored the UN's collective commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and greater utilization of the tools available in the UN Charter to address various ongoing challenges. The Security Council also adopted by consensus the Pakistan-sponsored Resolution 2788 that reflected this common objective.

The second key event was a briefing on the collaboration between the UN and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, also chaired by Pakistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The briefing contributed to amplifying the Islamic world's collective voice at the UN. It also resulted in a

presidential statement calling for deeper and more structured engagement between the two organizations. This initiative reflected Pakistan's long-standing belief that regional organizations are indispensable partners in achieving peace and stability.

Both these marquee events, as well as the open debate of the UNSC on the Middle East and the Palestinian question organized by the Pakistani presidency, provided an ample opportunity for UN member states to highlight the plight of the people of Gaza, who are braving the worst atrocities in recent memory at the hands of an occupying power. These formal meetings augmented pro-Palestinian voices and gave them a platform to urge for more concrete and urgent efforts to end the genocide in Gaza.

The Palestinian cause has always been a top priority for Pakistan. It is a sacred trust for every Pakistani diplomat, not only in the UNSC but around the world. Notwithstanding the obvious deadlock in the council, Pakistan was able to leverage its leadership role to shine a spotlight on the plight of the besieged people of Gaza.

In his official pronouncements, Dar insisted on three urgent priorities: an immediate ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and the protection of civilians under

international humanitarian law. We also lobbied, together with other like-minded countries, and coordinated closely with Saudi Arabia and members of the Joint Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee to further the case for Palestinian rights, including the early establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian state based on internationally agreed parameters. Both within the council's hallowed chamber, as well as during numerous closed-door consultations, Pakistan's message has remained clear and unambiguous: silence in the face of suffering is complicity.

Pakistan's leadership of the UNSC offered a timely reminder that multilateralism remains the most reliable way to address our collective challenges — both imminent and distant. Pakistan's focus was not on picking sides but on building bridges. We are committed to remaining the leading voice in support of dialogue and diplomacy, especially in cases of foreign occupation and the denial of fundamental human rights. Along with other members of the council, as well as our regional and international partners, Pakistan will continue its efforts to preserve and promote international peace and security, focusing on international law and the UN Charter.

— Arab News

Superman's new job at ICE is the perfect American plot twist

Somdeep Sen

LAST week, actor Dean Cain, known for portraying Superman in the 1990s TV show Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman, announced that he was going to be sworn in as a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent.

Cain said he was joining the agency because ICE agents, whom he described as the "real true heroes", were being vilified. He also posted an ICE recruitment video on Instagram with the Superman theme song playing in the background, and promoted the generous pay and benefits that come with being an ICE agent.

Cain is not the only one. Some pro-Trump celebrities have also defended or praised ICE. And Dr Phil tagged along on ICE raids in Chicago and quizzed apprehended migrants on camera.

But setting aside the irony that the Man of Steel himself was in fact also an undocumented alien, why would Superman be so keen to join ICE's draconian raids targeting immigrants?

For one thing, we need to understand the allure of these ICE operations.

The visuals of masked federal agents, hopping out of armoured vehicles, in military-style gear and swiftly descending on what ICE enthusiasts would claim are terrorists, rapists, paedophiles, murderers, drug traffickers and gang members, are deeply comforting for many in the US.

This is a consequence of a long history where militarised policing gained a semblance of sacrosanctity in the country.

It is well documented that contemporary policing in the US has its origins in slave patrols. This means that the development of the US criminal justice system has its roots not only in slavery, but also in the belief that slave revolts or any effort to upend the racial hierarchy in American society are an existential threat to the established social order.

Over the years, the gradual militarisation of the police has drawn its rationale from periods of perceived existential crises in American society. Whether it was the rise of organised crime during the Prohibition era of the 1920s, uprisings during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, or when President Richard Nixon declared drug addiction "public enemy no 1" requiring an "all-out offensive", these have served as the pretext for strong, military-style policing on American streets.

This militarisation of the police has been supported by Section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, which President Bill Clinton signed into law, allowing local law enforcement agencies to access excess military equipment from the Department of Defense (DOD). The 1033 programme has allowed the DOD to "sell or transfer", among other things, mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, grenade launchers, aeroplanes and helicopters.

This love affair with ICE is also a cultural phenomenon. The hard-edged, violent and brash cop, willing to stray outside the bounds of the law to protect innocent civilians from evil (the Muslim terrorist, the Soviets, the Germans) is a popular Hollywood and American TV show staple. This has normalised the perception that to keep America safe from such existential threats, it is sometimes necessary to use deadly force or extrajudicial actions, no matter how cruel or excessive they may seem.

Of course, in all of this, we cannot ignore the deep, anti-immigrant sentiments that drive the support for ICE.

In my adult life, this xenophobia has taken many forms.

As an 18-year-old college student in upstate New York in the early 2000s, I was the physical epitome of all things evil and anti-American as the country waged its "Global

War on Terror". At the time, I remember a fellow student justifying the extra security checks I had to suffer through at airports, saying, "You cannot ignore the fact that you look like the people who hate us."

In my late 20s as a PhD student in Copenhagen, I had to hear a senior colleague say, "You're Indian. I guess your skill is raping women." He was referring to the 2012 Delhi bus gang rape and murder that received global attention.

Globally, we have also seen a proliferation of reality TV shows like Border Security: Australia's Front Line and Nothing to Declare UK that claim to show the reality of the multiple threats that Western countries encounter at their borders.

It is now all but commonplace to imagine the figure of the migrant as a vessel for all things we fear and hate.

When Syrian refugees arrived in Europe in 2015, they were portrayed as a security threat, a burden on public services, and a threat to European values.

Last year, the United Kingdom saw a wave of far-right anti-immigrant riots after a mass stabbing of girls in Southport. The riots followed false claims that the attacker was a Muslim migrant. Rioters attacked minority-owned businesses, the homes of immigrants and hotels housing asylum seekers.

This year, Ireland has seen anti-immigrant attacks on South Asians, including a six-year-old girl who was punched in the face and hit in the genital area. Reportedly, these attacks have been fuelled by anger over the affordability and housing crisis.

Such anti-immigrant sentiments have been endemic to American politics.

While the discourse during the Obama years was not as antagonistic, the removal of undocumented migrants was still a political priority. President Obama was called "deporter-in-chief", and in 2012, deportations peaked at 409,849. That said, in the same year, he also signed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, allowing undocumented migrants who were brought into the country as minors to apply for "renewable two-year periods of deferred action from deportation, allowing them to remain in the country". DACA also made them eligible for work permits.

Deportations were also a priority during the Biden years. In fiscal year 2023, US immigration authorities deported or returned 468,000 migrants, surpassing any single year during Trump's first term.

That said, during Trump's tenure in the White House, the anti-immigrant rhetoric has been vicious, and the Republican leader does not shy away from portraying migrants as synonymous with criminality and an existential threat to the demographic, moral and cultural fabric of the United States.

This framing of immigrants as a problematic presence in American society served as a pretext for Trump's plan to build a wall across the US-Mexico border to stop the movement of undocumented migrants, the travel ban on citizens from several Muslim countries, and a suspension of the US Refugee Admissions Program.

Trump's second term has only been a continuation of such policies. With the genocide ongoing in Gaza and the concurrent visibility of the Palestine solidarity movement, the anti-immigration movement has merged with anti-Palestinian racism, with ICE also targeting pro-Palestine activists whom the Trump administration claims hold views that are antithetical to American values.

With all of this in the background, it then makes sense that an actor who once played an undocumented alien on TV and who himself has Japanese heritage would join ICE. In the era of Trump, targeting the tired and poor huddled masses who yearn to breathe free seems to be the American way.

Here’s what Putin really wants from Trump – and it’s not peace in Ukraine

ALASKA is unlikely to have been on many peoples' bingo cards as the venue for a key summit between the leaders of the United States and Russia.

Yet America's biggest, remotest state is where Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin are now set to meet for one of the most potentially consequential encounters of their presidencies.

That's certainly the view from Moscow, where pro-Kremlin propagandists are already flushed with anticipation at the benefits this much-anticipated face-to-face meeting will deliver.

Or, more specifically, will deliver for Putin.

Firstly, the fact a summit with the US president is being held at all is a massive win for the Kremlin.

"No one is talking about Russia's international isolation anymore, or about our strategic defeat," wrote Alexander Kots, a prominent pro-Kremlin military blogger on his popular social media channel. He added that the Alaska meeting had "every chance to become historic."

He may be right. A presidential summit allows Putin to be seen back at the top table of international diplomacy, while thumbing his nose at critics and nations who want him shunned if not arrested on charges of war crimes in Ukraine.

And a summit in the US state of Alaska, of all places, is red meat to resurgent Russian nationalists who still bluster about the territory being rightfully theirs.

Just across the Bering Strait from the Chukotka region in the Russian Far East, Alaska was once a remote possession of the Russian Empire before being sold to the United States in 1867 for what was, even then, a paltry sum of \$7.2 million, about 2 cents an acre.

The idea that Moscow got a raw deal still lingers and a visit to "our Alaska," as one prominent Russian state TV host dubbed it, bolsters Putin's nationalist credentials.

Video clips of Trump misspeaking at a White House news conference ahead of the summit, saying he was going to "Russia" to meet Putin, have also been trending on Russian social media with captions saying the US president had finally "admitted it is ours."

For the rest of the world, though, the sole focus of this presidential summit is the war in Ukraine and whether Russia is prepared to make any concessions to end it. The White House has said Trump expects to focus squarely on ending the war in Ukraine, leaving other issues Moscow has said could be up for discussion for another time.

On Wednesday, Trump promised "very severe consequences" if Putin doesn't agree to end his war, following a call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and

Matthew Chance

ward expansion since the end of the Cold War. On Wednesday, a Russian foreign ministry spokesman said the country's position on Ukraine was "unchanged," state media reported.

More likely, Putin is up to something else.

Details have emerged of a Russian peace offer reportedly made to US presidential envoy, Steve Witkoff, before the Alaska summit was hastily arranged. In essence, the proposals involve Kyiv surrendering territory in the Donbas region

even one so unpalatable to Ukraine and its European partners.

That clear difference of opinion represents an opportunity for Putin to portray the Ukrainians and the Europeans – not Russia – as the real obstacle to peace, potentially undermining Trump's already shaky support for the Ukrainian war effort. Trump has lost patience with Zelensky before, the Kremlin will have noted, and may do so again. If he were to cut off the remaining US military aid and intelligence sharing with Kyiv, Ukraine

of pushing back that deadline indefinitely.

In comments on Thursday, Putin floated the idea of reaching a deal on nuclear arms with the Trump.

More broadly, Putin sees a unique opportunity with Trump to fundamentally reset relations with Washington, and separate Russian ties with the US from the fate of Ukraine, a scenario that would also divide the Western allies.

For months, Kremlin officials have been talking up possibilities for economic, technological and space cooperation

Just across the Bering Strait from the Chukotka region in the Russian Far East, Alaska was once a remote possession of the Russian Empire before being sold to the United States in 1867 for what was, even then, a paltry sum of \$7.2 million, about 2 cents an acre. he idea that Moscow got a raw deal still lingers and a visit to "our Alaska," as one prominent Russian state TV host dubbed it, bolsters Putin's nationalist credentials. Video clips of Trump misspeaking at a White House news conference ahead of the summit, saying he was going to "Russia" to meet Putin, have also been trending on Russian social media with captions saying the US president had finally "admitted it is ours." For the rest of the world, though, the sole focus of this presidential summit is the war in Ukraine and whether Russia is prepared to make any concessions to end it. The White House has said Trump expects to focus squarely on ending the war in Ukraine, leaving other issues Moscow has said could be up for discussion for another time. On Wednesday, Trump promised "very severe consequences" if Putin doesn't agree to end his war, following a call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders. But so far there's been little sign of real compromise from the Kremlin, which regards itself as having the upper hand on the grinding Ukrainian battlefield. As recently as last month, on a phone call with Trump, Putin reportedly reiterated that Russia would "continue to pursue its goals to address the root causes" of the conflict in Ukraine – these "root causes" having previously included long-held Russian grievances that include Ukraine's existence as a sovereign state, and NATO's eastward expansion since the end of the Cold War. On Wednesday, a Russian foreign ministry spokesman said the country's position on Ukraine was "unchanged," state media reported. More likely, Putin is up to something else. Details have emerged of a Russian peace offer reportedly made to US presidential envoy, Steve Witkoff, before the Alaska summit was hastily arranged. In essence, the proposals involve Kyiv surrendering territory in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, in exchange for a ceasefire, an idea the Ukrainian leadership has firmly ruled out. "I am not going to surrender my country because I have no right to do so," said Zelensky ahead of the summit, which he was not invited to. "If we leave Donbas today, our fortifications, our terrain, the heights we control, we will clearly open a bridgehead for the preparation of a Russian offensive." But Trump, who is expected to discuss the idea with Putin in Alaska, appears to like the sound of a land-for-peace deal, even one so unpalatable to Ukraine and its European partners. That clear difference of opinion represents an opportunity for Putin to portray the Ukrainians and the Europeans – not Russia – as the real obstacle to peace, potentially undermining Trump's already shaky support for the Ukrainian war effort. Trump has lost patience with Zelensky before, the Kremlin will have noted, and may do so again. If he were to cut off the remaining US military aid and intelligence sharing with Kyiv, Ukraine would struggle to continue its fight even with bolstered European support. Ahead of the summit, the White House appeared to downplay expectations of a peace deal, characterizing the high-stakes meeting as a "listening exercise."

European leaders.

But so far there's been little sign of real compromise from the Kremlin, which regards itself as having the upper hand on the grinding Ukrainian battlefield.

As recently as last month, on a phone call with Trump, Putin reportedly reiterated that Russia would "continue to pursue its goals to address the root causes" of the conflict in Ukraine – these "root causes" having previously included long-held Russian grievances that include Ukraine's existence as a sovereign state, and NATO's east-

ward expansion since the end of the Cold War. On Wednesday, a Russian foreign ministry spokesman said the country's position on Ukraine was "unchanged," state media reported. More likely, Putin is up to something else. Details have emerged of a Russian peace offer reportedly made to US presidential envoy, Steve Witkoff, before the Alaska summit was hastily arranged. In essence, the proposals involve Kyiv surrendering territory in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, in exchange for a ceasefire, an idea the Ukrainian leadership has firmly ruled out.

"I am not going to surrender my country because I have no right to do so," said Zelensky ahead of the summit, which he was not invited to. "If we leave Donbas today, our fortifications, our terrain, the heights we control, we will clearly open a bridgehead for the preparation of a Russian offensive."

But Trump, who is expected to discuss the idea with Putin in Alaska, appears to like the sound of a land-for-peace deal,

would struggle to continue its fight even with bolstered European support. Ahead of the summit, the White House appeared to downplay expectations of a peace deal, characterizing the high-stakes meeting as a "listening exercise."

That may suit Putin just fine.

It was, after all, the Kremlin who solicited the summit, according to the White House – possibly as a way of heading off a threat of US tariffs and secondary sanctions that Trump said would kick in last week. Keeping Trump talking may be an effective way

with the US,? as well as lucrative deals on infrastructure and energy in the Arctic and elsewhere.

The fact the Kremlin's top economic envoy, Kirill Dmitriev – a key interlocutor with the Trump administration – is part of the Russian delegation to Alaska suggests that more talk of US-Russian deal-making will be on the agenda.

And, if Putin gets his way in this summit, the "Ukraine question" may find itself relegated to just one of many talking points between the powerful leaders of two great powers – and not even the most pressing one.

The story behind world court’s landmark climate ruling

Antara Haldar

whose classroom exercise first planted the seed of this unlikely revolution in 2019.

The ruling delivers a resounding victory for the climate justice movement, which has been gaining momentum ever since the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg staged her first solo protest. Now, for the first time, the movement's intergenerational demand for dignity and legal recognition has a concrete judicial imprimatur.

It is also a triumph for the Global South. For decades, developing countries have called attention to the injustice of being exposed to the gravest consequences of a problem they did not cause. Now, the world court has acknowledged this asymmetry and taken the first step toward correcting it, vindicating, in particular, the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change: small island states with vanishing coastlines, salinizing freshwater and intensifying cyclones. Countries long treated as voiceless victims have become the protagonists in a world-spanning legal story.

This was not the first attempt to bring climate justice to The Hague. Palau and the Marshall Islands made a similar effort in 2012, but it stalled for lack of political backing. The difference this time lay not just in the Pacific Islanders' persistence, but also in their strategy for building solidarity. Refusing to follow the usual, stodgy diplomatic script, they brought the warmth of the South Pacific to international law. Houniuihi always wore a rorodara (a seashell-studded ceremonial headdress) to address the UN and her group treated the courtroom drama as an occasion for song and dance. Hearings were celebrated as watch parties.

The Pacific Islanders also built coalitions across oceans and generations — working with Vanuatu's then-Foreign Minister Ralph Regenvanu, Caribbean allies and youth activists worldwide. With some countries even calling for financial reparations, the court process became a movement in itself.

The International Court of Justice's ruling comes at a time when other international courts are converging on similar conclusions. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has just affirmed that states

must curb marine pollution from greenhouse gas emissions; the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has, in an opinion on climate obligations, recognized the right to a healthy climate as a human right; and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is in the process of weighing in on the matter.

The world court's opinion is not legally binding, but it is far from toothless. Its authority comes not from enforcement, but from amplification. It crystallizes a set of norms for courts, lawmakers and activists around the world and it sharpens the tools of transnational litigation. Hence, the decision is already expected to influence domestic cases, such as Greenpeace's suit against the Italian oil company Eni. It may also mean that countries can sue each other over climate change.

The evolution of climate justice from a slogan into a legal standard may be the most important signal yet that a genuinely global legal system is emerging. By that I do not mean a world government, but rather a legal system defined by what the legal theorist H.L.A. Hart called "the union of primary and secondary rules" recognized across jurisdictions. Climate law, once a patchwork of soft pledges and nonbinding resolutions, is being stitched into something more cohesive and robust.

What the Pacific Islands students lacked in money and influence, they made up for in conviction. They worked on shoestring budgets, faced visa barriers and were repeatedly told that their campaign would go nowhere. But they kept going, proving that legal innovation does not have to come from men in suits; it can come from the margins and eventually change international law.

"We were there. And we were heard," said Houniuihi in disbelief when the opinion was published, speaking for the two communities most impacted by climate change — Pacific Islanders and young people. The subaltern spoke and the world's highest court listened. Flawed and slow-moving though it may be, international law still holds transformative potential. As Rose told me, "international law is itself a repository of stories."

The International Court of Justice's decision is a much-needed reminder that happy endings are still possible.

The latest ChatGPT is supposed to be ‘PhD level’ smart. It can’t even label a map

Yossi Mekelberg

SAM Altman, the artificial intelligence hype master, is in damage-control mode.

OpenAI's latest version of its vaunted ChatGPT bot was supposed to be "PhD-level" smart. It was supposed to be the next great leap forward for a company that investors have poured billions of dollars into.

Instead, ChatGPT got a flatter, more terse personality that can't reliably answer basic questions. The resulting public mockery has forced the company to make sweaty apologies while standing by its highfalutin claims about the bot's capabilities.

In short: It's a dud. The misstep on the model, called GPT-5, is notable for a couple of reasons.

1. It highlighted the many existing shortcomings of generative AI that critics were quick to seize on (more on that in a moment, because they were quite funny).

2. It raised serious doubts about OpenAI's ability to build and market consumer products that human beings are willing to pay for. That should be particularly concerning for investors, given OpenAI, which has never turned a profit, is reportedly worth \$500 billion.

Let's rewind a bit to

last Thursday, when OpenAI finally released GPT-5 to the world — about a year behind schedule, according to the Wall Street Journal. Now, one thing this industry is really good at is hype, and on that metric, CEO Sam Altman delivered.

During a livestream ahead of the launch last Thursday, Altman said talking to GPT-5 would be like talking to "a legitimate PhD-level expert in anything, any area you need."

In his typically lofty style, Altman said GPT-5 reminds him of "when the iPhone went from those giant-pixel old ones to the retina display." The new model, he said, is "significantly better in obvious ways and subtle ways, and it feels like something I don't want to ever have to go back from."

Altman said in a press briefing.

Then people started actually using it.

Users had a field day testing GPT-5 and mocking its wildly incorrect answers. The journalist Tim Burke said on Bluesky that he prompted GPT-5 to "show me a diagram of the first 12 presidents of the United States with an image of their face and their name under the image."

The bot returned an image of nine people instead, with rather cre-

ative spellings of America's early leaders, like "Gearge Washington" and "William Henry Harttson."

A similar prompt for the last 12 presidents returned an image that

Labeling basic maps of the United States also proved tricky for GPT-5 (but again, pretty funny, as tech writer Ed Zitron's post on Bluesky showed). GPT-5 did slightly better when I asked it on Wednesday for a map of the US. Some people can, in fact, label the great state of Vermont correctly without a PhD, but not GPT-5. And this is the first I'm hearing of states named "Virginia." The slop coming out of GPT-5 was funny when it was just us nerds trying to find its blind spots. But some regular fans of ChatGPT weren't laughing. Especially because users have been particularly alarmed by the new version's personality – or rather, lack thereof. In rolling out the new model, OpenAI essentially retired its earlier models, including the wildly popular GPT-4o that's been on the market for over a year, making it so that even people who loved the previous iteration of the chatbot suddenly couldn't use it. More than 4,000 people signed a Change.org petition to compel OpenAI to resurrect it. "I'm so done with ChatGPT 5," one user wrote on Reddit, explaining how they tried to use the new model to run "a simple system" of tasks that an earlier ChatGPT model used to handle. The user said GPT-5 "went rogue," deleting tasks and moving deadlines. And while OpenAI's defenders could chalk that up to an isolated or even made-up incident, within 24 hours of the GPT-5 launch Altman was doing damage control, seemingly caught of guard by the bad reception. On X, he announced a laundry list of updates, including the return of GPT-4o for paid subscribers. "We expected some bumpiness as we roll out so many things at once," Altman said in a post. "But it was a little more bumpy than we hoped for!" The CEO's failure to anticipate the outrage suggests he doesn't have a firm grasp on how an estimated 700 million weekly active users are engaging with his product. Perhaps Altman missed all the coverage — from CNN, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal — of people forming deep emotional attachments to ChatGPT or rival chatbots, having endless conversations with them as if they were real people.

included two separate versions of George W. Bush. No, not George H.W. Bush, and then Dubya. It had "George H. Bush." And then his son, twice. Except the second time, George Jr. looked like just some random guy.

Labeling basic maps of the United States also proved tricky for GPT-5 (but again, pretty funny, as tech writer Ed Zitron's post on Bluesky showed). GPT-5 did slightly better when I asked it on Wednesday for a map of the US. Some people can,

in fact, label the great state of Vermont correctly without a PhD, but not GPT-5. And this is the first I'm hearing of states named "Virginia."

The slop coming out of GPT-5 was funny when it was just us nerds trying to find its blind spots. But some regular fans of ChatGPT weren't laughing. Especially because users have been particularly alarmed by the new version's personality – or rather, lack thereof. In rolling out the new model, OpenAI essentially retired its earlier models, including the wildly popular GPT-4o that's been on the market for over a year, making it so that even people who loved the previous iteration of the chatbot suddenly couldn't use it. More than 4,000 people signed a Change.org petition to compel OpenAI to resurrect it. "We expected some bumpiness as we roll out so many things at once," Altman said in a post. "But it was a little more bumpy than we hoped for!" The CEO's failure to anticipate the outrage suggests he doesn't have a firm grasp on how an estimated 700 million weekly active users are engaging with his product. Perhaps Altman missed all the coverage — from CNN, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal — of people forming deep emotional attachments to ChatGPT or rival chatbots, having endless conversations with them as if they were real people.

guard by the bad reception. On X, he announced a laundry list of updates, including the return of GPT-4o for paid subscribers. "We expected some bumpiness as we roll out so many things at once," Altman said in a post. "But it was a little more bumpy than we hoped for!"

The CEO's failure to anticipate the outrage suggests he doesn't have a firm grasp on how an estimated 700 million weekly active users are engaging with his product. Perhaps Altman missed all the coverage — from CNN, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal — of people forming deep emotional attachments to ChatGPT or rival chatbots, having endless conversations with them as if they were real people.

"I'm so done with ChatGPT 5," one user wrote on Reddit, explaining how they tried to use the new model to run "a simple system" of tasks that an earlier ChatGPT model used to handle. The user said GPT-5 "went rogue," deleting tasks and moving deadlines.

And while OpenAI's defenders could chalk that up to an isolated or even made-up incident, within 24 hours of the GPT-5 launch Altman was doing damage control, seemingly caught of

guard by the bad reception. On X, he announced a laundry list of updates, including the return of GPT-4o for paid subscribers. "We expected some bumpiness as we roll out so many things at once," Altman said in a post. "But it was a little more bumpy than we hoped for!"

The CEO's failure to anticipate the outrage suggests he doesn't have a firm grasp on how an estimated 700 million weekly active users are engaging with his product. Perhaps Altman missed all the coverage — from CNN, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal — of people forming deep emotional attachments to ChatGPT or rival chatbots, having endless conversations with them as if they were real people.

When asked about the backlash to GPT-5, an OpenAI representative pointed CNN to Altman's public statements on social media announcing the return of older models, as well as a blog post about how the company is optimizing GPT-5.

AI companies often base their fanfare around how a model performs in various behind-the-scenes benchmark tests that show how well a bot can do complex math. For all we know, GPT-5 sailed through those evaluations.

When asked about the backlash to GPT-5, an OpenAI representative pointed CNN to Altman's public statements on social media announcing the return of older models, as well as a blog post about how the company is optimizing GPT-5.

AI companies often base their fanfare around how a model performs in various behind-the-scenes benchmark tests that show how well a bot can do complex math. For all we know, GPT-5 sailed through those evaluations.

AI companies often base their fanfare around how a model performs in various behind-the-scenes benchmark tests that show how well a bot can do complex math. For all we know, GPT-5 sailed through those evaluations.

But the problem is that OpenAI hyped the thing so far into the stratosphere, disappointment was (or should have been) inevitable.

"I honestly didn't think OpenAI would burn the brand name on something so mid," wrote prominent researcher and AI critic Gary Marcus. "In a rational world, their valuation would take a hit," he added, noting OpenAI still hasn't turned a profit, is slashing prices to keep its user numbers up, and is hemorrhaging talent as competition heats up.

For critics like Marcus, the GPT-5 flop was a kind of vindication. As he noted in a blog post, other models like Elon Musk's Grok aren't faring much better, and the backlash from even AI proponents feels like a turning point.

When people talk about AI, they're talking about one of two things: the AI we have now — chatbots with limited, defined utility — and the AI that companies like Altman's claim they can build — machines that can outsmart humans and tell us how to cure cancer, fix global warming, drive our cars and grow our crops, all while entertaining and delighting us along the way.

But the gap between the promise and the reality of AI only seems to widen with every new model.



SCCI arranges ceremony to mark Independence Day

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a spectacular ceremony to mark the 78th Independence Day with national enthusiasm and zeal and War of the truth (Marak-e-Haq).

Traders and people, especially children from different walks of life flock to the chamber to celebrate the festivity.

A splendor display of national patriotism and national unity demonstrated their immeasurable love for their country during the event. Participants on the occasion paid great homage and respect to the national anthem by standing ovation.

National songs that were run on a joint screen also charged the participants and they chanted full-throated slogans Long Live Pakistan [Pakistan Zindabad], and paid rich tribute to the Pakistan

Army in remarkable success in battle of truth.

Participants shed light on the unmatched sacrifices and lauded struggle of forefathers, freedom fighters movement for separate homeland.

They also paid rich tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan armed forces and law enforcement agencies, which gave their lives and made the country a cradle of peace.

Speakers offered on the occasion special prayers for unity, peace, prosperity and development of the country.

The festivity formally began with SCCI president Fazal Moqem Khan after hoisting a national flag at the building of the chamber house.

Chairman Anjuman e Tajran Peshawar for lifetime and former president of the chamber Haji Muhammad Afzal, former senior vice president Sanaullah Khan, member

of the SCCI's executive committee Aftab Iqbal, Ashfaq Ahmad, Saifullah Khan, Nadeem Rauf, Gul Zaman, Sabir Ahmad Bangash, Sultan Muhammad, and Rashid Iqbal Siddique, Qurat Ul Ain, Monawar Khurshid, Ihsanullah, Sultan Muhammad, Chaudhry Sameer, Hamoodry Rehman, Saddam Gul, Ishtiaq Ahmad Paracha, Secretary General SCCI Muqtasid Ahsan, chamber officials, staff and others were present in a large number on the occasion.

Fazal Moqem while speaking during the event stated that the business community is proud to celebrate 78th Independence Day, what he said, this is a greater gift and decisive enthusiasm that protects it.

One of the most significant to this year, along with celebrating Independence Day, we mark the splendid victory of the Marka-e-Haq [the battle of

truth] which once again proved that when Pakistan stands united, no enemy would harm it.

Pakistan came into being after matchless sacrifices by our forefathers; says Fazal Moqem Khan, while talking to media and participants of the event.

The SCCI chief continued to say that: "Blood of our martyrs is freedom of our lives and paid rich tribute to martyrs and warriors which deployed for protection of the country's frontiers and internal security, and their sacrifices as castle of our sovereignty.

Pakistan armed forces are fully capable of giving a befitting response to enemy aggression, and will never be alone, and the whole nation stands with its own armed forces, Fazal Moqem remarked.

The chamber president said Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiris and Palestinians in their struggle for right to



self-determination, stating that this pledge isn't mere a word or statement but an unwavering commitment on ethic, diplomatic and human grounds and vowed

to continue raise voice for their rights in light with UN resolutions and International justice, until become freedom of their destiny.

Let's us make a pledge

today by sitting aside all kind of difference to break the chains of poverty, deprivation, downtrodden would make unified efforts for the country's peace, prosperity,

progress and its pride and image and make Pakistan that will practical thinking of the vision of founder Qaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal.

Flag hoisting, tree plantation ceremony held at PNSC



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) cele-

brated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with patriotic zeal and enthusiasm. The ceremony commenced with the

recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the dignified hoisting of the national flag.

The Chairman (PNSC

Board), Sultan Ahmed and CEO, Syed Jarar Haider Kazmi, hoisted the national flag along with the Chief Financial Officer, Executive Directors, officers, and staff.

Later, the Chairman addressed the PNSC employees and a cake was cut on the occasion of Independence Day and prayers were offered for the progress and stability of the country.

During the event, the CEO also planting a sapling within the premises of the organization.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of sweets among participants, who reaffirmed their commitment to celebrating this national day with devotion and spirit.

Pakistan Movement's heroes eulogized

LAHORE (APP): The Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Saif-ur-Rehman Thursday said Pakistan was carved on the globe after the immense sacrifices of our forefathers.

Addressing an Independence Day event organised by family food products manufacturers here, he highlighted the struggles and unwavering commitment of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other heroes of Pakistan Movement in achieving an independent homeland. He stressed the importance of honoring these sacrifices by upholding the principles of justice, unity, and progress envisioned by Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He urged Pakistanis, especially the youth, to contribute positively to the country's development and protect its sovereignty.

He also reiterated the FTO commitment to addressing public grievances, particularly in tax-related matters, ensuring fairness and transparency under the leadership of Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah.

SWCCI celebrates I-Day

SARGODHA (APP): The Sargodha Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SWCCI) celebrated the Independence Day with great enthusiasm, following the vision of its founder president Shamim Aftab.

Under her leadership, Acting President Sumeera Huraira and SWCCI members organised a wonderful event. The ceremony was attended by esteemed ladies from various business fields.

Shamim Aftab and SWCCI members jointly hoisted the flag and celebrated with distinguished guests by cutting a cake. Director FTO Shaukat Mehmood, senior women entrepreneur Sapna Abroy, and ex-MPA Sajida Ather were special guests. The event also celebrated the achievements of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos and recognised the sacrifices of the nation's martyrs.

Some executive members, who attended the event, included Qaisra Ismail, Adila Aslam, and ex-executive members Tanzila Riaz, Sadia Khan, Dr Humaira Azhar, along with other new members.

Pak foreign exchange reserves triple to \$14.5b

KARACHI (PPI): The Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have seen substantial growth, nearly tripling from USD 4.4 billion at the end of fiscal year 2023 to USD 14.5 billion by the end of fiscal year 2025.

This was revealed by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor, Jameel Ahmad, during a flag-hoisting ceremony held at SBP Karachi today to mark the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. Ahmad revealed that inflation, which peaked at 38 percent in May 2023, has plummeted to a record low of 3.2 percent by June 2025. This achievement follows a series of monetary policy interventions by the SBP, including seven gradual policy rate reductions from 22 percent to 11

percent since June 2024. The central bank aims to maintain price stability within a 5-7 percent range to foster economic expansion and business prospects.

Contributing factors include a current account surplus of USD 2.1 billion – the first in 14 years – and all-time high remittances of USD 38.3 billion from overseas Pakistanis.

This reserve accumulation has been achieved without increasing foreign debt and has led to upgrades by international credit rating agencies, potentially attracting foreign investment.

The Governor also highlighted the SBP's focus on technological advancements in financial inclu-

sion. This includes establishing Raast, Pakistan's instant payment system, as a separate subsidiary and modernizing payment infrastructure. A new account-opening framework, enabling account creation without visiting a bank branch, has been introduced to benefit the populace, particularly women.

The Independence Day celebrations included performances by students from Zindagi Trust School and art exhibitions showcasing the talent of children with special needs from the Ida Rieu School for the Blind and Deaf, reflecting the SBP's commitment to inclusivity. Other exhibits featured archival materials and aviation history.

PAA celebrates 78th Independence Day



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) marked the nation's 78th Independence Day with flag hoisting ceremonies at airports across the country, with the main ceremony held at the PAA Headquarters in Karachi.

At the headquarters, a large number of PAA officers and staff were present, along with children dressed in national colors waving flags, as patriotic songs played in the background.

Director General PAA, Air Vice Marshal Zeeshan Saeed, SI(M), hoisted the national flag and saluted as the national anthem resonated across the premises. Addressing the gathering, the DG PAA congratulated everyone on Independence Day and paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He reminded participants that Pakistan was achieved after great sacrifices.

The DG PAA lauded the dedication of the PAA team

for their hard work during the successful "Operation Bunyan Marsoos" in response to threats emanating from the east. He reaffirmed that, by fulfilling its vision, mission, and core values, PAA is committed to playing its role in the nation's development.

Following the ceremony, the DG PAA mingled with employees and raised patriotic slogans, reflecting the collective resolve of the nation to work harder and remain ready for any sacrifice.

Flag hoisting ceremony held at Sui Northern Gas head office



F.P. Report

LAHORE: In celebration of Pakistan's 78th Inde-

pendence Day, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Head Office of Sui Northern Gas in Lahore.

The ceremony was graced by Managing Director Sui Northern Gas, Amer Tufail, as the chief guest.

In his address, the Managing Director paid tribute to the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal in securing Pakistan's independence.

He also lauded the heroic sacrifices and victories of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Tufail urged employees to work with unity and dedication for the progress of the country and the company. Later, the Managing Director hoisted the national flag and planted a sapling to mark the occasion.

Senior management and employees of the company also attended the ceremony in large numbers.

SCCI marks I.Day with cake-cutting ceremony

SIALKOT (APP): The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day with a cake-cutting ceremony, attended by President SCCI Ikram-ul-Haq, Senior Vice President (SVP) SCCI Waseem Shehbaz Lodhi, Vice President (VP) SCCI Omer Khalid, Executive Committee members, and the dedicated employees of SCCI.

In his address, President SCCI Ikram-ul-Haq reaffirmed the Chamber's

unwavering commitment to the vision of Pakistan as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army for their steadfast role in safeguarding that vision since the nation's inception, defending the country against both internal and external threats.

President SCCI particularly lauded their valor and resolve in Maraq-e-Haq and their ongoing efforts in

the war against Fitna-e-Khwarj in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, underscoring their unmatched sacrifices for the stability, unity, and integrity of the motherland.

Earlier, President SCCI Ikram-ul-Haq along with leading exporters hosted a national flag-hoisting ceremony at the lawns of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Thursday in connection with Pakistan's 78th Independence Day celebrations.

Pakistani businessmen celebrate Independence Day in Jeddah

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan food exporters' delegation, along with Pakistani businessmen settled in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has celebrated the auspicious occasion of Independence Day in a befitting and dignified manner.

The exporters delegation led by Shahid Imran Convener of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) regional committee on food, is visiting Jeddah, according to a spokesman here Thursday.

On this occasion, prominent businessmen, community leaders and their families reaffirmed their love and devotion to the motherland. The venue was adorned with national flags, green and white balloons, and patriotic banners, creating a festive and vibrant atmosphere.

Shahid Imran paid rich homage to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, other founding leaders and martyrs who rendered immense sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan.

He emphasized the need for unity, hard work, and adherence to the Quaid's vision for a prosperous and strong nation.

LCCI celebrates I-Day with flag-hoisting

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day here on Thursday with a grand ceremony featuring a flag hoisting and cake cutting.

The event commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, former LCCI president Muhammad Ali Mian, former vice president Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol and Executive Committee members jointly hoisted the national flag. A large number of members of the business community were also present.

Special prayers were offered for the security,

progress and prosperity of Pakistan, while the atmosphere echoed with chants of "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Quaid-i-Azam Zindabad."

In his address, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad said that Independence Day is not just a celebration, but a reminder of the sacrifices, unity and hard work of our forefathers who struggled for this homeland. He stressed that Pakistan's development requires collective efforts from all segments of society.

He added that true independence is economic prosperity, which can be achieved through national unity, sound government policies, and the promotion of investment.

LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman said that the true spirit of independence lies

in fulfilling national responsibilities and taking concrete measures to strengthen the economy.

Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry remarked that the business community is playing a vital role in fortifying Pakistan's industrial and trade structure.

Former president Muhammad Ali Mian stressed the need for unity and harmony to send a strong message to the world that Pakistan is a stable and peaceful country.

Former VP Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol underscored the importance of business-friendly policies and industrial growth for economic progress.

They said that Independence Day is an opportunity to renew the pledge to put Pakistan on the path of growth and prosperity.



Owen, Morris, Short ruled out of South Africa series



SYDNEY (ESPNCricinfo): Mitchell Owen has been ruled out of the deciding T20I against South Africa and the ODI series which follows due to concussion after being struck on the helmet by Kagiso Rabada in Darwin.

Owen passed an on-field assessment after being hit on the grille second ball but then reported delayed symptoms after being dismissed. He will enter a mandatory stand-down period of at least 12 days meaning he will miss the chance of an ODI debut.

Fast bowler Lance

Morris and allrounder Matt Short will also miss the ODI series which starts next Tuesday with Aaron Hardie, Cooper Connolly and Matt Kuhnemann called into the squad.

Morris reported back soreness as he prepared for the series which would have marked an international return and will be a concerning development for a player with a history of back problems. He has returned to Perth for further assessment and his participation in the four-day leg of the Australia A tour of India may now be in doubt.

Short, meanwhile, still has not recovered from the side strain he picked up in West Indies. He was initially ruled out of the first two T20Is against South Africa, but he now won't be available for any of the matches. It continues a disrupted run to Short's international career after he suffered a quad injury during the Champions Trophy earlier this year.

South Africa leveled the T20I series with a 53-run victory on Tuesday with the decider taking place in Cairns on Saturday. The city then hosts the opening

ODI on August 19 with the final two matches in Mackay on August 22 and 24. Hardie, the Western Australia allrounder, had already been drafted into the T20I squad as cover for Short. Left-arm spinner Kuhnemann previously played four ODIs in 2022 and his call-up means Australia could field a twin spin attack alongside Adam Zampa.

Connolly, the left-handed batter and left-arm spinner, was called into Australia's Champions Trophy squad earlier this year and played the semi-final against India.

Josh Inglis missed the second T20I with "flu-like" symptoms with Alex Carey called into the squad and playing his first match in the format since 2021.

Updated Australia ODI squad

Mitchell Marsh (capt), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Adam Zampa



HOUSTON, TEXAS: Hunter Brown #58 of the Houston Astros warms up before a game against the Boston Red Sox at Daikin Park in Houston, Texas.

Gauff reaches last eight at Cincinnati Open

WASHINGTON (BBC): World number two Coco Gauff beat Lucia Bronzetti 6-2 6-4 to book her place in the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati Open.

The two players had progressed to the last 16 in contrasting ways, with Gauff having won her only match in straight sets before a walkover against Dayana Yastremska in last round.

Bronzetti, on the other hand, had come through in

three sets in her previous three rounds and the world number 61 quickly found herself 3-0 down.

Gauff was broken in the fifth game but it proved a brief blip as she went on to win the opening set in 33 minutes.

The American went 2-0 up in the second set but suffered another lapse when she was broken to love by the Italian in the third game.

Bronzetti raised her game and had a break

point at 2-2, only to send a backhand return long as Gauff managed to hold.

The second set was a more competitive affair but Bronzetti double-faulted twice when serving to stay in the match and Gauff went on to break and secure victory.

"For the most part I played aggressive," said Gauff, who won the Cincinnati Open in 2023 before going on to win the US Open that year.

"Maybe there were a

couple that were a little bit passive in some of those games but it's tough - the balls are super light and she wasn't giving me much pace.

"I was just trying to play controlled but also aggressive and, for the most part, I think I did well."

Gauff will play the winner of the match between Italian Jasmine Paolini and Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic in the next round.

ICTSG unites world in celebrating Int'l Day for Traditional Sports

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Council of Traditional Sports and Games (ICTSG), recognized as the sole global platform dedicated to safeguarding, promoting, and reviving centuries-old sporting traditions, led worldwide celebrations for the International Day for Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) 2025 on August 14.

From vibrant city squares to remote rural villages, and from grassroots festivals to international virtual summits, communities united in a shared mission to protect living treasures of cultural heritage, indigenous games, ancestral competitions, and folk traditions passed down through generations, said a press release.

Headquartered in Florida, USA, and operating through continental offices in Kyoto (Far East), Lahore (Southeast Asia), Cannes (Europe), and African regional hubs, ICTSG drives a coordinated global effort to ensure these traditions thrive.

In his address, ICTSG President Khalil Ahmed Khan said, "When a sport disappears, it is like a language no longer spoken, its stories, values, and lessons risk being lost forever."

Adopted by UNESCO member states in 2021, the International Day for TSG goes beyond sport, serving as a movement for cultural revival, heritage protection, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

This year's celebrations introduced the innovative

SRETS Elevation Framework, a six-stage strategy that identifies endangered games, strengthens grassroots participation, secures national recognition, facilitates international collaboration, and ensures their preservation as living heritage.

Women's leadership in TSG also took center stage, with ICTSG launching initiatives to train female coaches, referees, and community leaders, recognizing women's historic role as custodians of cultural practices.

In a major call to action, ICTSG announced that over 50 National Chapters are now open for leadership roles, inviting applicants worldwide to join the safeguarding mission.

The day concluded with

the adoption of the ICTSG Global Declaration, urging member states and cultural stakeholders to actively contribute to TSG revival efforts, including enriching the ICTSG Online Encyclopedia. The organization also honored the Top 100 global contributors whose tireless dedication has advanced TSG preservation.

From Mongolian archery to Senegalese wrestling, Filipino stick-fighting to South Asian kabaddi, these sports are not just games, they are vessels of language, music, ritual, and craftsmanship.

As Khalil Ahmed Khan reminded the world, "When we revive a game, we revive a culture. We give a voice to the past and a gift to the future."

Roma make £20m bid to sign Man Utd outcast Sancho

ROME (BBC): Roma have made a £20m offer to sign England winger Jadon Sancho from Manchester United, where he remains excluded from training with the first-team squad.

The 25-year-old, who has been told to find a new club before the transfer window closes on 1 September, joined United for £73m four years ago.

Juventus, who unlike Roma have qualified for

this season's Champions League, are also known to be interested in Sancho.

The former Borussia Dortmund wide man returned to United in the summer after Chelsea paid a £5m penalty to get out of an obligation to buy him, having spent last season on loan at Stamford Bridge.

There have also been suggestions that Roma would be interested in a loan, containing clauses

that could be triggered at the end of the season.

However, that issue is complicated by the fact that Sancho's United contract expires next summer. The club does have an option to extend it by an additional year, although given Sancho's salary, it is debatable whether they would be willing to do that.

United are determined to sell Sancho. However, the closer to September

they get without a deal in place, the more likely they are to consider a potential loan move, given it would at least take a significant sum off their wage bill.

Four players - Sancho, Alejandro Garnacho, Antony and Tyrrell Malacia - have been training away from boss Ruben Amorim's squad since the start of pre-season last month as the club believes they will have left before the window closes.

Brady questioning my work ethic was very unfair: Rooney

LONDON (BBC): Wayne Rooney says it was "very unfair" of NFL great Tom Brady to question his work ethic as head coach at Birmingham City.

Rooney was sacked by Birmingham, where Brady is a part-owner, after 83 days in January 2024.

The former England captain was speaking on a new podcast, The Wayne Rooney Show, which starts on Friday and will air twice weekly on BBC Sounds, YouTube and iPlayer.

Responding to Brady, the former Everton and Manchester United striker said he was "really disappointed with the comment". Brady, who became a minority owner at Birmingham in August 2023, queried Rooney's attitude during a documentary following him as he got involved at St Andrew's.

In one scene, following a visit to the club's training

ground in November 2023, the seven-time Super Bowl winner told colleagues he was "a little worried about our head coach's work ethic".

"I think Tom came in once, which was the day before a game where the days are a little bit lighter anyway, and I don't think he really understood football that well," Rooney said.

"But what he does understand is, he's a hard worker, we know that."

Rooney added: "Football is not NFL - NFL works for three months a year. Players do need rest as well, so I think he's very unfair, the way he's come out and portrayed that."

Championship club Birmingham were taken over by Knighthead Capital Management LLC in June 2023, with Brady joining two months later.

In October 2023, with the team sitting sixth in the

Championship, the new ownership controversially replaced manager John Eustace with former England captain Rooney.

However, Manchester United's record goalscorer only lasted 15 matches in the post before being replaced after the team had plummeted to 20th in the table. Tony Mowbray succeeded Rooney, but stepped aside, initially on sick leave, eight matches into his reign after being diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Birmingham, who used seven managers - including caretaker appointments - during the owners' first 10 months, were relegated to League One at the end of the 2023-24 season.

"When I went into Birmingham, they were in a mess really," said Rooney. "Hence the fact that the players weren't really the players who could take the club forward. You had Tony Mowbray, Gary

Rowett after me, who also struggled as well."

In the summer of 2024, with Chris Davies now installed as manager, Birmingham's new owners invested £30m in transfers, an unprecedented figure for League One.

The club broke the Football League record for most points in a season, finishing top of League One in 2024-25 with a tally of 111.

"Listen, I respect Tom Brady massively," said Rooney.

"He's one of the greatest, if not the greatest athletes of all time and Birmingham do look like they're getting it right now, which is good and I think what they have done is got the players out that they needed to get out."

In the same documentary in which he queried Rooney's application, Brady also referred to Birmingham players from that disastrous 2023-24 campaign as "lazy and entitled".

PSG fight back to beat Spurs on penalties in Super Cup



UDINE, Italy (Reuters): European champions Paris St Germain fought back from 2-0 down with five minutes left to beat Europa League winners Tottenham Hotspur 4-3 on penalties in a dramatic UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

Tottenham looked set to give new manager Thomas Frank a winning start before PSG substitute Lee Kang-in pulled a goal back after 85 minutes and Goncalo Ramos headed the equaliser four minutes into stoppage time to level the scores at 2-2.

PSG completed the turnaround in the shootout as Mathys Tel and Micky van de Ven missed for Tottenham and Nuno Mendes stepped up to bury the decisive spot-kick.

The PSG players poured on to the pitch in celebration, knowing they had etched their names into history as the first French side to lift the trophy.

"It's incredible to win like this. This team once again showed character,

even if we're not at our physical best." PSG defender Marquinhos said.

"We managed to get the goals we needed through the substitutions, and in the shootout we have players who take their penalties well and a goalkeeper who helped us."

Tottenham, who finished 17th in the Premier League last season, took the lead after Van de Ven scored from a rebound and doubled the advantage when Cristian Romero headed home against the French champions, who won their first European Cup in May with a crushing 5-0 final win over Inter Milan.

Lee scored with a crisp finish after his side had dominated the closing stages, before Ramos met Ousmane Dembele's pinpoint cross with a diving header to send the game into a shootout. "It's difficult to talk about this match... We trained for only five-six days, it's incredible," PSG coach Luis Enrique said.

"For us, it's really special

to have won this trophy and to be able to offer it to them."

BBC adds: Spurs condemn 'cowards' for racially abusing Tel

Tottenham say they are "disgusted" by the racial abuse received by forward Mathys Tel following their defeat by Paris St-Germain in the Uefa Super Cup.

The north London club, who lost 4-3 on penalties after letting slip a two-goal lead, said people who had sent abusive messages to Tel on social media were "nothing but cowards".

Tel, 20, came on as a substitute in the 79th minute and was one of two Spurs players who failed to convert from the spot in the penalty shootout.

"Mathys showed bravery and courage to step forward and take a penalty, yet those who abuse him are nothing but cowards - hiding behind anonymous usernames and profiles to spout their abhorrent views," Tottenham said.

"We will work with the authorities and social media

platforms to take the strongest possible action against any individual we are able to identify.

"We stand with you, Mathys."

Posting on social media, Tottenham striker Dominic Solanke called the abuse "pathetic", adding: "Will it ever stop? Anyone can miss a penalty. Big up bro for taking one."

Spurs' statement comes after England defender Jess Carter revealed she had been the target of racist abuse during Euro 2025 last month.

As a result, the Lionesses stopped the anti-racism gesture of taking a knee before matches as they argued it was "clear we and football need to find another way to tackle racism".

On Tuesday, Carter said she feared her England team-mate Lauren James would suffer "astronomical" racist abuse if she had been the only player to have missed a penalty in their Euro quarter-final shootout win against Sweden.

NFL cannot force Black coach's racial bias claims into arbitration

NEW YORK (Reuters): The National Football League cannot force Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Brian Flores' racial bias claims into an arbitration controlled by the league, a federal appeals court ruled on Thursday.

In a 3-0 decision, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said a provision in the NFL constitution granting Commissioner Roger Goodell unilateral authority to arbitrate was "plainly unenforceable" because it would deny Flores arbitration "in any meaningful

sense of the word."

NFL spokesperson Brian McCarthy said: "We respectfully disagree with the panel's ruling, and will be seeking further review."

Flores, 44, who is Black, sued the NFL in February 2022, saying he was subjected to "sham" interviews for head coaching positions so teams could comply with diversity recruiting requirements under the league's Rooney Rule.

The proposed class action alleged systemic discrimination against Black candidates for top coaching and management

jobs.

Other defendants included the New York Giants and Houston Texans, which interviewed Flores soon after he was fired as Miami Dolphins head coach in January 2022, and the Denver Broncos, which interviewed him before he joined Miami in 2019.

U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni in Manhattan ruled in March 2023 that some of Flores' claims belonged in federal court, and the appeals court agreed.

An arbitration agreement that "compels one

party to submit its disputes to the substantive and procedural authority of the principal executive officer of one of their adverse parties, is an agreement for arbitration in name only," Circuit Judge Jose Cabranes wrote.

Flores' lawyers welcomed the decision.

"For too long, the NFL has relied on a fundamentally biased and unfair arbitration process," the lawyers Douglas Wigdor, David Gottlieb and John Elefterakis said in a joint statement. "This ruling sends a clear message: that practice must end."



In brief

Nation congratulated

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat Hiraj congratulated the nation on the Independence Day and the victory in the Marka e Haq. In his message on Independence Day, he said, “we salute the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the security and sovereignty of our beloved homeland”. He said Pakistan Army has proven its capabilities to the world by achieving victory in the Marka e Haq. “Today, our hearts are filled with the spirit of freedom, and our heads are held high with pride,” he said.

Flag hoisting ceremony held

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Independence Day ceremony was held at the premises of the Lahore High Court (LHC), Rawalpindi Bench, attended by Senior Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmed, Justice Ahsan Raza Kazmi, retired Justice Shakoor Paracha, Khalid Mahmood Malik, and officials of the Bar Association. Senior Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmed was presented with a Guard of Honour. He hoisted the flag along with the colleague judges. Talking on the occasion, Senior Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmed said that freedom is the greatest blessing in the world, achieved through the immense sacrifices of our forefathers. He paid tribute to the unparalleled sacrifices made under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and said that today is a day to salute the heroes because of whom we are free. He emphasized the need to play a positive role in the country's progress in light of Quaid-e-Azam's vision. The ceremony concluded with prayers for the country's progress and security.

14th August celebrated

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi marked Pakistan's Independence Day with a vibrant and colourful ceremony. The celebration was attended by a large number of board officials and staff including Controller of Examinations Tanveer Asghar Awan and Secretary Amjad Iqbal Khattak. Chairman board Adnan Khan hoisted the national flag along with the senior officials, followed by collective singing of the rhythmic national anthem. The Chairman in his speech reminded the participants of the great sacrifices that birthed Pakistan, urging everyone to safeguard its legacy. “Freedom is a precious blessing and vibrant nations celebrate it with gratitude and pride,” he said. The event also featured a ceremonial cake-cutting and the sharing of sweets. Special prayers for the country's prosperity and unity were offered.

I. Day reminds of sacrifice

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, has reaffirmed the nation's resolve to completely eliminate polio from the country. Extending heartfelt greetings to the nation, in a message, she said Independence Day is a reminder of sacrifice, determination, and unity. “Ridding Pakistan of polio is an important continuation of our journey to freedom,” she emphasized, warning that the crippling virus robs innocent children of their dreams and the right to a confident, independent life.

Chehlum procession: Chief Commissioner orders tight security

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa has directed law enforcement agencies to implement foolproof security measures for the upcoming 19 Safar Chehlum procession in federal capital.

Speaking to media on Thursday, Randhawa stressed the “complete implementation” of the security and traffic plan, underscoring that the protection of citizens' lives and property remains the administration's top priority.

“Strict checking will be enforced at all entry and

exit points during the Chehlum procession,” Randhawa said. “We will also ensure round-the-clock monitoring through CCTV cameras installed along the procession route, supported by a central control room.”

The Chief Commissioner said Islamabad Traffic Police was instructed to release an alternative traffic plan to minimize disruption for commuters.

He said the security plan will involve enhanced patrolling, access control at key locations, and coordination among police, traffic officials, and other law

enforcement agencies. The measures aim to ensure smooth conduct of the procession while maintaining public order. Randhawa appealed to residents to cooperate with security personnel and to immediately report any suspicious activity to the police or administration for “timely action.”

The Chehlum procession, marking the 40th day after Ashura in the Islamic month of Safar, draws large gatherings each year, making security and traffic management critical for the safety of participants and the wider public.

Children with disabilities showcase talent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (M/o FE&PT), celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day with great zeal and patriotic spirit.

The day began with a dignified flag-hoisting ceremony at the National Centre for Physically Challenged Students where all enrolled students and staff of the directorate assembled for paying homage to the motherland. The day was followed by a vibrant and devoted programme here at the National Institute of Special Education (NISE), H-8/4, said a press release.

The event, themed “Atfaal-e-Baham Mazoori Ka Roshan, Jaam-e-Rasai Ke Saath Mazboot Aur Mehakta Pakistan” reflected the deep emotional bond that children with disabilities share with their motherland.

The ceremony was graced by the Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mrs. Wajihah Qamar, as the Chief Guest. Director General DGSE Capt. (R) Asif Iqbal Asif, representing Federal Secretary M/o FE&PT Nadeem Mahbub,

extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and participants.

In his remarks, the DG highlighted a series of rehabilitative initiatives undertaken by the M/o FE&PT in recent months. These include the renovation of the physiotherapy and cerebral palsy units along with the restoration and operationalization of the orthopaedic workshop at the National Centre for Physically Challenged Students, and the creation of four sensory rooms at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Developmental Disorders aligning special education centres with international best practices.

The programme began with the National Anthem in Pakistan Sign Language as an inspiring testament to an inclusive Pakistan followed by recitation from the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool Maqbool (S.A.W) by students of the National Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children (NSEC-VHC).

Highlights of the celebration included a thematic tableau “Bunyan-um Marsoos” by students with developmental disorders from RCCDD.

A motivational speech

by Misbah Irshad, a wheelchair user from NSEC for Physically Handicapped Children (PHC), and a captivating medley of instrumental music by visually impaired child Fawad Alam from VHC, who had been honoured just a day earlier by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif at a national ceremony.

In her address, the Chief Guest praised the Ministry of FE&PT and DGSE for their commitment to empowering children with disabilities, emphasising the importance of inclusion, quality education, and equal opportunities. She commended the exceptional talent, enthusiasm, and patriotism of the participating students.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates and trophies to winners of the DGSE Azadi Sports Gala as a series of games held across all DGSE special education centres since early August, culminating on August 13.

The celebrations ended on a sweet note with a joyous cake-cutting ceremony led by the Chief Guest alongside children with disabilities, marking Jashan-e-Azadi and the triumph of Marka-e-Haq.

Sports legends call for national resolve

ISLAMABAD (APP): National cricketers and Olympic gold medalists Thursday proudly marked Pakistan's Independence Day, celebrating Marka-e-Haq as a beacon of pride and urging every citizen to rise with sincerity and strength for the nation's future.

In exclusive video messages aired by a leading media channel on the eve of Pakistan's Independence Day, national women cricketers Shawal Zulfiqar and Sidra Noor delivered heartfelt messages to the nation.

Both athletes expressed immense pride in representing Pakistan and paid tribute to the sacrifices made for freedom, urging all citizens especially the youth to embrace unity, sincerity and hard work for the nation's continued progress.

Shawal Zulfiqar highlighted that true independence lies not just in celebration but in fulfilling one's responsibilities toward the country.

“Every contribution, no matter how small, adds strength to our national fabric,” she said, encouraging young Pakistanis to

rise above divisions and play their part in shaping a better future.

Sidra Noor echoed same sentiment, emphasizing that patriotism should be reflected through action, discipline, and a shared commitment to national goals.

Both athletes praised Marka-e-Haq as more than a historic movement calling it a living reminder of Pakistan's just foundation and a pillar of strength that continues to inspire generations.

Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem also congratulated the nation on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, expressing deep pride in representing the country on the world stage.

In his message, he emphasized the importance of unity, discipline and sincere efforts from every citizen to drive Pakistan toward lasting progress and prosperity.

He called on the youth to stay focused, work hard and uphold the values that make Pakistan strong, adding that true patriotism lies in contributing meaningfully to the nation's future.

Former cricketer Mushtaq Ahmad also extended his warm wishes to the nation on Pakistan freedom day, paying heartfelt tribute to the heroes and forefathers whose sacrifices made freedom possible.

He urged everyone to honor their legacy by continuing to work with dedication and unity for the country's progress and prosperity, emphasizing that building a strong Pakistan is a responsibility shared by all citizens.

Pakistani tennis player Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi also extended his heartfelt wishes to the nation on Pakistan's Independence Day and termed Marka-e-Haq a powerful symbol of justice and resilience that continues to inspire Pakistanis to uphold the values of unity, courage and progress.

National cricketer Abid Ali also greeted the nation on Pakistan's Azadi day, urging everyone to remember the sacrifices of the forefathers and calling on the youth to make an equal and sincere contribution toward the country's progress and development.

Google celebrates Pak's 78th Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Google marked Pakistan's 78th Independence Day with a special Doodle showcasing the national flag in a sleek minimalist design, reflecting the country's spirit of unity and pride while continuing its tradition of honoring national milestones through creative artwork.

According to media channels, Google's latest Doodle serves as a heartfelt salute to Pakistan's rich heritage and the unwavering spirit of its people.

Tech giant Google,

renowned for crafting imaginative doodles to commemorate cultural and social occasions globally, has unveiled a special illustration to honour Pakistan's 78th Independence Day.

This year's Doodle showcases Pakistan's iconic green flag with the crescent and star fluttering against a wide, open sky a powerful symbol of national pride and the enduring spirit of freedom.

The design has captured global attention and contributed to the celebratory atmosphere across the

country.

Google's Independence Day Doodles often highlight a nation's rich culture and heritage. For 2025, the spotlight is on the waving flag, representing unity, resilience and patriotism.

Since 2011, Google has been commemorating Pakistan's Independence Day with customized Doodles, beginning with a green-themed illustration featuring the crescent, star, and Minar-e-Pakistan. Over time, this tradition has become a beloved highlight of the country's annual festivities.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples witness an extensive display of Pakistan Armed Forces' Defence capabilities on Independence Day and Marka-e-Haq victory celebrations at Shakarparian Parade Ground.

Police unveil security plan for Chehlum procession

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Thursday announced a comprehensive security plan for the Chehlum procession in Sector G-6, formulated after reviewing security arrangements from the past five years.

Speaking at a press conference in G-6, he said over 5,000 officers and personnel, including seven Superintendents of Police (SPs) and female officers from all divisions, would be deployed for the procession's security.

Additionally, 16 Quick Response Force (QRF) teams from Rangers, 29 QRF units from the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and 16 Elite Police vehicles have been assigned to the duty.

The IGP Rizvi said that security preparations had been underway for 15 days, with the Islamabad Police conducting multiple search operations across the city. “All procession routes have been swept seven times, and the number of entry points has been increased to facilitate easy participation,” he added.

Highlighting the broader Independence Day security measures, he noted that more than 9,500 officers and personnel have been deployed across the federal capital today. “Our aim is to ensure that no issue arises during the Chehlum procession,” he said, urging the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious items or activities immediately by calling 15.

RWU commemorates 14th August

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) marked Pakistan's Independence Day with a spirited ceremony at the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the hoisting of the national flag by senior faculty members to the tune of the national anthem, as guards presented a salute.

This year's observance also resonated with the nation's achievement in “Marka-e-Haq”, a defining moment symbolising resilience and unity.

Pakistan's Independence Day: Minister extends congratulations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Public Affairs Rana Mubashir Iqbal on Thursday extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire nation on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan.

In his special message, the minister said, “Today, as we celebrate the 78th anniversary of our beloved homeland, we pay tribute to the great sacrifices of our forefathers who envisioned and struggled for a free, sovereign, and dignified Pakistan.”

“Independence Day is not only a reminder of our

glorious past but also a call to strengthen our unity, renew our commitment to justice, and dedicate ourselves to the progress and prosperity of our country. Together, with faith and determination, we can build the Pakistan of our dreams — strong, peaceful, and prosperous,” he remarked.

Marking the occasion, the minister also recalled Marka-e-Haq (Bunyan Al Marsous), praising the unwavering dedication and collective efforts of the Pakistan Army, national leadership, and the resilient people of Pakistan.

“The bravery and profes-

sionalism of the Pakistan Army have safeguarded our sovereignty, while the vision of our political leadership has guided the nation forward. Above all, the unity, resilience, and determination of our people have been the driving force behind our progress,” he added.

Concluding his message, Rana Mubashir Iqbal also paid tribute to overseas Pakistanis for their contributions and love for the country, stating that the Pakistani diaspora remains an integral part of the nation's journey towards development and progress.

Independence Day celebrated in IESCO Hqs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day and the Victory of Marka-e-Haq with great fervor and a strong spirit of patriotism.

The ceremony was attended by IESCO's Chief Executive Engineer Khalid Mehmood, all senior officers, staff members, and their families, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Special prayers were offered for the prosperity and glory of Pakistan. The Chief Executive of IESCO, along

with other officers, hoisted the national flag, while security personnel presented a Guard of Honour.

Addressing the ceremony, Engineer Khalid Mehmood said that 14th August is not merely a coincidence; it is a story of struggle and sacrifice made by our elders and forefathers, through which we attained our free homeland, Pakistan. He emphasized that it is now our responsibility to devote all our efforts for the development and prosperity of this blessed country and to make it greater than ever.

After the address, the Independence Day cake was cut, and participants exchanged greetings. The atmosphere was further enlivened with national songs and chants of “Pakistan Zindabad.”

Chief Engineer Kamran Aftab, IESCO Engineers Association President Engineer Shehzad Jaleel, and other officers also addressed the gathering, stating that IESCO will always strive for the prosperity and development of Pakistan, as the country's progress is the guarantee of a prosperous nation.

FBISE celebrates Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Islamabad commemorated Pakistan's Independence Day with deep national pride and reverence along with celebrating Marka-e-Haq, paying homage to the nation's heroes and celebrating the spirit of freedom.

The celebrations commenced with a graceful and dignified ceremony featuring Tilawat-e-Kalam-e-Pak, Naat sharif, millinagha and the soulful rendition of the National Anthem, evoking a profound sense of patriotism among the audience.

A large number of students from affiliated institutions, along with officers and staff members of FBISE, actively participated in the event, reflecting their love for the country and commitment to its future.

The celebrations were personally led by Chairman FBISE, Dr. Ikram Ali Malik. While, Executive Director Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC), Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah and Chairperson Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PIERA), Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool jointly graced the event as guests of honour.

Rich tribute was paid to

the bravery, sacrifices and unwavering resolve of the valiant armed forces of Pakistan in defending the nation during the historic Marka-e-Haq against the staunch adversary, India.

The event concluded with a heartfelt dua (prayer) for the continued peace, prosperity, and progress of Pakistan, and to honour the memory of the martyrs and heroes who laid down their lives for the homeland.

FBISE remains committed to fostering patriotism and national unity among the youth through education and meaningful commemorations of our national history.

AIOU marks Independence Day with patriotic fervor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) celebrated the anniversary of Pakistan's Independence Day with national zeal, patriotic fervor.

The dignified ceremony began with the university's smart and disciplined security guards presenting a Guard of Honour to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. This was followed by a flag-hoisting ceremony to the tune of the national anthem and a collective prayer was offered for the safety, progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

After the ceremony, a seminar titled “Pakistan: Destination after Destination” was held under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor. The seminar was organized by the

Department of History and the Department of Pakistan Studies in collaboration with the Directorate of Student Advisory and Counseling Services, said a press release issued on Thursday.

The participants of the seminar included University Registrar Raja Umar Younas, Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, Director General Regional Services Dr. Malik Touqeer Ahmed Khan, Director Administration and Coordination Prof. Dr. Syed Amir Shah, and Abdul Basit Mujahid.

Addressing the seminar, Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that this year, Pakistan is celebrating Independence Day along with the glorious successes of Operation

M'araka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan ul Marsoos. He noted that only seven countries in the world possess nuclear capability, and Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with this great power to effectively respond to any aggression from the enemy.

He added that in May, an attempted attack by the enemy was foiled by the Pakistan Armed Forces, raising Pakistan's prestige before the world. For this, the entire nation pays heartfelt tribute to its armed forces.

He further stated that despite countless challenges, Pakistan has remained on the path of progress, achieving remarkable success in every sphere of life.

“Compared to twenty years ago, we stand today at

a much more advanced stage of development,” he remarked.

Speakers included Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid, Chairperson of the Department of History Dr. Kishwar Sultana, Dr. Kausar Parveen, and Dr. Muhammad Sajid Khan.

In their addresses, the speakers said that over the past years, Pakistan has turned the impossible into possible. At the time of its creation, there was only one university; today, there are over 500 universities and remarkable progress has been made in every field.

They reaffirmed the resolve that the nation's dignity and honor would never be compromised and that everyone must work together for its continued development.

Commission’s meeting held

KABUL (BNA): The meeting of the Central Commission for Security and Clearance Affairs was held under the chairmanship of Mullah Rahmatullah Najib, Deputy of Commission and Deputy Minister of Interior. The press office of the Central Commission for Security and Clearance Affairs announced on Thursday that the meeting discussed the 24th of Asad, with participants describing the day as the result of great sacrifice, tireless dedication, and the great blessing of God.

2 armed robbery suspects die

KUNDUZ (Amu TV): Taliban said two men accused of armed robbery were killed during a clash with their forces in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz. Jumauddin Khaksar, spokesman for Taliban’s police command, said a Kalashnikov rifle and more than 150,000 afghanis in stolen cash were recovered from the suspects. Taliban have repeatedly claimed that crimes such as armed robbery, drug trafficking and other criminal offenses have declined since their return to power in 2021.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

Pashdan dam inaugurated, Baradar vows economic growth



HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): The Pashdan Dam in western Herat province was inaugurated on Thursday in the presence of senior officials from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani

Baradar, said at the inauguration ceremony that the caretaker government aimed to use all natural resources responsibly and

had no intention of infringing on anyone’s rights. He noted that Afghans were celebrating the fourth anniversary of the Islamic Emirate’s rule, at a time when the government had made significant achievements in implementing Islamic Sharia, as well as in political and economic spheres over the past four years. Baradar described Pashdan Dam as one of the major projects now completed, emphasising its importance for Herat’s development and in combating drought in the province. “Last year, when work on the remaining stages of this project resumed, I promised that the Islamic Emirate would make every effort to complete it. Fortunately, that work has now been finished,” he

said. The deputy premier added that in the past, due to “occupations”, the country’s economy had not grown and had relied on conditional foreign aid. However, the IEA had decided to strengthen the national economy and make the country self-sufficient. He stressed that the government supported both national and regional projects to improve the economy, citing the TAPI gas pipeline project in Herat as evidence of the Islamic Emirate’s commitment to regional economic cooperation, mutual assistance and stability. “IEA wants to use all its natural resources responsibly and does not intend to take away anyone’s rights. We aim to manage our water properly, give others their due share and use

water management as a key tool to strengthen the economy, reduce poverty, unemployment and migration,” he said. Baradar also called on domestic and foreign investors to take advantage of opportunities in water, agriculture and other sectors. Herat Governor, Sheikh Maulvi Noor Ahmad Islami, said that major projects already underway in the province would soon transform Herat into one of Afghanistan’s economic hubs. He added that work on the Cheshti Sharif–Herat road would soon resume, while the Herat–Torghundi and Herat–Khaf railway projects were progressing and a cement project was in its final exploration stage. The Haji Hashimi electricity substation would soon be activated and other

major projects such as TAPI and a southern terminal for the city were also under development. Islami described Pashdan Dam as a major achievement for the people of Herat, emphasising its role in economic growth and water resource management. Acting Minister of Energy and Water, Abdul Latif Mansour, said the dam had been built at a cost of 117 million US dollars, funded entirely from the government’s budget. He added that this demonstrated the administration’s ability to finance major national projects without foreign assistance. Mansour noted that Pashdan Dam, with the capacity to irrigate 13,000 hectares of land and generate two megawatts of electricity, would bring hope

and development to the people of Herat. Local residents welcomed the dam’s inauguration, saying it would help combat drought in the province. Yar Mohammad, an orchard owner from Injil district, said the lack of sufficient water had long worried and discouraged farmers in many districts. He urged officials to develop a clear plan for distributing water from both Salma and Pashdan dams to farmers, which he said would greatly boost agricultural production. Pashdan Dam is located 25 kilometres east of Herat city, in Karukh district. It stands 74 metres high, has a storage capacity of 54 million cubic metres of water, generates two megawatts of electricity, and can irrigate 13,000 hectares of land.

Poverty, hunger in Kabul: Families struggle as aid groups sound alarm

KABUL (TOLONews): Zmarai, a laborer and father of nine, sits beside his children, distributing dry bread and water among them, a meal that may be their only one of the day. He: “I leave for work in the morning without drinking tea, and return in the evening; sometimes I earn ten Afghanis, sometimes I come back empty-handed. We stay hungry and thirsty. There have been times when we’ve gone three whole days with very less food or water.” Ashraf, Zmarai’s son, also said: “When my father comes home, the children cry and say we don’t have any bread. My father says: Where can I find bread? My brothers say: We’re hungry, bring us bread. Then my father becomes heartbroken.”

Afghanistan’s Ministry of Economy also stresses the need for continued humanitarian assistance. Abdul Latif Nazari, Deputy Minister of Economy, says: “International community and aid organizations must continue their assistance to the people of Afghanistan without any conditions. Both humanitarian and development aid are essential for Afghanistan and must be sustained vigorously.” Afghanistan’s economic situation has been unstable and dependent on foreign aid not only during the Islamic Emirate’s rule, but also throughout the past two decades. With the suspension of aid and rising unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition have increased, and the country’s economy continues to struggle with structural crises and a lack of sustainable resources.

Iran expels nearly 4,850 migrants in single day

KABUL (Amu TV): As the deportation of Afghan migrants continues, Iran expelled 4,847 individuals on Wednesday, the Taliban-run Commission for Refugees said Thursday. The figures are similar to the number of migrants deported over the past week. The commission said the migrants returned through the Islam Qala border crossing in Herat province and the Pul-e Abrisham crossing in Nimroz province of Afghanistan on Wednesday. At the same time, Pakistan expelled 1,908 Afghans — both forcibly and voluntarily — through the Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossings, according to the commission. Officials from the Taliban-run Ministry of Refugees said during the ministry’s annual reporting meeting in Kabul that 1.8 million Afghans have been expelled from Iran in the past three months alone.

GHAZNI (TOLONews): Ghazni city’s strategic and reform plans have been handed over to the provincial municipality for implementation after being approved by the Afghan Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. According to officials, the plan includes a 20-year strategy for urban development in Ghazni, the expansion of the city’s internal roads, and the designation of zones for commercial, industrial, health, and public service activities. For the first time, the plan also includes a proposal for constructing multi-story residential buildings. Mohammad Nabi Hamza, the mayor of Ghazni, stated: “Once the master plan was prepared, the detailed and redevelopment plans were set for implementation. Overall, the city of Ghazni from Espanda to Kotla and from Nawabad to Qala-e-Joz has been included in the master plan, with adjustments made to the previous version as needed.”

Ghazni launches strategic urban plan for next 20 years

Rahmatullah Baheer, head of urban affairs at the Ghazni Department of Urban Development and Housing, said: “In the new strategic plan, we have added commercial zones and also designated areas for cold storage facilities and public services. Additionally, in the reform and adjustment plan, we have expanded the internal roads and commercial areas of Ghazni city.” According to available information, the plans have been designed with current needs in mind, aiming for urban development and improved organization. For the first time, the construction of residential buildings ranging from three to fifteen stories will be permitted in specific areas of the city. Hamid-ur-Rahman Shaheedkhil, head of engineering at the Ghazni Department of Urban Development and Housing, said: “Many city residents face housing shortages, and returning refugees also lack shelter. However, these multi-story buildings are



expected to help resolve those issues.” Meanwhile, Ghazni residents have welcomed the implementation of the plans and are urging for swift commencement of practical work. Mohammad Abbas, a local resident, said: “Ghazni city residents currently face major issues due to traffic congestion and

disorganization. We hope these plans will be implemented quickly to address these problems.” Mohammad Nabi, another resident, said: “With the implementation of these plans, job opportunities will be created, the city will become more organized, and people’s lives will become easier. We request

that practical work begin as soon as possible.” The lack of standard roads, traffic congestion, absence of designated zones and essential infrastructure for commercial and industrial activities, as well as a non-standard water and sewage system, are among the major challenges facing Ghazni residents.

Herat steel smelters: Power shortages hinder job creation for returnees

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): Steel smelter owners in western Herat province say they have launched programmes aimed at preventing young people from migrating again and providing employment for recently returned migrants. They cite electricity shortages and a lack of raw materials as the main obstacles to their factories’ operations and urge strong government support.

Nisar Ahmad, owner of a steel smelting factory in Herat, told Pajhwok Afghan News that within a month he plans to employ 200 Afghan migrants recently deported from Iran. However, he said unstable electricity and a shortage of raw materials were serious challenges. He noted that unreliable power supply had alarmed traders and investors in the

province’s industrial park, while prolonged outages had reduced his factory’s production capacity by 80 percent. Another factory owner, Khan Gul, said his plant sometimes remained closed for up to five consecutive days due to power shortages. Resolving the electricity problem, he said, would enable more job opportunities for returnees. He called on the govern-

ment to act decisively to ensure power supply and to simplify the import of raw materials. More than half of his factory’s raw materials, he explained, were imported from Iran — a costly and time-consuming process. Meanwhile, Faridoon, deputy head of Herat’s scrap iron dealers’ union, said more than 1,500 tonnes of scrap iron were supplied daily to manufacturing plants in the Herat

industrial park. However, this amount was insufficient to meet the factories’ growing needs. Some returnees now employed in steel smelters welcomed the job opportunities and urged their expansion. Abdul Jabbar, a Kandahar resident deported from Iran a month ago, said unemployment in Afghanistan had forced him to migrate. He called for

more opportunities for other returnees. Abdul Salam, from Baghlan, stressed that job creation was essential to preventing further migration and urged officials to implement effective economic programmes to increase income opportunities inside the country. Director of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Bashir Sirat said the administration was working to

support investors and create more jobs for returnees. On average, he noted, one new manufacturing plant began operating in Herat each month. He acknowledged issues such as electricity shortages and raw material supply but emphasised that new factories played a vital role in job creation and strengthening the local economy. Efforts were under way to resolve these challenges.

Daikundi girls learn new skills via educational, AI apps



NEILI (Pajhwok): In the heart of central Daikundi’s towering mountains, where internet services and educational facilities are limited, a number of girls and women use various educational applications to learn new skills, opening up a fresh path for their academic and professional growth. Daikundi is a mountainous province with a difficult geography, whose residents are deprived of some basic facilities and amenities. However, technological advancements have removed part of these obstacles and opened a new chapter of hope. In the city of Neili and some districts of the province, a number of girls have been using technology to learn various skills and enhance their capabilities. Learning via Apps: Stories of success

She said she currently uses the “Duolingo” app to learn German and English, and also uses “Coursera” to take short-term courses. At present, she is enrolled in two courses: Project Management and Social Media Management. Rahima explained that through these programs she has been able to fully master some skills and learn others to a great extent. She said that by acquiring these skills, she was able to work for several months as a trainer with an organization, teaching a number of girls how to use technology online. Because she does not have access to in-person training, her only current path for growth and advancement is through these programs, so she can further improve her abilities. She added that she spends more than four hours a day learning through these applications. Rahima noted that there are currently online education centers for learning languages and other basic

and advanced skills, and that girls can use them either for free or at a small cost. She stated that girls can use these programs to learn skills in medicine, business, digital marketing, digital media and languages, adding: “My request to other girls is to make the most of this limited opportunity.” Apps: A new opportunity, especially for female journalists

Farzana Farahmand, a journalist working for a private radio outlet in Daikundi, said that she has learned most of her media skills through various apps. She added: “I learned most of my skills from different channels and mostly use YouTube, artificial intelligence, and other programs. Since I work as a journalist, I learned how to edit audio, photos, and videos through these apps, and now I can easily do my work, whereas at first I didn’t know any of these skills.” She said that to develop her thinking and increase her capacity, she spends at least three hours a day learning through these programs. Farzana said: “These programs are very good and useful because they provide fresh, relevant and necessary information. Any information we need for our work can be found there.”

She added that if each program is used properly, it has many benefits, but YouTube and artificial intelligence are particularly good options for learning because they provide essential information without spending much time. Farzana believes that while these programs cannot replace in-person education, they are a suitable alternative for learning and training. She said: “My request to other girls is to use the available resources in the current situation — for example, YouTube and artificial intelligence, which are great sources of information. Let’s use them to learn skills and look for online classes.” Using Apps in the health sector

Meanwhile, some women and girls in Daikundi say that by using certain applications, they have been able to meet their informational needs, including learning about the prevention and treatment of certain illnesses. Fatema, one of the young women in Daikundi, said that she recently started using an artificial intelligence app (ChatGPT) and has been able to fill some of her knowledge gaps, especially in the field of healthcare. She added: “When my children got sick, I used to take them to the doctor or call for advice, but I didn’t

fully understand. Recently, I’ve been using the artificial intelligence program — I write down the symptoms, and it immediately gives very detailed information and treatment methods. I follow it, and it’s as if I’ve become a doctor myself.” She said through the guidance of this program, she has been able to prevent or treat minor illnesses of herself and her family. She explained: “If everyone could at least use technology this much — to understand matters related to health and life — it would be very useful. I call on all families and literate mothers to use this method. For minor illnesses, there’s often no need for a doctor; you can be your own doctor.” Internet problems and the consequences of misusing Apps

Anisa Najafi, a social activist in Daikundi, said that due to limited access to information resources for girls, using apps is very beneficial and can improve their skills. She added that although these applications are not a substitute for in-person training, they are a very good alternative for girls and women to learn skills. She urged girls to enroll in online skill-building courses and other useful programs, but noted that the only major problem is that internet services in Daikundi are very weak. She said: “In Daikundi, apart from the city of Neili and some parts of Miramoor and Shahrstan districts, people in other areas do not have internet access and cannot even use simple antennas. If the internet were better, girls could make much better use of apps.” However, some technology experts in Daikundi say that while various platforms have benefits, they also have drawbacks. Quadratullah Mousavi, a tech expert in Daikundi, said that internet-based apps have good advantages for girls and their users have been able to learn useful programs in addition to entertainment. But overuse also has harmful effects that most users do not notice. He said: “Everything in the world has its benefits and harms. Unfortunately, the culture of using apps properly does not exist among people. Many spend their days on games and exchanging useless messages. On the other hand, internet costs are very high, and given people’s economic situation, the expense is heavy.” He added that overuse of these programs can make a person addicted, unable to go even a moment without them, and that according to studies, excessive use can cause depression, harm to the eyes and spine. Mousavi also said that



DI KHAN: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur cutting cake during a ceremony to celebrate Pakistan 78th Independence Day.

Pak Navy celebrates Independence Day

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy marked 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with national spirit and military tradition. 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, dressed in ceremonial uniforms, assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with traditional enthusiasm and decorum.

Commodore Tasawar Iqbal, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and reviewed the guard. The Chief Guest, along with cadets of



Pakistan Naval Academy, presented Qaumi Salam to Father of the Nation, followed by ceremonial laying of a floral wreath at Mazar-e-Quaid on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff, officers, and men of Pakistan Navy.

The day dawned with gun salutes and special prayers in all mosques located in naval areas, seeking national unity

and prosperity. Flag hoisting ceremonies were simultaneously conducted at major naval units and stations across Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Gwadar, Sanghar, and Ormara. On Independence Day, Pakistan Navy reaffirmed its unwavering resolve to defend the motherland against all forms of belligerence.

17 more killed in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP): Gaza's civil defense agency said at least 17 people were killed Thursday in Israeli strikes as the military intensified its bombardment of Gaza City. The dead included six civilians who had been waiting for humanitarian aid, said civil defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal. "The Israeli occupation forces are intensifying their raids in the Zeitun area" of Gaza City, he said.

The Israeli military has yet to comment. "For the fourth consecutive day, the area has been subject to a military operation, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries," said Bassal. "Since dawn today, we have received 28 calls from families and residents of this neighborhood, some of whose children have been killed. "Many people cannot leave these areas due to artillery fire," the spokesperson added. Maram Kashko, a resident of Zeitun, said the strikes had increased over the past four days. "My nephew, his wife and their children were killed in a bombardment," he told AFP.

An AFP videographer said their bodies were taken to Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City and buried shortly afterwards at the Sayyid Hashim cemetery. On Wednesday, the head of the Israeli military said he had approved a new plan for operations in the Gaza Strip aimed at freeing all hostages and defeating Hamas.

Role of Info Ministry will always be remembered

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Thursday that the role played by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan Television in projecting national narrative and countering the enemy's propaganda during the military standoff with India in May this year will always be remembered.

Delivering his speech at the Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony at PTV Headquarters, he said, besides victory on the military and diplomatic front, Pakistan successfully projected an Information narrative domestically and at the global level. The role of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached departments in narrative warfare will be written in golden words.

"The aim of digital warfare was to keep the nation's morale high and highlight Pakistan's narrative at the global level," he added. The minister said that in May, the Marka-e-Haq once again reestablished the importance of the Two-Nation theory and it reemerged as a reality.

Attaullah Tarar said the enemy imposed aggression on Pakistan under the guise of the Pahalgam false flag operation and tried to tarnish Pakistan's image. The Pakistani nation and its Armed Forces not only foiled the enemy's nefarious designs, but forced it on a ceasefire, which was tantamount to accepting its defeat.

This year's historic victory of Marka-e-Haq is being celebrated with the Independence Day celebration,

Tarar conferred with Sitara-e-Imtiaz

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday was conferred with the Sitara-e-Imtiaz award for effectively and successfully presenting the national narrative at the global level during the recent Pakistan-India tensions. The award was conferred on him by President Asif Ali Zardari at a ceremony held at the President House to confer high level national awards on civil and military figures. During the stand off between Pakistan and India, Attaullah Tarar successfully thwarted Indian propaganda by creating perfect coordination in the dissemination of information by civil and military institutions. The minister highlighted Pakistan's position in a powerful and effective manner at international forums.

which was a unique feat. "We protected freedom and sent a message to the world that the Pakistani nation knows how to defend itself", Attaullah Tarar remarked.

The Pakistani Armed Forces, he added, had proven their capabilities by adopting the best strategy in war. He said in the 1965 war, the songs produced by PTV played a role in boosting the morale of the soldiers and the nation. He said that the efforts of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the PTV in building and projecting the national narrative will always be remembered.

He said times have changed and Information warfare and narrative warfare have evolved and wars are fought on ideological frontiers. "The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan Television Corporation passed the test of defence of ideological frontiers in flying colours".

He appreciated the role of Secretary of Information and

Broadcasting Ambreen Jan and her entire team, especially the Digital Communication Department, in countering fake news and propaganda and defeating the enemy in digital warfare. He said that when India banned Pakistan's YouTube channels, Pakistan adopted a strategy through which its national songs were being played on Indian YouTube channels, which baffled India.

He said he was proud to note that the PTV kept its old tradition alive and projected Pakistan's narrative effectively. He said that information warfare was a continuous process and it was necessary to remain active and vigilant to protect the country's ideological frontiers. He said that efforts were afoot to revive the PTV's glorious past and make it a financially sound organization. He asked the PTV management to produce a documentary on the role of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the PTV during standoff with India so that future generations could learn about it.

Putin ready to make deal: Trump

WASHINGTON (Reuters): United States President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a deal on his war on Ukraine and that the threat of sanctions against Russia likely played a role in Moscow's decision to seek a meeting.

Trump is scheduled to meet with Putin in Alaska tomorrow. The US president said he is unsure whether an immediate ceasefire can be achieved, but expressed interest in brokering a peace agreement. "I believe now, he's convinced that he's going to make a deal. He's going to make a deal. I think he's going to, and we're going to find out," Trump said in an interview on Fox News Radio's 'The Brian Kilmeade Show'.

Trump also mentioned during the Fox interview that he has three locations in mind for a follow-up meeting with Putin and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, though he noted that a second meeting is not guaranteed. He said staying in Alaska for a three-way summit would be the easiest scenario. "Depending on what happens with my meeting, I'm going to be calling up President Zelensky, and let's get him over to wherever we're going to meet," Trump said.

He said a second meeting, featuring Trump, Putin and Zelensky, would likely dig deeper into boundary issues. Zelensky has been

adamant about not ceding territory that Russian forces occupy. "The second meeting is going to be very, very important, because that's going to be a meeting where they make a deal. And I don't want to use the word 'divvy things up', but you know, to a certain extent, it's not a bad term, okay," he said.

"But there will be a give and take as to boundaries, lands, etc, etc. The second meeting is going to be very, very, very important. This meeting sets up like a chess game. This [first] meeting sets up a second meeting, but there is a 25 per cent chance that this meeting will not be a successful meeting," he said. He said it would be up to Putin and Zelensky to strike an agreement. "I'm not going to negotiate their deal. I'm going to let them negotiate their deal," he said.

Earlier today, Putin spoke to his most senior ministers and security officials as he prepared for a meeting with Trump in Anchorage, Alaska, that could shape the endgame to the largest war in Europe since World War Two. In televised comments, Putin said the US was "making, in my opinion, quite energetic and sincere efforts to stop the hostilities, stop the crisis and reach agreements that are of interest to all parties involved in this conflict".

This was happening, Putin said, "in order to create long-term conditions for peace between our countries,

and in Europe, and in the world as a whole — if, by the next stages, we reach agreements in the area of control over strategic offensive weapons." His comments signalled that Russia will raise nuclear arms control as part of a wide-ranging discussion on security when he sits down with Trump.

A Kremlin aide said Putin and Trump would also discuss the "huge untapped potential" for Russia-US economic ties. A senior Eastern European official, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said Putin would try to distract Trump from Ukraine at the talks by offering him possible progress on nuclear arms control or something business-related. "We hope Trump won't be fooled by the Russians; he understands all [these] dangerous things," the official said, adding that Russia's only goal was to avoid any new sanctions and have existing sanctions lifted.

Russia controls around a fifth of Ukraine, and Zelensky and the Europeans worry that a deal could cement those gains, rewarding Putin for 11 years of efforts to seize Ukrainian land and emboldening him to expand further into Europe. An EU diplomat said it would be "scary to see how it all unfolds in the coming hours. Trump had very good calls yesterday with Europe, but that was yesterday".

(Continued from Page 1)

HI(M), Baloch, Maj Gen Muhammad Abbas, Arty, Maj Gen Shahid Amir Afsar, Punjab, Maj Gen Muhammad Imran Khan Babar, Sindh, Maj Gen Usman Iqbal, Arty, Maj Gen Muhammad Intikhab Alam, Brig Sajjad Sarwar, Sigs, Brig Ghazanfar Iqbal, Arty, Brig Muhammad Arshad, FF, Brig Waqar Ali, Arty, Brig Ahson Mansoor Virk, Pubjab, Lt Col Ahmed Umar, AK, Lt Col Muhammad Shahzad, Arty, Lt Col Waqas Mansoor, Arty, Lt Col Muhammad Zakriya, EME, Lt Col Ansar Chand, FF, Lt Col Shahbaz Ali Khan, FF, Lt Col Ali Zeshan, AK, Lt Col Ahmad Ali, CMI, Maj Muhammad Ammad, ICTO, Maj Farhat Ali, Arty, Maj Najeab Ur Rehman, Sigs, Maj Naveed Ullah, Arty, Capt Muhammad Fahad Zaheer, AD, Capt Muhammad Taqveem Khalid Gill, Arty, Capt Yasir Jamil, FF, Capt Badar Khan Riaz, Arty, Capt Muhammad Ahmad, Arty, Capt Arham Didar, AD, Capt Muhammad Wajahat Younas, AMC GDMO, Lt Anas Naeem, Arty, Lt Noushair Zaman Cheema, NLI, 2/Lt Mazhar Ali, Mjd, Sub Muhammad Javed, FF, Sub Rahmat Ullah, Mjd, N/Sub Muhammad Akil, Arty, Hav Asad Ali Khan, Arty, Hav Imam Ali, Baloch, Hav Sadullah Shah, FF, Hav Muneer Ahmad, Mjd, Hav Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Mjd, L/Hav Mujahid Azam, AD, L/Hav Inayat Aziz, Mjd, Nk Muhammad Minahal, AD, Nk Sohail Iqbal, PR (Pb), L/Nk Ahsan Ali, AD, L/Nk Muhammad Rasheed, Baloch, L/Nk Muhammad Jaffar Khan, FF, L/Nk Dil Fraz Hussain, AK, Sep Asif Ali, Arty, Sep Sharafat Ullah, AK, Sep Zahid Hussain, NLI, Sep Muhammad Asif, Mjd, Sep Khubaib Hussain, Mjd, Sep Abdul Sattar, PR (Pb), Commodore Ahmed Hussain SI(M), Navy, Commodore Anwar Saeed TI(M), Navy, Captain Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah PN, Navy, Captain Muhammad Ali PN, Navy, Captain Sohail Ahmed Raja PN, Navy, Captain Kamran Ali Bhatti PN, Navy, Lt Waleed Arshad PN, Navy, CWEA(OC) Muhammad Ijaz, Navy, Air Commodore Syed Nabeel Masood GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Irfan Rasul Ghauri GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Abdul Ghaffar Buzdar GD(P), Air Force, Air Commodore Mudassar Arshad Malhi GD(P), Air Force, Group Captain Muhammad Saleem Raza GD(P), Air Force, Group Captain Muhammad Jawad Azim GD(P), Air Force, Group Captain

Zeeshan Ali GD(P), Air Force, Group Captain Ameer Hamza Mehdi GD(P), Air Force, Group Captain Farhan Ahmed GD(P), Air Force, Group Captain Umair Ali AD, Air Force, Wing Commander Qasim Khan GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Umair Riaz GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Safyan Azad GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Waqas Rasheed GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Umar Farooq GD(P), Air Force, Wing Commander Muhammad Faisal Engg, Air Force, Wing Commander Imran Atif AD, Air Force, Wing Commander Asim Ali Shah Edu, Air Force, Squadron Leader Abdur Rahman GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Zaeem Khalid GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Muslim Raza GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Zeshan Muhammad GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Umair Raza GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Shaiq Ashraf GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Umar Ahmad GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Makhdoom Muhammad Sami GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Yasir Akram GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Junaid Ahmed AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Hassam Ashfaq GD(P), Air Force, Squadron Leader Asfandiyar Awan Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Ammar Hussain Farooqi, Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Faizan UI Haq Rajput Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Noman Hydair Engg, Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Abid AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Sulaman Ishtiaq Satti AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Junaid Ahmed AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Atta Ullah Sahibzada AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Zia Ur Rehman AD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Nadeem

Anwer Nadeem A&SD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Danish Iqbal A&SD, Air Force, Squadron Leader Majid Shehzad IT, Air Force, Squadron Leader Muhammad Azhar Latif Met, Air Force, Squadron Leader Rizwan Karim MES, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Sarosh Engg, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Rana Muhammad Hasan Engg, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Usman Engg, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Zafar Hashmi Engg, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Yahya Haider A&SD, Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Usama Khalid A&SD, Air Force, Flying Officer Tabassum Hussain Engg, Air Force, Flying Officer Muhammad Hassaan Nasir Engg, Air Force, CWO Ikram Khan, Air Force, CWO M Ashraf Khan, Air Force, CWO Muhammad Majid, Air Force, CWO Shahid Kamran Khan, Air Force, WWO Muhammad Azam, Air Force, AWO Muhammad Adnan, Air Force, Chf Tech Sami Ullah, Air Force, Chf Tech Muhammad Aurangzeb, Air Force, Chf Tech Samander Khan, Air Force, Chf Tech Muhammad Aleem, Air Force, Chf Tech Muhammad Ashraf, Air Force, Snr Tech Muhammad Ayaz, Air Force, Snr Tech Mubashir Javed, Air Force, Snr Tech Najeab Sultan, Air Force, Snr Tech Waseem, Air Force, Snr Tech Arshad Mobeen, Air Force, Snr Tech Asghar Ali, Air Force, Snr Tech Ihsan Ullah, Air Force, Snr Tech Muhammad Imran, Air Force and Cpl Tech Farooq Ahmad, Air Force.

The following officers and men were conferred with COAS Commendation Card: Maj Gen Rana Arfan Shakeel Ramay, SI, CMI, Maj Gen Syed Ali Raza, HI (M), Sigs, Brig Muhammad Tariq Khan, Baloch, Brig Muhammad Sajid Mahmood, Baloch, Brig Muhammad Mehraj Khan, AD, Brig Amir Fareed Khan, FF, Brig Zaka Ullah, Arty, Brig Jawad Haider, Arty, Brig Syed Talal Mansoor, Punjab, Brig Salis Ahmed, Sigs, Brig Asad Rauf, Sigs, Brig Farhan Shahid Khan, Sigs, Brig Ali Nawaz Khan, Niazi, AC, Brig Hariss Aziz Ansari, Sigs, Brig Nauman Rashid Khan, Sigs, Col Usman Khalid, AD, Col Shahid Mehmood Akhtar, Engrs, Col Noman Rehman Khattak, CMI, Col Khaqan Sarwar, Sigs, Col Nabeel Asghar, EME, Lt Col Syed Muhammad Tahir Hameed, CMI, Lt Col Usama Khan, AC, Lt Col Muhammad Afzal Riaz,

Arty, Lt Col Khuldoo Bin Nazeer, CMI, Lt Col Muhammad Mehdi, Baloch, Lt Col Adnan Ahmad Khan, AK, Lt Col Bilal Shahzad, CMI, Lt Col Muhammad Shahzad Khurshid, AC, Lt Col Syed Ahmed Raza Kazmi, Arty, Lt Col Muhammad Bilal, Punjab, Lt Col Muhammad Imran, Punjab, Lt Col Muhammad Yousaf, Baloch, Lt Col Mirza Jahantab Khalid, Arty, Lt Col Abubakar Murtaza Butt, Punjab, Lt Col Muhammad Rizwan Younas, Sigs, Lt Col Muhammad Wasif Zia, Arty, Lt Col Shahid Hussain, Arty, Lt Col Muhammad Ali Nawaz, Arty, Lt Col Muhammad Qamber Raza, GL, Lt Col Noman Khalil, Baloch, Lt Col Umair Aziz Bhatti, Sindh, Lt Col Aqeel Zahid, Sindh, Lt Col Amir Shoaib Akhtar, Sigs, Lt Col Hamza Nawaz Khan, FF, Lt Col Muhammad Asad Khan, AK, Maj Aamir Irshad, Engrs, Maj Irfan Haider, AK, Maj Tahir Iqbal Khattak, Arty, Maj Muhammad Umer Javed, TSO, Maj Farhan Akbar, Baloch, Maj Mushaf Bin Ali, Arty, Maj Muhammad Umair Saeed, Arty, Maj Abdullah Kamran, FF, Maj Abdul Muqtadir Khan, Sindh, Maj Shahzeb Ibne Ahmad, CMI, Maj Muhammad Akhtar, Arty, Maj Muhammad Ahmer, Arty, Maj Muhammad Akash Arshad, CMI, Maj Imran Khan, Baloch, Maj Faizan Ahmed, AK, Maj Tasawar Abbas, CMI, Maj Mamoon Elahi Malik, Arty, Maj Abdul Qadir, Sigs, Maj Daniyal Riaz Siddiqui, Arty, Maj Muhammad Hasan Khan, Arty, Maj Muhammad Ali Zia, AD, Maj Muhammad Shaheryar Saleem, Arty, Maj Muhammad Saad Arshad, Arty, Maj Ali Raza, AD, Maj Muhammad Taimoor Malik, Punjab, Maj Syed Osama Hussain Bokhari, Sigs, Maj Osama Naeem Khan, EME, Maj Ghulam Mustafa, NLI, Maj Faheem Abbas, ICTO, Maj Muhammad Zubair, Arty, Maj Hassan bin Faiz, Sigs, Maj Muhammad Adnan, Mjd, Maj Kamran Salim, Mjd, Maj Ali Raza, Mjd, Maj Zulfiqar Ali, Mjd, Maj Rana Waseem Akbar, Mjd, Maj Muhammad Fahad Iqbal, Mjd, Maj Khalid Yaqoob, Mjd, Capt Abdullah, Punjab, Capt Muneeb Jamal Amir, Arty, Capt Muhammad Usama, Punjab, Capt Muhammad Mahad Amir, Arty, Capt Umair Hassan, Arty, Capt Basit Ali, Arty, Capt Zain Zaman, Arty, Capt Bilal Ahmed Gid, AD, Capt Umair Fayyaz Khan, Arty, Capt Muhammad Anas Bin Ateeq, AK, Capt Tameem Ali Khan, FF, Capt Umer Waqas, Arty, Capt Mehrab Israr, Arty,

Capt Awais Ur Rehman, Arty, Capt Kaleem Ullah, AMC GDMO, Capt Mahnoor Nasar, Sigs, Capt Muhammad Haider Ijaz, Mjd, Lt Imran Kashif, AK, Lt Haseeb Ali, Arty, Lt Arbaz Khan Khalji, Arty, Lt Waqas Ali, Arty, Lt Muhammad Awais Yassen, Arty, Lt Muhammad Huzaifa Altaf, Arty, Lt Abdullah Bin Masood, Punjab, Lt Zohaib Yameen, FF, Lt Zeeshan Imtiaz, AD, Lt Mujtaba Ahmed, Baloch, Lt Saifullah Shah, Sindh, Lt Huzaifa Ikram, Arty, Lt Waqar Aslam, Mjd, Lt Muhammad Shamshad, Mjd, Sub Muhammad Munir, Arty, Sub Zafar Iqbal, Arty, Sub Sadaqat Hayat, Sigs, Sub Ghulam Hassan, EME, Sub Fiaz Muhammad, EME, Sub Muhammad Soomar Mal, EME, Sub Muhammad Sadiq, Mjd, Sub Muhammad Saleem, Mjd, Sub Karim Shah, Mjd, N/Ris Sajjad Ahmed, AC, N/Ris Ashfaq Ahmed, Arty, N/Sub Fiaz Ahmed, Sigs, N/Sub Munir Ahmed, Sigs, N/Sub Ishfaq Ahmed, Baloch, N/Sub Rafiqat Ali, Baloch, N/Sub Hamid Ali, FF, N/Sub Javed Iqbal, AK, N/Sub Jamil Mir, Mjd, N/Sub Ishtiaq Aziz, Mjd, N/Sub Iftikhar Hussain, Mjd, N/Sub Ansar Baig, Mjd, Hav Janat Gul, Arty, Hav Feroz Khan, Arty, Hav Saqib Ijaz, Arty, Hav Imran Khan, Arty, Hav Muhammad Hasniain Haider, Arty, Hav Muhammad Tanveer, Arty, Hav Arab Hussain, Arty, Hav Muhammad Shoaib, Arty, Hav Khalid Mehmood, AD, Hav Abdul Rehman, AD, Hav Muhammad Waqar, AD, Hav Muhammad Saeed Awan, AD, Hav Muhammad Anwar, AD, Hav Haq Nawaz Bashir, AD, Hav Usman Rasheed, AD, Hav Qasir Mehmood, Sigs, Hav Hameed Ahmed, Sigs, Hav Fazal-i-Khuda, Sigs, Hav Muhammad Waqas, Baloch, Hav Muhammad Fayyaz, FF, Hav Abdul Haleem, FF, Hav Abid Ali, FF, Hav Asrar Hussain, AK, Hav Haji Khan, Ord, Hav Muhammad Pervaiz, CMI, Hav Muhammad Iqbal, CMI, Hav Fasil Mehmood, Mjd, Hav Sher Afzal, Mjd, Hav Muhammad Shebab, Mjd, Hav Muhammad Saddique, Mjd, Hav Zubair Ahmed, Mjd, Hav Hassnain Raza, Mjd, Hav Mirzad Khan, Mjd, L/Hav Rafi Ullah, AD, L/Hav Muhammad Shafique, AD, L/Hav Faisal Mehmood, Sigs, L/Hav Zahid Hussain, NLI, L/Hav Muhammad Shahbaz, Kiani, Mjd, Nk Muhammad Faraz Nazir, Arty, Nk Sher Afzal, Arty, Nk Mustansar Hussain, Arty, Nk Muhammad Umer Faroque, Arty, Nk

Asghar Ali, Arty, Nk Tariq Aziz, Arty, Nk Qamar Zaman Haider, Arty, Nk Muhammad Ayoub, AD, Nk Muhammad Naveed, AD, Nk Muhammad Waris, Engrs, Nk Rao Kamran Ali, Sindh, Nk Ehsan Akhtar, Sigs, Nk Mumtaz Khan, Punjab, Nk Muhammad Azam, AK, Nk Muhammad Riqwan, AK, Nk Muhammad Idrees, AK, Nk Ali Muhammad, EME, Nk Noor Hassan, EME, Nk Muhammad Usman, CMI, Nk Ubaid Nazir, Mjd, Nk Zubair Hussain Khan, Mjd, Nk Iqbal Hussain, Mjd, Nk Parvaiz Ahmed, Mjd, Nk Syed Abrar Hussain Shah, Mjd, Nk Amir Shahzad, Mjd, Nk Shehbaz Akhtar, Mjd, L/Nk Hasnain, Arty, L/Nk Saddam Hussain, AD, L/Nk Muhammad Ghafoor, AD, L/Nk Shoaib Khan, Punjab, L/Nk Shamsud Din, AK, L/Nk Kashif Hussain, Sindh, L/Nk Irfan Abbas, Sindh, L/Nk Ahsan Ullah, NLI, L/Nk Muhammad Hassan, SSG, L/Nk Waqar, SSG, L/Nk Muhammad Mehboob, Mjd, L/Nk Muhammad Idrees Khan, Mjd, L/Nk Javed Iqbal, Mjd, Sep Nadeem Abbas, Arty, Sep Munawar Iqbal, AD, Sep Muhammad Amjad, AD, Sep Dur Muhammad, Spr Amjad Gul, Engrs, Sep Yashar Khayyam, Sigs, Sep Saeed Alam, Punjab, Sep Muhammad Bilal, Punjab, Sep Pervaiz Hussain, Punjab, Sep Mirza Adeel Asif Baig, Punjab, Sep Ali Imran, Punjab, Sep Waseem Ahmed, Punjab, Sep Muhammad Asif, Baloch, Sep Ibrar Ali, FF, Sep Sadiq Rehman, FF, Sep Haider Ali, FF, Sep Asif Ali, FF, Sep Muhammad Rashid, FF, Sep Zeeshan, FF, Sep Muhammad Sharif, FF, Sep Shahid Rashid, AK, Sep Muhammad Wasif, AK, Sep Umer Nazir, AK, Sep Nawaz Khan, NLI, Sep Waseem Sajjad, NLI, Sep Muhammad Arslan Shehzad, SSG, Sep Rawal Aslam, SSG, Sep Muhammad Waseem, SSG, Sep NA Syed Touqeer Hussain Shah, AMC, Sep NA Muhammad Waqas, AMC, Sep NA Muhammad Shahzeb, AMC, Sep NA Jamil Aziz, AMC, Sep NA Adeel Tariq, AMC, Sep NA Muhammad Umer Farooq, AMC, Sep Muhammad Maqbool, Mjd, Sep Niazuallah, Mjd, Sep Adnan Manzoor, Mjd, Sep Sabeel Iqbal, Mjd, Sep Asad Shaheen, Mjd, Sep Muhammad Kashif, Mjd, Sep Adnan Noor, Mjd, Sep Adeel Ahmed Kiani, Mjd, Sep Muhammad Faisal, Mjd, DSR Mehrab Gul, Pakistan Rangers (Pb), Sep Ghulam Mustafa, Pakistan Rangers (Pb), Sep Muhammad Usman, Pakistan Rangers (Pb), Lieutenant Commander Khurram Riaz, Navy was conferred with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military).