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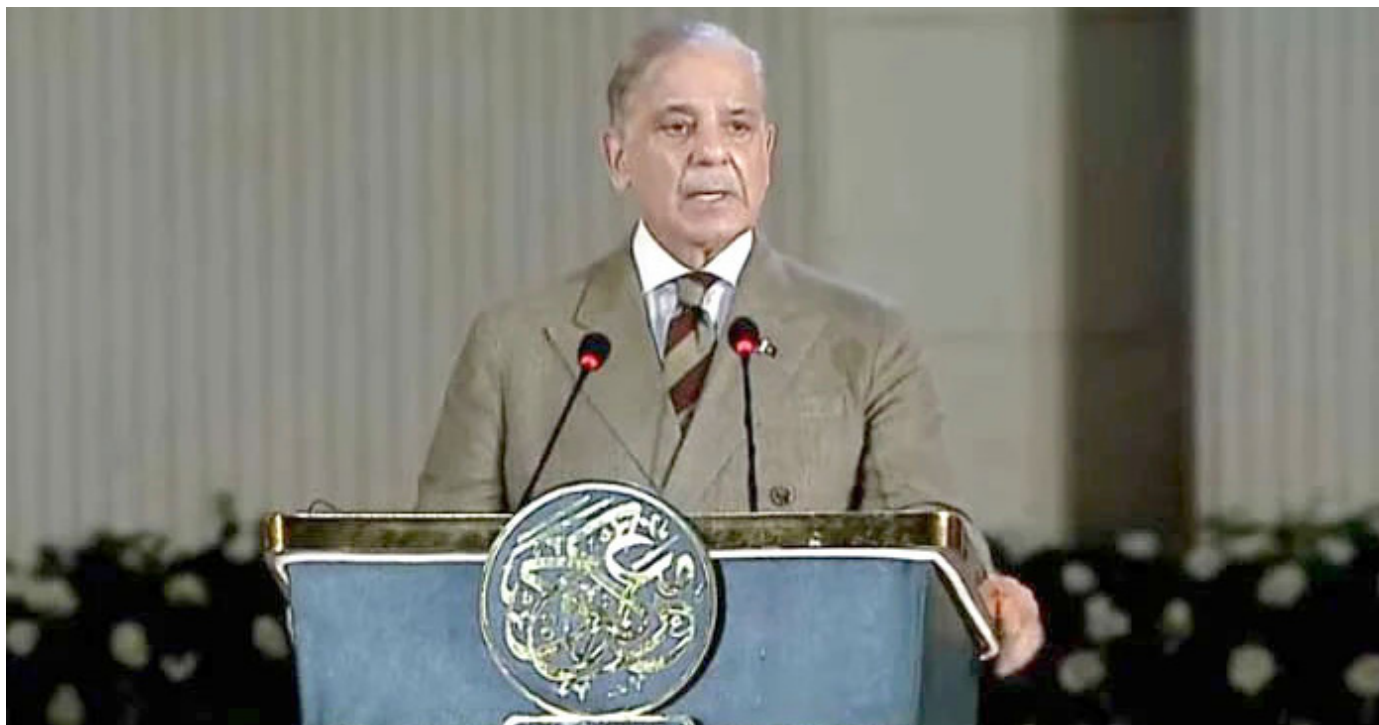
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‘Every drop of Pakistan water is our red line’, PM warns India



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday warned India against any move affecting Pakistan's water supply, saying Islamabad would respond directly if New Delhi failed to return to the "right path."

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Yadgar-e-Fatah monument in Islamabad on eve of Independence Day, the prime minister said Pakistan wanted peace but cautioned that its desire for peace should not be mistaken for weakness. "India must come to the right path, otherwise it will be given a direct response," Shehbaz said, adding that Pakistan wanted

peace and stability in the region.

He further said the entire nation was celebrating Independence Day under the shadow of the Victory Monument and paid tribute to the nation for its success in Marka-e-Haq. He said the monument symbolised the superiority of the Pakistan Armed Forces, adding that the nation had witnessed an "ocean of emotions" in its hearts.

PM Shehbaz paid tribute to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the armed forces for the success of Marka-e-Haq, saying the nation's head was held high while the enemy had suffered a "humili-

ating defeat".

The premier congratulated the field marshal and his team on the Victory Monument and said its unique design had been completed in just eight months.

He said Pakistan had emerged as a symbol of stability in the region and pledged that the government would provide new opportunities for the country's younger generation.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan wanted the world to remain protected from new conflicts and noted that Islamabad had played a mediating role between the United States and Iran. He said US President Donald Trump had brokered a timely ceasefire between

Pakistan and India, expressing hope that relations between Pakistan and the United States would further strengthen in the future. Speaking of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, he said that Turkiye had also become part of the accord, describing it as a symbol of peace in the Middle East. He said Pakistan would continue to support the rights of the Palestinian people, while reiterating that Islamabad's stance on Kashmir was unequivocal and that the sacrifices of Kashmiris would not be allowed to go in vain. The prime minister advised the Afghan government to prevent its territory from being used for terrorism.

Norwegian FM praises Pakistan's role in regional peace in meeting with CDF Munir



ANI

Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide on Thursday appreciated the "professional role" played by Pakistan in promoting regional peace and stability during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, the military's media wing said.

The meeting came during Eide's two-day official visit to Pakistan, which marked the first visit by a Norwegian foreign minister to the country in a decade.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a high-level Norwegian delegation led by Eide called on Field Marshal Munir, with the two sides discussing "matters of mutual interest, regional security and bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Norway". Eide appreciated the "professional role played by the Pakistan Armed Forces in promoting regional peace and stability". CDF Munir highlighted Pakistan's "perspective on global peace and regional stability", underscoring the importance of "cooperation and collaborative efforts" to address common security challenges, ISPR said. The two sides also discussed regional security and bilateral relations, with both sides "reiterating their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties" and "expand engagements in defence and security domains".

Earlier, Eide commended Pakistan's "important and constructive role" during

the recent Iran-US conflict, including the leadership and contributions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and CDF Munir, during delegation-level talks in Islamabad, the Foreign Office (FO) said. Eide and Dar led the talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), where the two sides reviewed the "whole gamut of bilateral cooperation" and discussed trade, investment, climate change, maritime affairs and education, according to the FO.

The two sides also held "in-depth discussions on regional and international developments of mutual interest". This is the first visit by a Norwegian foreign minister to the country in a decade.

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar @MlshaqDar50 and H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide @EspenBarthEide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, led delegation-level talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the talks, Pakistan and Norway "expressed satisfaction at the warm and cordial state of Pakistan-Norway relations" and agreed to "further deepen cooperation in areas of mutual interest".

The two sides also recognised the "important role of the Pakistani diaspora in Norway" and agreed to strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Speaking at a joint press briefing with Dar in Islamabad after their talks, Eide said Pakistan had taken on a "massive task" by offering Islamabad not only as the venue but also as the facilitator of negotiations.

Pakistan backs Saudi-led coalition to protect global waterways

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Tehran and carried messages to the Iranian leadership from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir as part of Pakistan's regular diplomatic exchanges, while security-related matters, bilateral relations and regional developments were also discussed. Pakistan stresses that it will continue to offset spoilers using direct and indirect channels and that it will enable the continuation of constructive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues. Naqvi called on and held talks with Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar.

"The interior minister's visit provides us an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations, security, regional security and stability, and constructive engagements amongst the par-



ties in the region and regional developments. I will not share the details of what exactly was the message, but this is essentially in the context of peace efforts. The interior minister visited Tehran and carried our messages. These are part of the regular diplomatic exchanges. Of course, I understand the visit of the interior minister also has a certain bilateral context with respect to his portfolio as the minister for interior and that he held meetings in this regard with his Iranian counterpart," said Tahir Andrabi.

Ishaq Dar meets PML-N AJK president, discusses govt formation

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir in Islamabad to discuss matters related to government formation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The two leaders discussed the prevailing political situation in AJK, PML-N's performance in the recent general elections, development initiatives, resolution of public issues and other matters of mutual interest.

Shah Ghulam Qadir briefed Ishaq Dar on PML-N's electoral performance and success in the recent AJK elections, saying the victory reflected public confidence in the party's leadership and policies.

More to read: AJK police say eight highway personnel abducted by JAAC during election



duty

Ishaq Dar appreciated PML-N's electoral performance under Shah Ghulam Qadir's leadership in AJK, saying the party's success was an expression of the people's trust. The meeting also discussed measures to accelerate the development process in AJK and address issues faced by the people.

Shah Ghulam Qadir also presented the needs and development priorities of AJK residents to the deputy prime minister.

He said PML-N would play its full role in serving the people of AJK and promoting development across the region.

Shah Ghulam Qadir said the party's electoral success was supported by Punjab's development model, while the people of AJK had also expressed confidence in the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz Sharif by voting for PML-N candidates.

FINANCIAL TIMES

ECONOMY. CULTURE. HUMANITY

Wishes the Nation



HAPPY 14TH AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF
PAKISTAN

“
Let us honor the past,
celebrate the present and
build a stronger, prosperous
Pakistan for the future.
”



Freedom
Our Right

Unity
Our Strength

Progress
Our Goal

UNITED WE STAND
STRONGER WE PROSPER

Wanted terrorist commander with Rs6m bounty killed in Bannu IBO: K-P police

ANI

MIRANSHAH: A highly wanted terrorist commander, identified as Naseer Muhammad alias Geedarh, who carried a Rs6 million bounty on his head, was killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO), Bannu District Police Officer (DPO) Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Furqan Bilal confirmed to The Express Tribune. According to a statement issued by the police, the operation was conducted jointly by Bannu Police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). The police said complete details of the operation and the deceased terrorist would be shared later. "An IBO against terrorists was underway in the jurisdiction of Domel Police Station under the supervision of DPO Bilal, involving Bannu District Police and CTD teams," it said. Police said that the operation was being conducted in Akbar Ali Khan Kili, Sada Khel, Sadarwan and adjoining areas, where police and CTD teams were carrying out targeted actions based on intelligence reports regarding the presence and movement of terrorists. "Search and surveillance operations, along with searches of suspected locations, were also underway in the area.

Ban militant outfits remain security challenge, Sindh CM informed

ANI

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level review meeting regarding the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) to evaluate the province's security landscape, CTD's operational performance, and its future technical requirements. During the briefing, senior officials informed the Chief Minister that outlawed militant and insurgent organizations continue to pose a significant security challenge to the province. However, relentless operations by law enforcement agencies have yielded a massive 76% reduction in terror-related incidents across Sindh this year compared to the previous period. According to data pre-



sented at the meeting, terrorism incidents plunged from 37 recorded in 2025 down to just 9 in 2026, with 7 of those cases successfully solved and investigated—achieving a detection rate of nearly 78%.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Chairperson Pakistan Digital Authority, Dr. Sohail Munir, at the Finance Division.

Doctors Attacked in Rawalpindi, FIR Registered, Police Launch Investigation

BY: ANI Correspondent :

RAWALPINDI: Dr. Syed Mohsin Ali Gilani, his mother and his sister, Dr. Syeda Amina Batool, were injured in an armed attack near Saddar Cantonment after two unidentified men riding a motorcycle allegedly intercepted their vehicle and opened fire, according to the FIR and police complaint.

The incident took place at around

12:55 pm on August 11, 2026, when the victims were travelling in their vehicle. According to the complaint submitted to police, the attackers allegedly stopped the vehicle and subjected the occupants to violence and threats before fleeing the scene.

The FIR records the complainant's account of the incident and states that police were approached for legal action against the unidentified suspects. The complaint also seeks iden-

tification and arrest of those involved in the attack.

Following the incident, the injured were shifted for medical treatment. Police have initiated an investigation and are examining available CCTV footage and other evidence to trace the suspects and determine the exact circumstances and possible motive behind the attack. Police officials said efforts to identify and arrest the perpetrators are continuing.

Abrar Hussain Tanoli Honoured with Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for Services to Pakistani Pilgrims

BY: ANI Correspondent:

RIYADH --- Abrar Hussain Tanoli, a Pakistani financial professional based in Saudi Arabia and a native of Mansehra, has been honoured with the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in recognition of his decade-long services to Pakistani pilgrims and the wider Pakistani community.

The prestigious civil award was presented by Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Farooq, on behalf of President Asif Ali Zardari, at a special ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh.

Tanoli is a founding member and Riyadh Coordinator of the Pakistan Hajj Volunteers Group (PHVG), which has been assisting Pakistani pilgrims during Hajj since 2011. In



2024, the group mobilised and trained more than 1,500 volunteers to support pilgrims.

The volunteers assist pilgrims with guidance, wheelchair support, medical needs and other emergen-

cies during Hajj, with their services also appreciated by Saudi authorities.

Beyond Hajj services, Tanoli has contributed to free medical camps, community welfare initiatives and emergency assistance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he helped provide food, medicines and essential supplies to Pakistani families facing difficulties.

His welfare efforts also extend to Pakistan, where he continues to support deserving families and individuals facing financial hardship.

The Tamgha-e-Imtiaz recognises Tanoli's long-standing contribution to Hajj services, community welfare and humanitarian assistance for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia and at home.

Senate Sub-Committee Raises Concerns Over Tax Irregularities in Tobacco Sector



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --- The Senate Sub-Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, convened by Senator Saifullah Abro, held a meeting at Parliament House to review border security, tax evasion and regulatory violations in the tobacco industry.

The Committee expressed displeasure over the absence of concerned officials and raised serious concerns over alleged negligence by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in monitoring tobacco companies' consumption certificates and tax

compliance.

The Committee sought complete documentation of 223 consumption certificates issued by the FBR. According to the Committee, the certificates had a combined valuation of around Rs87 billion, while 20 major certificates alone accounted for nearly Rs64 billion. FBR Inland Revenue officials from RTO Peshawar failed to provide satisfactory explanations for the discrepancies.

The Committee directed authorities to issue legal notices to tax-evading tobacco companies and media outlets publishing unauthorized

tobacco advertisements. The FIA was also directed to obtain complete records from media organisations, including Behnteen Pakistan, regarding tobacco advertisements.

All 123 tobacco companies were directed to submit date-wise consumption records along with details of their owners, importers, manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

Senator Hidayatullah Khan, special invitee Senator Dilawar Khan, senior FBR and FIA officials, Chief Collector

FATA/PATA, Commissioner LTO Islamabad and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

NIRM Celebrates Pakistan's Independence Day with National Spirit

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit.

Dr. Fatima Mishaal, Director (Administration), along with lady doctors, healthcare staff and matrons, participated in the celebrations at NIRM. The event included a cake-cutting ceremony, refreshments and moments of joy.

The healthcare heroes of NIRM expressed their love for Pakistan and extended heartfelt wishes to the



nation on the occasion of August 14.

Pakistan Zindabad!

Russian Ambassador felicitates Pakistani nation on Independence Day, reaffirms commitment to stronger ties

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev has extended warm greetings to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, highlighting the friendly and mutually respectful ties between Pakistan and Russia. In his congratulatory message issued on Thursday, Ambassador Khorev said Pakistan's Independence Day reflected the "courage, determination and strong spirit" of the Pakistani people.

He said Pakistan had followed its own path of develop-

ment over the decades, guided by the ideals and aspirations of its founding fathers. The ambassador also highlighted the long-standing cooperation between Russia and Pakistan, saying the two countries maintained close and constructive relations in various fields.

He expressed confidence that the two countries would continue to strengthen mutual understanding and expand their partnership for the benefit of their peoples.

Khorev said Independence Day was a time of national pride, joy and celebration, and expressed hope that peace, stability and prosperity would prevail across Pakistan.

PRBC delegation meets IGP Sindh to strengthen investor security, promote bilateral trade



ANI

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Pakistan Romania Business Council (PRBC) along with Honorary Consul General Designate of Romania in Sindh & Honorary Consul General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas on Thursday met with, Inspector General of Police, Sindh Javed Alam Odho at the Central Police Office in Karachi to discuss the critical role of modern policing

in promoting bilateral trade and enhancing investor confidence in Pakistan.

The delegation comprised of Asad Ur Rehman Khan, Honorary Consul General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in Pakistan, Atif Farooqi, Honorary Consul General Designate of Romania in Sindh & Advisor, Pakistan-Romania Business Council; and Sohail Shamim Firpo, Chairman, Pakistan Romania Business Council, said a PRBC

press release received here.

During the meeting, the delegation emphasised that while Pakistan continues to strengthen its economic and diplomatic outreach, international media often paints a dark picture of the country's security situation, which curtails trade and investment.

Atif Farooqi, Honorary Consul General Designate of Romania in Sindh & Advisor, Pakistan-Romania Business Council, stated: "When law enforcement at your level takes part in bilateral trade promotion and shares ground reality with potential investors overseas, it's like they are listening from the horse's mouth and that makes a great difference."

Asad Ur Rehman Khan, Honorary Consul General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in Pakistan, highlighted Sindh Police's ongoing modernisation initiatives including Safe City, S-4 Smart Surveillance, digital forensics, drone units, and cybercrime capabilities as key factors that can reassure foreign investors when communicated effectively.

Maritime Minister seeks comprehensive revision of PQA sports policy

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry chaired a Port Qasim Authority (PQA) board meeting to review its sports policy and discuss comprehensive revision in line with current national and departmental requirements.

The minister directed that the revised policy focus on departmental sports, player development, coaching and training, transparent selection mechanisms, improved sports facilities, incentives for players and clearly defined institutional responsibilities.

He also proposed a unified sports policy for Pakistani ports and directed to organise a talent-hunting camp at Port Qasim to identify promising players.

Chairman port Qasim Authority Rear Admiral (Retd) Syed Moazzam Ilyas told the meeting that the authority would establish a multi-sports complex featuring cricket, hockey, badminton, table tennis, swimming, basketball, squash, athletics and football. The board has earmarked a 96-acre amenity plot for the project. The first phase, comprising a cricket ground, will be put out to tender and the contract awarded to the lowest bidder.

Under the proposed policy, a dedicated directorate will oversee sports development and activities.

CJP engages with SCBA ahead of new judicial year

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan visited the Supreme Court Bar Room and engaged with members of the legal fraternity as part of the consultative process ahead of the commencement of the new Judicial Year on 14 September 2026. The Chief Justice was received by Haroon ur Rashid, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, along with members of the Executive Committee, advocates and Advocates-on-Record. During the interaction, the Bar was briefed on the online digital services available through the Supreme Court's Public Facilitation Centre, aimed at making court-related services more accessible, efficient and user-friendly. The Bar was also apprised of the case fixation policy of the Supreme Court and the principles guiding the scheduling and prioritisation of cases.

14 اگست

یومِ آزادی پاکستان

مبارک ہو!

پاکستان زندہ باد - پیپلز پارٹی پائندہ باد

CHAUDHRY SHABBIR HUSSAIN DADAYALVI

Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir
Senior Vice President, PPP Birmingham Branch (UK)

CHAUDHRY ABDUL MAJEED

Former General Secretary, Pakistan Peoples Party Midlands (UK)

CHAUDHRY MUHAMMAD MANZOOR

Former Senior Vice President, Pakistan Peoples Party (UK)

CHAUDHRY FAZL HUSSAIN

Former President, Pakistan Peoples Party Midlands (UK)

منجانب: پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی، برطانیہ (UK)

Independence Day Message for FINANCIAL TIMES

On behalf of the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan.

Japan and Pakistan have enjoyed a long-standing friendship based on mutual respect, trust and cooperation. Over the years, our two countries have continued to strengthen their bonds and expand cooperation across various fields.



I sincerely hope that the friendship between Japan and Pakistan will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead, bringing our two peoples even closer together.

I pray for lasting peace, continued progress and prosperity for Pakistan and its people.

Happy Independence Day!
Japan-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad.
HATTORI Masaru
Consul-General of Japan
Karachi

Independence Day Message from Iranian Consul General

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

On behalf of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Government, Armed Forces and brotherly people of Pakistan on the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan.

August 14 reminds us of the remarkable struggle, sacrifices and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the founding fathers of Pakistan. Iran and Pakistan share deep-rooted bonds based on history, culture, religion and



strong people-to-people ties. Iran takes pride in being the first country to officially recognize Pakistan's independ-

ence.

Iran remains committed to further strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan, particularly in trade, energy, border cooperation and cultural exchanges. Peace, regional security and greater economic cooperation remain shared priorities.

I pray for the continued progress, security, prosperity and dignity of the people of Pakistan.

Long Live Iran-Pakistan Friendship!
Akbar Eisa Zadeh
Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Congratulatory Message on Pakistan's Independence Day

On the occasion of Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, on behalf of the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan and friends from all sectors of society.

79 years ago, Pakistan embarked on a great journey of development and progress. Over the years, the Pakistani government and people have safeguarded national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, while overcoming various challenges and contributing to regional peace and stability.

This year also marks the 75th



anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Over the past 75 years, the two countries have maintained mutual trust, respect and support, and our traditional friendship has grown stronger with time.

Standing at a new historical

starting point, China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the two countries' leaders, build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, and further strengthen our iron-clad friendship.

May Pakistan enjoy prosperity and strength!
May the people of Pakistan always enjoy happiness and well-being!
May China-Pakistan friendship remain evergreen forever!
Feng Deheng
Acting Consul General of China in Karachi

Indonesian Consul General Extends Greetings on Pakistan's Independence Day

Staff Report, KARACHI:

On the occasion of Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, Consul General of Indonesia in Karachi M. A. Mudzakir extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Government, leadership and brotherly people of Pakistan.

The Consul General highlighted the historic and brotherly ties between Indonesia and Pakistan, reaffirming the commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in economic development, trade,



education, and socio-cultural exchanges.

He said that Independence Day is a reminder of Pakistan's struggle, unity and shared national aspirations. Indonesia and Pakistan enjoy close and brotherly relations based on mutual respect, cooperation and shared values, and remain committed to further strengthening bilateral ties.

The Consulate General of Indonesia in Karachi wished Pakistan continued progress, peace, prosperity and stability.

Independence Day Message by Barrister Zulfiqar Syed

Independence is more than the birth of a nation; it is the dignity, hope and security of every person who calls it home.

On this Independence Day, we remember the dream that gave birth to Pakistan — a nation where people could live with dignity, shape their own future and build a society based on justice, equality and mutual respect.

Seventy-nine years later, this dream calls upon us not only to celebrate, but to come together. Pakistan's story has always been connected with movement, migration and the pursuit of better opportunities. Behind every journey is a human being seeking safety, a better future or a chance to support



their family. Their experiences remind us that development must never come at the cost of dignity and rights.

Today, let us unite for a Pakistan where differences do not divide us, the law protects everyone equally, and every person — at home or abroad,

returning or seeking refuge — can live with dignity and hope.

Our independence was achieved through unity, and its promise can only be fulfilled through unity.

Let this 14 August renew our commitment to one Pakistan, one shared future, and a society rooted in justice, compassion and the rule of law.

May we build a Pakistan that our people never have to leave out of desperation, and one they can always return to with hope.

Happy Independence Day!
Pakistan Zindabad!
Barrister Zulfiqar Syed
Chairman
Legal ID Foundation

14TH AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE DAY

OF PAKISTAN

A Day of Pride. A Future of Promise.

Today, we celebrate not just our freedom, but the courage, faith and unity of a nation that chose a path of dignity and self-determination.

Let us honor the sacrifices of our forefathers by building a Pakistan that is strong, just and prosperous.

ONE NATION. ONE DESTINY. ONE PAKISTAN.

WITH FAITH, DISCIPLINE AND UNITY, WE CAN BUILD THE PAKISTAN OUR FOUNDERS DREAMED OF.

CENTRAL INFORMATION SECRETARY

KHALID NAWAZ SADHRAICH

PTI KISSAN WING

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

14 AUGUST

BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY

14 AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Advocate Fareed Afghan

Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan and former Provincial Information Secretary Balochistan,

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Pakistan is our home, let us make it prosperous together. Every Pakistani must unite and contribute to the country's development. May Allah protect Pakistan.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Pakistan ZINDABAD!

14TH AUGUST

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

PAKISTAN ZINDABAD

On this historic day, we remember the countless sacrifices made for our freedom and reaffirm our commitment to build a peaceful, prosperous and united Pakistan.

United in Faith, Driven by Vision, Committed to Progress.

GLOBAL PAKISTAN & KASHMIR SUPREME COUNCIL (GPKSC)

RAJA SIKANDER KHAN

CHAIRMAN

OUR FREEDOM is a legacy of struggle, let us honor it by working for a better tomorrow.

OUR UNITY is our strength, let us stand together for peace and harmony.

OUR PROGRESS is our destination, let us innovate, educate and build a prosperous Pakistan.

ONE NATION • ONE VISION • ONE PAKISTAN

A Homeland Won Through Blood, Tears and Sacrifice, Defended Through Courage and Strength: Pakistan’s Historic Journey from 27 Ramazan 1366 Hijri to Chagai and the JF-17 Thunder



Special Independence Day Article for Daily Financial Times, Islamabad
By: Dr. Abdul Ghani
E-Mail: Published by ANI News Agency
ghanillm@yahoo.com

For Pakistan, 14 August is more than the anniversary of political independence; it is the remembrance of a dream, the culmination of a historic struggle, the testimony of immense sacrifice, and a reminder of the responsibilities that accompany freedom. Pakistan's birth in August 1947 is traditionally remembered as coinciding with 27 Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 1366 Hijri, giving the creation of the new Muslim homeland a profound spiritual significance. The green and white flag that rose over Pakistan was not a gift of history. It was earned through political struggle, constitutional perseverance, sacrifice and an unwavering belief in a distinct national destiny.

Pakistan did not emerge overnight. Its foundations were laid as the Muslims of the Subcontinent realized that their identity, political interests and cultural aspirations required constitutional protection. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan awakened Muslims to modern education and political awareness. Allama Muhammad Iqbal gave intellectual expression to Muslim political identity, while Chaudhry Rahmat Ali gave the proposed homeland its memorable name. Yet it was Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah whose extraordinary leadership and constitutional determination transformed an aspiration into sovereign reality.

The Lahore Resolution of March 1940 became the decisive turning point, giving the Pakistan Movement a clear direction and transforming Muslim political consciousness into an organized national demand. Students, women, lawyers, teachers, traders, journalists, religious scholars, workers and ordinary citizens all contributed. Millions supported a homeland many had never seen because they believed it would secure dignity, opportunity and freedom for future generations.

The historic Pakistan Resolution of 23 March 1940 was originally drafted by Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, subsequently discussed and amended by the Muslim League's Subject Committee, and formally presented at Minto Park, Lahore, by A. K. Fazlul Huq. Pakistan's national flag was designed by Syed Amiruddin Kidwai, while the first flag was stitched by Master Altaf Hussain, and it was officially adopted on 11 August 1947. Pakistan's National Anthem, the *Qaumi Tarana*, was written by Hafeez Jalandhari in 1952, composed by Ahmed G. Chagla, and officially adopted on 13 August 1954. These historic personalities and milestones remain inseparable from the political, cultural and national identity of Pakistan.

Quaid-e-Azam faced the British colonial establishment, the powerful Indian National Congress, limited resources and divisions



within Muslim politics. Yet he remained committed to constitutionalism, negotiation and disciplined political struggle. His prin-



That is why 14 August must never be reduced merely to flags, decorative lights, green clothing, fireworks and patriotic songs. Celebration without remembrance is incomplete. The true meaning of Independence Day lies in remembering those who walked through fear, hunger and blood so that later generations could live beneath their own flag with political freedom and national dignity.

ciples of Unity, Faith and Discipline were not ceremonial slogans; they were foundations for nation-building.

Then came independence and with it one of the most painful human tragedies in South Asian history.

The boundaries drawn in 1947 did not merely divide territory. They cut through provinces, villages, neighbourhoods, farms, railway lines and family histories. Millions suddenly found that their ancestral homes now stood on the opposite side of an international border. One of the largest migrations of the twentieth century began.

Families travelled in overcrowded trains,



trucks, bullock carts and often on foot. Mothers carried infants through heat, hunger and fear; elderly people abandoned ancestral homes; children were separated from parents; and refugee caravans moved under constant threat of communal violence. Villages were burned, properties abandoned and families destroyed. Historical estimates suggest that around fourteen million or more people were displaced, while hundreds of thousands lost their lives.

Behind every number was a human story: a father who never reached his destination, a mother searching for a missing child, a family that lost everything, and a home never to be seen again.

Those who reached Pakistan were not merely refugees; they became among the first builders of the new state. Many arrived with little more than the clothes they were wearing and faith in the homeland for which they had sacrificed everything. The newborn country faced severe shortages of money, equipment and trained personnel. Yet Pakistan survived: institutions were established, frontiers

guarded, classrooms opened, commerce restored and displaced families built new lives from nothing.

Pakistan's journey since 1947 has never been easy. Wars, political instability, economic pressures, and terrorism tested the nation, yet its people repeatedly demonstrated remarkable resilience.

That resilience is also visible in Pakistan's defence development. At independence, the country inherited limited military and financial resources. Over the decades, Pakistan built a defence structure based on professional training, strategic planning, technological advancement and increasing indigenous capability. One of the most defining moments came on 28 May 1998, when the mountains of Chagai witnessed



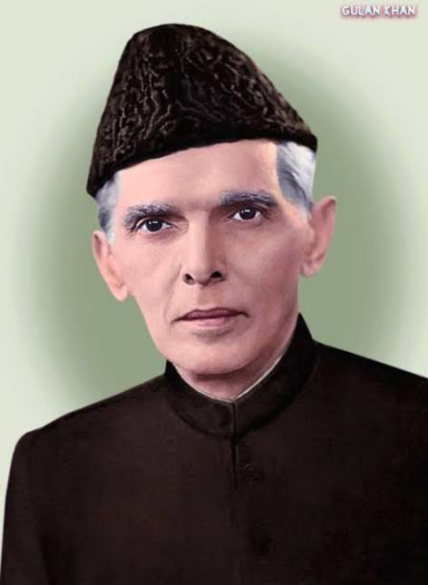
Pakistan's nuclear tests.

Chagai transformed the strategic balance of South Asia. Under enormous international pressure, Pakistan demonstrated that national sovereignty and deterrence would remain paramount. The mountains that changed colour that day became a symbol of scientific achievement, technological determination and strategic independence.

From Chagai to the skies of Kamra, Pakistan's journey towards defence self-reliance continued. The JF-17 Thunder, jointly developed by Pakistan and China and co-produced at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, became a symbol of Pakistan's growing aerospace capability. It represents more than a fighter aircraft; it reflects indigenous engineering, skilled technical manpower, weapons integration and defence-production capacity. It also carries an important lesson: sovereignty in the twenty-first century requires courage, science, innovation and long-term technological self-reliance.

Pakistan's armed forces have been shaped through decades of operational experience, from conventional defence to counterterrorism. Pakistanis rightly honour the courage and sacrifices of those who defend the homeland. True military professionalism is measured not by slogans but by training, preparedness, leadership, intelligence, technological integration, morale and the ability to respond effectively under pressure.

The India-Pakistan confrontation of May 2025 again demonstrated how rapidly a crisis between two nuclear-armed neighbours can escalate and how decisively training, technology and coordinated planning can influence modern warfare. During the open-



ing phase, Pakistan mounted a swift and coordinated aerial response that inflicted losses on India's combat aviation capability and placed significant pressure on its broader air-defence posture. Indian fighter aircraft were brought down during the engagements, dealing an operational and psychological setback to an adversary equipped with advanced combat platforms. Pakistan also announced successful strikes against Indian military and air-defence installations, demonstrating its ability to integrate fighter aircraft, stand-off weapons, drones, electronic warfare and precision-strike capabilities.

International reporting supported Indian aircraft losses, while India's Chief of Defence Staff later acknowledged aerial losses, although the full scale of damage remained disputed. The confrontation continued for four intense days before a ceasefire was announced on 10 May 2025.

For Pakistan, the episode strengthened confidence in the professionalism, readiness and technological integration of its armed forces. It showed that modern defence depends not merely upon sophisticated weapons, but upon training, coordination, situational awareness and the ability to respond effectively when sovereignty is challenged. Yet the larger lesson is equally important: for two nuclear-armed states, true strategic strength lies not only in defending sovereignty, but also in preventing escalation into a catastrophic war that could destroy millions of lives.

National strength can never rest upon military capability alone. A powerful Pakistan also requires a strong economy, quality universities, credible institutions, an independent judiciary, productive industries, modern agriculture, scientific innovation, social justice and an educated younger generation. A nation becomes genuinely secure when its borders are protected, its citizens are respected, its institutions uphold justice and its economy creates opportunity.

On 14 August, our tribute to the martyrs and pioneers of the Pakistan Movement must extend beyond emotion and ceremony. We should ask ourselves: what kind of Pakistan did they sacrifice for? Surely, not a country weakened by corruption, intolerance, injustice, illiteracy, inequality or hopelessness. Their dream was of a state in which citizens could live with freedom and dignity; minorities would enjoy protection; law would stand above personal power; merit would prevail over favouritism; and ordinary parents could believe that their children would inherit a better future.

Our national flag reminds us of these obligations. The green represents the Muslim majority, while the white symbolizes the place and rights of religious minorities. The crescent represents progress, while the star signifies light and knowledge. These are not merely symbols; they are responsibilities. Patriotism is not proved merely by raising the national flag. It is demonstrated by obeying the law, protecting public property, educating our children, respecting women, safeguarding minorities, helping the vulnerable and placing Pakistan's national interest above personal advantage.

As Pakistan celebrates another Independence Day, we should remember the refugee who entered the new homeland barefoot; the mother who crossed the border carrying her child; the family that abandoned its ancestral home; the political worker who campaigned for Pakistan; the student who spread the message of freedom; the journalist who defended Muslim political rights; and the martyrs whose graves were left behind along the routes of migration.

Their sacrifices created a debt that cannot be repaid through speeches or slogans. That debt can only be honoured by building the Pakistan they dreamed of.

From Iqbal's vision to Jinnah's leadership, from the Lahore Resolution to independence, from refugee camps to national institutions, from the blood-stained journeys of 1947 to the mountains of Chagai, and from Chagai to the soaring flight of the JF-17 Thunder, Pakistan's history is an extraordinary story of struggle, sacrifice, survival, courage and determination.

But the most important chapter remains to be written and the responsibility for writing it belongs to us.

On this 14 August, let us celebrate our freedom, but also remember its price. Let us take pride in our achievements, but also recognize our responsibilities. Let us salute our armed forces, but also strengthen our schools, universities, hospitals, courts, industries and economy. Let us honour the martyrs of yesterday by refusing to surrender the Pakistan of tomorrow to corruption, division, intolerance, injustice or despair.

Pakistan was dreamed through vision, achieved through struggle, purchased through sacrifice and defended through courage. It must now be strengthened through knowledge, justice, unity, economic progress, scientific advancement and national character.

The generation of 1947 fulfilled its responsibility by giving us Pakistan. Those who defended its frontiers fulfilled theirs through courage and sacrifice. Our responsibility is to make Pakistan worthy of those sacrifices.

May the green and white flag forever fly proudly over a Pakistan that is peaceful, strong, prosperous, compassionate and respected throughout the world. May every generation understand one eternal truth: freedom is not merely an inheritance to be enjoyed. It is a sacred trust to be protected, strengthened and passed to future genera-



tions with greater honour than we received it.

Pakistan Paindabad. Pakistan Zindabad.

Pakistan Independence Day Congratulations, Jiya Pakistan



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We must remember Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who, with the support of his sister, Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, led the struggle that ultimately presented the people of the subcontinent with an independent homeland. He guided the nation with the principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline, rooted in democratic values, the rule of law, and a system of governance that guarantees religious freedom for all citizens.

His political struggle successfully led the movement that enabled the Muslims of the subcontinent to achieve a sovereign homeland where they could aspire to live with dignity, peace and harmony. The Partition of British India resulted in one of the largest mass migrations in modern history, with millions of people displaced and hundreds of thousands losing their lives amid widespread communal violence.

We must never forget the sacrifices made by our people during this painful separation. The independence of Pakistan came at a tremendous human cost, and the memories of those who suffered must remain part of our national consciousness.

History also reminds us of rulers such as Emperor Akbar (1556-1605), who is often remembered for policies aimed at promoting coexistence and reducing tensions between different religious communities. His

attempts to encourage interfaith understanding provide historical lessons about the importance of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a revolutionary leader, as was Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Both leaders left an enduring mark on Pakistan's political history and made immense sacrifices for the principles of democracy, sovereignty and public representation.

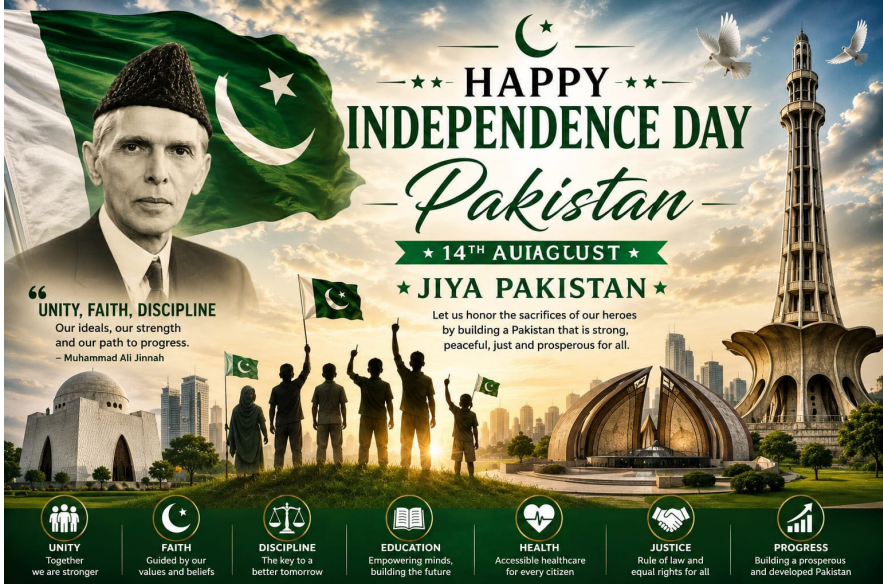
Today, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also demonstrates qualities that are essential to modern political leadership, including a commitment to diplomacy, analytical thinking, attention to detail, negotiation skills, stamina, courage, loyalty and political vision.

He has demonstrated himself to be a determined and effective negotiator. We must support constructive political dialogue and policies that bring stakeholders back to the table, creating opportunities for hope rather than allowing society to remain trapped in pain, division and uncertainty.

Pakistan belongs to its people. Every citizen has a stake in the country's government, politics, resources, land and development. The state also has a responsibility to establish social norms and institutions that build trust between citizens and government officials while ensuring access to affordable healthcare, quality education and a reasonable standard of living.

This should not be viewed as a power struggle between stakeholders and the government. Rather, it is a national challenge compounded by a growing crisis of affordability.

Pakistan faces a widening economic divide and significant gaps in opportunity across different sections of society. We cannot afford the erosion of public trust in our



institutions. A critical and honest examination of our problems is essential; only through such an examination can these problems be properly addressed and rectified.

Income inequality, the undervaluation of citizens and barriers faced by women, children and the elderly undermine the principles of equality and justice. Obstacles to merit in universities and workplaces, discrimination based on class or gender, and other forms of exclusion prevent society from achieving genuine fairness.

Such barriers are fundamentally anti-democratic. A functioning democracy cannot exist where a handful of wealthy individuals possess enough influence to buy political

power or manipulate democratic institutions. Nor can we allow politicians to use personal wealth and influence to pollute and distort our political system.

The life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) also provide enduring lessons about justice, equality, accountability and the responsibility of leadership. His governance emphasized the dignity of individuals, fairness before the law and the protection of the rights of different communities.

It is the government's responsibility to establish a political system that is transparent and accountable. Institutions must be empowered to address the basic social needs of citizens. Young people must have mean-

ingful platforms through which they can voice their concerns. Women subjected to violence, including acid attacks, children who go missing, and citizens denied opportunities because of privilege rather than merit must have access to effective institutions and justice.

Legal assistance and support should be available to those who cannot afford to defend their rights. Public institutions must have the authority and resources to register complaints, monitor cases and provide oversight of the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens.

Ultimately, people are our greatest investment.

The value of a nation is reflected in the value it places on its citizens, and the value of its citizens is deeply connected to the quality of its leadership.

Pakistan cannot afford autocracy or any system in which power is not derived from the people. Nor can we accept unlimited, unlawful or unchecked authority exercised through coercion, influence or force.

Our independence must mean more than the freedom of a territory. It must mean freedom from injustice, freedom from discrimination, freedom from poverty and freedom from fear.

On this Independence Day, we must renew our commitment to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah: a Pakistan founded on unity, democracy, constitutional rule, equality and justice.

Let us build a Pakistan where every citizen has dignity, every child has opportunity, every woman has security, every young person has a voice, and every individual can believe in the promise of a better future.

Jiya Pakistan! ☐☐
Pakistan Zindabad! ☐☐