



# Daily FINANCIAL TIMES

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## PM briefs President on Pak-Saudi-Turkiye defence pact



ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad on Friday and briefed him on a recently signed defence pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, according to a statement issued by the Presidency.

For his part, President Zardari "expressed his best wishes for the effective implementation of the tri-partite agreement with regard to defence cooperation, regional peace and stability and promotion of the security of the Muslim ummah", the Presidency's statement on its X account said.

He also appreciated PM Shehbaz's and Chief of Defence Forces and

Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir's efforts for "further strengthening the longstanding fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan into a robust strategic partnership", the statement added.

The joint defence agreement, signed on August 7 in Makkah, aims to strengthen collective deterrence and empowers its signatory states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them.

Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia will form political and military mechanisms under the defence pact, Turkiye's defence ministry said on Thursday, adding the alliance would also deepen defence industry cooperation.

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

Makkah pact, "the professional capabilities of the security forces and law enforcement agencies in operations against Fitna-al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij were appreciated" during Friday's meeting, the statement by the Presidency said. The state has designated Balochistan-based terrorist groups as Fitna-al-Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan, and Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. The meeting's participants reiterated the "resolve to eradicate the scourge of terrorism" from the country, the statement said, adding that foreign and interior affairs were also discussed.

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



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has increasingly consolidated its position as an indispensable "hinge power" on the global geopolitical stage, leveraging its unique diplomatic channels, strategic location, and proactive foreign policy to foster international peace, security, and economic collaboration.

According to an analysis published in the Financial Times, Islamabad is successfully converting its simultaneous, active engagement with the United States, China, the Gulf States, and Iran into a major strategic asset. Demonstrating its diplomatic weight, Pakistan provided a clear signal of its strategic relevance by hosting direct talks between Washington and Tehran.

The report noted that Pakistan is proactively stepping forward to play an increasingly effective and dynamic role in the evolving global order. In this context, the signing of the historic Makkah Joint Defence Agreement alongside Saudi Arabia and Turkiye reflects Pakistan's rising importance to regional security and stability. A core strategic advantage for Pakistan lies in its unique ability to maintain interest-based partnerships with both Washington and Beijing concurrently, while also retaining essential diplo-

matic channels open with both the Gulf States and Iran.

The report underscores that Pakistan is consolidating its position as a key middle power—one that works constructively with multiple global centers of power without being restricted to any single geopolitical camp. This diplomatic agility is backed by forward-looking economic initiatives. Commercial prospects with the United States in sectors such as cryptocurrency and critical minerals form an integral part of Pakistan's modern economic diplomacy.

Furthermore, plans to connect Central Asian economies to Pakistani ports hold immense potential to unlock new export markets and drive regional trade expansion.

The backing of key regional partners, such as Saudi Arabia, serves as a vital anchor of confidence to encourage foreign direct investment into the country.

According to the report, Pakistan is actively striving to break free of regional constraints to achieve a broader global footprint. Its strategic foreign policy provides Islamabad with substantial leverage and maneuvering space across the United States, China, the Middle East, and Central Asia—positioning it as an essential diplomatic bridge whose elevated strategic weight merits a distinct place on the global political stage.

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

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong on Friday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed matters of mutual interests. During the meeting, the DPM/FM conveyed condolences on the tragic death of a Chinese mountaineer following an avalanche incident at Broad Peak in Gilgit-Baltistan and assured full facilitation for the repatriation of the deceased's remains. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong appreciated Pakistan's prompt assistance and support following the incident. Views were also exchanged on regional developments and



other matters of mutual interest, according to a press statement issued by the Foreign Office. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong extended warm congratulations to the people and leadership of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, reaffirming the close and time-tested ties between the two countries.

## Balochistan CM urges militants to lay down weapons, reintegrate into mainstream

ANI

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Saffraz Bugti on Friday cautioned that no group would be permitted to enforce its ideology through bullets and bombs, reiterating his government's commitment to peace through constitutionally bounded dialogue.

Speaking at a flag-hoisting gathering organised on the Balochistan Assembly lawns to mark Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, the chief minister urged armed factions to lay down their weapons and reintegrate into mainstream society. He emphasised that while state doors remain open for political resolution, meaningful talks cannot take place with elements targeting non-combatants and innocent citizens.

He noted that historical precedents show lasting conflict resolutions stem from organised political



dialogue rather than militant coercion.

Bugti expressed deep concern over misguided youth being dragged into an endless cycle of unrest by insurgent outfits. He underscored that securing the state's authority and shielding public life remain non-negotiable priorities. The pro-

vincial administration, alongside the armed forces, Frontier Corps, and local police, will maintain law and order without compromise, he warned, affirming that state writ will prevail across the province. To counter alienation, the chief minister identified youth empowerment as a top focus for his cabinet. He detailed ongoing provincial programmes aimed at establishing merit-driven avenues in education and employment, expressing optimism that transparent policies will foster stronger ties between the younger generation and state institutions. Reflecting on the nation's historical trajectory since 1947, Bugti highlighted Pakistan's evolution into a key regional power and a nuclear-armed state. He pointed to widespread celebration rallies extending down to remote tehsils as clear proof of local patriotism, adding that Balochistan forms the core identity of the federation.

## Freedom Is a Great Blessing: Building Pakistan into a Strong, Democratic, Prosperous and Dignified State Is Our Collective Responsibility – Pullain Baloch

By: Hurish shah/FT

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, Pullain Baloch, has extended heartfelt felicitations to the nation on Independence Day, saying that freedom is a great blessing from Almighty Allah, which the nation celebrates every year on August 14 with national spirit and enthusiasm.

He said Pakistan, achieved after immense sacrifices, was not merely a piece of land but a symbol of the long struggle, migration, sacrifices and unwavering determination of millions of Muslims of the subcontinent. The creation of Pakistan was the result of the visionary leadership, tireless struggle and exceptional political efforts of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions.

Pullain Baloch said the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam – Unity, Faith and Discipline – remain a guiding light for the nation. He said it was our foremost responsibility to rise above personal, political and group differences, place the national interest above all else and play our role in building Pakistan into a strong, democratic, constitutional, welfare-oriented, prosperous and dignified state.

He said the true purpose of independence was not merely to celebrate the occasion but to work for



the development and progress of the country, supremacy of the Constitution and law, promotion of democratic values, economic prosperity and protection of the fundamental rights of every citizen.

The Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting said that in the present era, information and communication play a fundamental role in the development of any state and the promotion of national unity. He said that truthful, responsible and fact-based journalism, along with positive communication and a balanced national narrative, had become more important than ever for Pakistan's progress, stability and positive image.

He said the media should play its responsible role in promoting awareness, tolerance, harmony and positive thinking in society. Difference of opinion was the beauty of democracy; however, disagreements should be used as a means of constructive dialogue and reform rather than becoming a source of hatred, division and instability.

Pullain Baloch said Independence

Day provided an opportunity not only to remember the sacrifices of the past but also to renew the nation's resolve and commitment towards the future. He said the nation must pledge to choose unity over hatred, hope over despair, stability over disorder, and nation-building and development over blame and allegations.

He said Pakistan's development and prosperity would only be possible when the state and all segments of society demonstrated collective responsibility and faced the challenges confronting the country with unity and solidarity.

He further said ensuring equal rights for every citizen, supremacy of law, access to justice and the welfare of vulnerable segments of society should remain a shared national responsibility. Such a Pakistan, he said, would represent the true fulfilment of the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the millions of martyrs and families who made sacrifices during the Pakistan Movement.

Pullain Baloch extended heartfelt felicitations to all Pakistanis on Independence Day and said that everyone must contribute towards the country's security, sovereignty, development, prosperity and stability. He prayed that Almighty Allah may always protect Pakistan, bless the country with peace, progress and prosperity, and grant the nation the strength and sincerity to serve, protect and build the homeland.

## Pakistan, Norway to deepen cooperation on security, illegal migration

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Norway have agreed to strengthen coordination in counterterrorism, tackling illegal migration, police training and mutual legal assistance, with both sides expressing a desire to expand cooperation in security and law enforcement. The agreement came during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide at the Ministry of Interior on Friday. The two officials reviewed bilateral ties as well as regional development and other matters of common interest. Naqvi said measures taken by



Pakistan had led to a 47 per cent decline in illegal immigration. He reiterated the government's zero-tolerance approach towards irregular migration and said Pakistan's steps had been

acknowledged by the European Union. He stressed that expanding opportunities for lawful migration was important for addressing the issue of illegal movement of people.



Islamabad :Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, along with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, is paying tribute to the security forces, other law enforcement agencies, cultural programs and artists who performed national songs in the city parade organized by the Ministry of Interior to mark the special Independence Day.

# Tariq tells PTI political rights cannot come at cost of citizens’ rights

ANI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Tariq said Pakistan's political history showed that prolonged confrontation between political parties served no national interest. Recalling the political rivalry between the PML-N and PPP during the 1980s and 1990s, he said the two sides had eventually recognised the need to respect each other's political existence and keep competition within the democratic arena.

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

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



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

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

Dr Tariq Fazal said the PML-N itself had raised concerns regarding the Haveli constituency and had called upon the AJK Election Commission to decide the matter on merit.

He said this demonstrated that political parties could raise electoral concerns through democratic and constitutional forums without challenging the entire electoral process.

The minister expressed confidence that the AJK Legislative Assembly would meet the following week and that a new government led by the PML-N would subsequently be formed.

He urged political parties to avoid statements or actions that could disturb peace in AJK and said political competition should be conducted through democratic means.

Turning to Pakistan's foreign policy, Dr Tariq Fazal said the country was playing an active role in diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the Iran-US conflict peacefully.

He said Pakistan's efforts for a negotiated and durable settlement would continue and that Islamabad had not withdrawn from its diplomatic engagement.

The minister said Pakistan's growing diplomatic relevance should be translated into tangible economic benefits for the country, including investment, employment and opportunities for young people.

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

ANI

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

## Saudi scholar greets Pakistan on Independence Day

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The President and Acting Rector of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), and prominent Saudi scholar Prof. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, extended heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan on the country's Independence Day. In a message issued by his office, the rector said Pakistan was founded on the conviction that binds Muslims together—the concept of the 'Muslim Ummah' and the 'ties of faith'. "This week, in the sanctified precincts of Makkah Al-Mukarramah, that historic bond was consolidated once again through the Makkah Accord," he said. The rector said the dignity and sanctity of one Muslim nation is a concern shared by the entire Muslim Ummah. He said he had a personal bond with Pakistanis because of his stay in the country, adding that the Pakistani people are blessed with a level of talent and resilience possessed by few other nations. He expressed confidence that the International Islamic University Islamabad would secure a prominent position among the world's leading universities. Prof. Alahmed prayed for unity, peace and prosperity among the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

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

ANI

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

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

Day. Presiding over the ceremony, he said that Pakistan had today earned great respect and prestige in the comity of nations by successfully confronting a country many times larger in size and resources.

He said that Pakistan's defence had become so strong and secure that, following Saudi Arabia, several countries were entering into defence agreements with Pakistan. He said that the country's growing strategic importance was a matter of pride for every Pakistani. Addressing the students and young participants, Mian Muhammad Javed said, "You are the bright future of Pakistan. You are talented, capable and full of potential; therefore, there is no rea-



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

Chairperson of the Taleem Network

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

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

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

## Capt. Shaheen reaffirms Independence Day resolve to serve Pakistan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt on Pakistan's 79 years of independence reaffirmed his Independence Day resolve to serve Pakistan with renewed dedication, professionalism and integrity, urging the organisation's employees to make the welfare of the country's most vulnerable citizens the foremost priority of their public service. He was addressing a special Independence Day ceremony held at the PBM headquarters in Islamabad, attended by employees from the head office, while staff from provincial and regional offices participated through an online link.

Capt. Shaheen reaffirms Independence Day resolve to serve Pakistan

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

forgot those who had laid down their lives for its freedom.

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

The Managing Director said Pakistan's armed forces had demonstrated their professional capabilities during the recent Marka-e-Haq, earning international recognition and reaffirming the country's ability to defend its sovereignty. He said Pakistan's continued standing as a sovereign, dignified and independent state was a matter of immense pride for the nation.

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

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

ANI

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

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

## PTI Kisan Wing Unveils White Paper on Wheat Crisis, Calls for Urgent Agricultural Reforms



By: ANI Correspondent :

The report reviews 79 years of agricultural policies, wheat production trends, procurement mechanisms, support prices, import decisions, research and rising costs of fertilizers, diesel, electricity, seeds, pesticides and labour.

According to the white paper, wheat production reached around 31.43 million tonnes in 2023-24, but subsequent policy uncertainty, low farm-gate prices and weak procurement discouraged farmers, contributing to a decline in production.

The PTI Kisan Wing called for guaranteed and timely wheat procurement, transparent support prices, affordable agricultural inputs, improved irrigation, modern seeds and climate-smart farming. It also proposed strategic wheat reserves, stronger agricultural research and a long-term national food security policy. Speaking at the event, PTI leaders said the white paper was aimed at offering practical solutions rather than merely criticising the government. They urged federal and provincial authorities, parliamentarians, experts and other stakeholders to make agriculture a national priority and undertake comprehensive reforms to restore farmers' confidence and strengthen food security.

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

ANI

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

A dignified Change of Guard ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. A smartly turned-out contingent of cadets from Pakistan Naval Academy and sailors, assumed guard duties at Mazar-e-Quaid with traditional enthusiasm, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Navy). Rear Admiral Muhammad Umair, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy presented Quami Salam to the Father of the Nation. The Chief Guest laid floral wreath at Mazar-e-Quaid on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff. The Chief Guest offered Fatiha and recorded his remarks in the Visitors' Book, paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his visionary leadership and unparalleled services towards the creation of Pakistan, the press release said. The day commenced with 21 Guns Salute at Pakistan Navy units and thanksgiving prayers in naval mosques, seeking peace, prosperity and national unity.

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



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

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan, H.E Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, has extended warm felicitations to the government and people of Pakistan on the historic occasion of the country's 80th Independence Day. In a message issued here, Ambassador Fernandez hailed Pakistan's committed and continuous efforts toward achieving national economic prosperity.

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

ANI

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

An ITP official told APP that motorists

had been advised to use designated alternate routes to avoid inconvenience during the parade. The official said citizens attending the event should park their cars and motorcycles at Fazl-e-Haq Service Road, Blue Area, and Nazimuddin Road, Blue Area.

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

## Pakistan Red Crescent Celebrates Independence Day with National Spirit in Islamabad

By: ANI Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD --- The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day at its National Headquarters in Islamabad, bringing together staff, volunteers and representatives of international Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.

PRCS Chairperson Farzana Naek, Secretary General Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, representatives of IFRC, ICRC, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross and German Red Cross, along with PRCS staff and volunteers, attended the ceremony.

The celebrations included the hoisting of national flags, cake cutting and national songs, creating a vibrant atmosphere of patriotism and solidarity.

Addressing the gathering, PRCS Chairperson Farzana Naek said Independence was an opportunity to reflect on building a better Pakistan



and highlighted the organisation's commitment to serving communities through compassion and humanitarian assistance.

As part of the celebrations, PRCS also organised an ambulance fleet

march through Islamabad. Ambulances decorated with Pakistani and PRCS flags travelled along major routes of the capital before returning to the National Headquarters, drawing appreciation from citizens.

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Opinion

3

# Pakistan: Proud, Resilient, and Unbreakable – A Pledge on Independence Day



By, Sheikh J. Hussain  
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As the 14th of August approaches, we prepare to raise our green flags, sing our national songs, and celebrate the birth of a nation carved out of faith, courage, and an unshakeable dream. But as we mark another year of independence, this is also the moment to pause, reflect, and understand exactly where we stand. Independence is not merely a date in history or a holiday. It is a living promise — one that must be defended, renewed, and strengthened with every passing day. Today, we must look clearly at the challenges around us, recognise the greatness already achieved, and pledge together that no force will ever succeed in weakening, dividing, or destroying our beloved Pakistan.

Pakistan today stands in the eye of a storm. We face not only economic and social trials but also a modern, invisible war — one fought not with weapons alone, but with words, narratives, and lies spread rapidly across social media. This is what is often called the fifth-generation war: a relentless campaign of propaganda designed to paint Pakistan in false colours, to create confusion, to stir division, and to convince our own people that their country is failing. From dawn until late at night, hostile forces and their networks pour out carefully crafted content, aiming to break our confidence, turn citizen against citizen, and make us doubt everything we have built. Their goal is clear: they do not want to see Pakistan strong, stable, or prosperous. They wish to create chaos, sow anarchy, and weaken the nation from within, because they know they cannot defeat it from without.

Most worrying of all is that this propaganda is increasingly reaching our young generation. Many among our youth, thirsty for knowledge but sometimes unaware of the full truth, unknowingly repeat what they hear or read online, becoming part of an agenda that ultimately harms their own homeland. We must speak plainly: having differences of opinion is the right of every free citizen. To disagree, to debate, to suggest better ways forward that is healthy. But to speak against your own country, to belittle its sacrifices, to spread doubt about its future, and to help those who wish it harm, that is not criticism. That is falling into a trap. Nations have fallen, and great histories have been erased, not always by foreign armies, but because their own people lost unity, lost faith, and

allowed themselves to be divided by enemies who knew exactly how to pull them apart. We must open our eyes and see the bigger picture. Pakistan is not a nation that stands still. It is a nation that marches forward, despite every obstacle. Look at what has been achieved in just a few decades: achievements that take other nations centuries to reach. Pakistan became an atomic power, securing its freedom and deterring aggression. We built an unbeatable defence capability, developing our own missile systems and military technology through sheer ingenuity and hard work, a level of self-reliance many older and richer nations still do not possess. We turned defence into strength through indigenous effort, proving that when we stand united, there is no height we cannot scale.

Our friendship with China stands as one of the most powerful examples of shared progress. Together, we built the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and developed Gwadar opening new trade routes, creating opportunities, and placing Pakistan at the centre of regional and global commerce. These are not small achievements. They are signs that Pakistan is rising, that its vision is clear, and that the world sees in us a nation that can be trusted.

In diplomacy and regional leadership, Pakistan has stepped onto the global stage with wisdom and unmatched credibility. When tensions rose dangerously between the United States and Iran, bringing the entire region to the edge of conflict, it was Pakistan that stepped forward. With trust earned on both sides, and through consistent, sincere diplomacy, Pakistan worked tirelessly to de-escalate tensions, bridge divides, and guide both nations toward dialogue and peace. And here lies a truth the world must acknowledge: any lasting peace in this region is incomplete without Pakistan. Pakistan is the missing piece. No solution can hold, no agreement can endure, and no lasting stability can be achieved unless Pakistan is part of it, respected, and heard. That is not arrogance; that is the reality of our standing, our geography, and our integrity.

The historic Mecca Agreement, a pact for peace, security, and cooperation signed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan shows that our voice carries weight across continents. We are not just a nation that defends itself; we are a nation that leads the way toward peace, stability, and shared prosperity across regions. In the face of aggression, too, Pakistan has proven its mettle. In the conflict of May 2025, when Pakistan faced threats from across its borders, its defenders responded with courage, skill, and unmatched bravery. The world watched and the world saw

that no one can underestimate the resolve of the Pakistani people and their armed forces.

Through years of terrorism, internal unrest, isolation, and external pressure, Pakistan stood firm. Our armed forces, our intelligence agencies, and our people stood shoulder to shoulder. We cleared our land of terror, restored peace, and rebuilt what was broken. We went from being misunderstood and sidelined to becoming a nation the world respects, listens to, and trusts. Our word carries weight. Our dignity is recognised. Our place among nations is stronger than ever, not because of power alone, but because of our principles, our sacrifices, and our unwavering stand for justice, peace, and sovereignty.

Pakistan has become a beacon of hope. To the Muslim world, to the oppressed everywhere, to those who seek justice and peace. Pakistan stands as a voice that cannot be silenced. We are that light that shows the way. We are that strength that defends the weak. And we are that promise that no matter how dark the night, morning will come.

So today, on this 14th of August, let us make a solemn pledge. Let us promise that we will educate ourselves, that we will question what we see and hear, and that we will never allow ourselves to become tools in the hands of those who hate Pakistan. Let us stand united. We may hold different views, belong to different regions, speak different languages, but we are one nation, one people, and one family under the green flag.

Let us stand with our Pakistan Army, the shield of this nation, the pride of every citizen, and the force that stands guard so that we may sleep in peace. Let us trust in our people, in our abilities, and in the countless blessings Allah has bestowed upon us. He has made us strong. He has given us courage. He has given us a homeland. And He does not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves.

Let us pledge to defeat this fifth-generation war. Let us answer lies with truth. Let us answer propaganda with pride. Let us answer division with unity. Let us show the world the true face of Pakistan: a nation of courage, honour, peace, and progress. Let us work together to build our economy, to help one another, to lift each other up, and to make Pakistan a land where every citizen prospers.

And let us promise this most of all: we will not hand over to the next generation a Pakistan weakened by doubt, divided by lies, or scarred by propaganda. We will hand over a Pakistan stronger than we found it: proud, united, victorious, and free. Pakistan Zindabad.

# Pakistan’s Middle Class: The Silent Pressure Behind the Economy



Written By: Hurish Shah  
Published By: ANI News Agency

For years, Pakistan’s middle class has been seen as the backbone of the country’s economy. It works, earns, pays taxes, educates its children, buys homes, supports businesses and keeps markets moving. Yet today, a growing part of this same middle class is quietly struggling to maintain the standard of living it once considered normal.

The pressure is not always visible. A middle-class family may still have a job, a car, children in school and a roof over its head. From the outside, life may appear stable. But behind closed doors, many families are cutting expenses, postponing medical treatment, reducing savings and reconsidering plans for education, travel and home ownership.

This is the silent economic pressure facing Pakistan’s middle class.

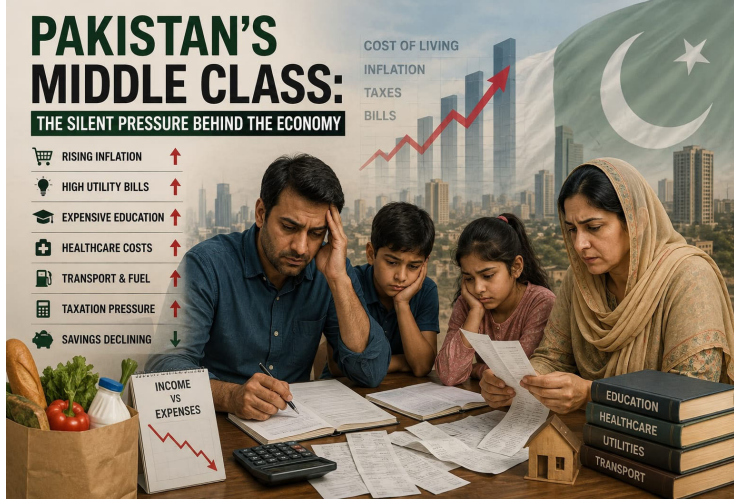
The problem is not simply inflation in isolation. It is the accumulated effect of higher food prices, electricity and gas bills, transportation costs, education expenses, healthcare and taxation. Even when inflation slows, prices do not necessarily return to their previous levels. Families continue to live with the higher cost base created by several years of economic shocks.

A recent survey of salaried households published by Dawn provides a revealing picture. Nearly 65 per cent of respondents said their household’s financial position was somewhat or much worse than a year earlier. The survey also found a significant decline in the ability of households to save and invest. In 2021, more than 36 per cent of respondents said they were saving or investing more than 10 per cent of their income. By 2026, that share had fallen to just 12.5 per cent.

That change matters far beyond individual households.

Savings are not merely money sitting in a bank account. They provide families with protection against unemployment, illness, unexpected bills and economic shocks. When savings disappear, a household becomes more vulnerable. A single emergency can force people to borrow money, sell assets or cut spending on essential needs.

The pressure is particularly visible in household consumption. According to recent survey findings, grocery spending has increased sharply compared with the years before the inflation shock. Transport has also become a much larger burden. The proportion of surveyed households spending more than Rs30,000 a month on transport rose substantially between 2019 and 2026.



For many salaried families, the real problem is that income has not increased at the same pace as expenses.

A salary increment of 10 or 15 per cent may sound reasonable on paper. But if food, transport, utilities, school fees and other necessities have risen significantly over time, the increase can disappear before the month is over. This creates a frustrating situation in which people may be earning more in nominal terms but feeling poorer in practical terms.

The middle class also occupies an uncomfortable position in Pakistan’s social protection system. The poorest households may qualify for welfare programmes, charitable assistance or targeted subsidies. Higher-income households have greater financial flexibility. But the lower-middle and middle classes can fall between the two.

They may earn too much to qualify for assistance, but not enough to comfortably absorb rising costs.

This is why Pakistan’s economic debate needs to look beyond headline indicators.

Macroeconomic stability is important. Improving foreign exchange reserves, fiscal discipline and restoring investor confidence are necessary for the country’s long-term future. But economic stability cannot be considered complete if ordinary households continue to lose their financial security.

The government therefore faces a difficult balancing act. Pakistan needs revenue, structural reforms and fiscal discipline, but taxation policies must also recognise the pressure on salaried and middle-income households. A system that continuously increases the burden on the formal economy while leaving large parts of the informal economy outside the tax net risks discouraging documentation and investment.

At the same time, businesses cannot thrive when consumers have little disposable income.

A middle-class family that spends most of its monthly income on food, utilities, transport and education has little left for restaurants, clothing,

electronics, home improvement or other discretionary purchases. When millions of families behave in the same way, consumer demand weakens. That affects retailers, manufacturers, small businesses and ultimately employment.

In this sense, protecting the middle class is not simply a matter of social policy. It is an economic necessity.

Pakistan needs policies that encourage better-paying jobs, productivity, investment and entrepreneurship rather than relying mainly on higher taxation and short-term relief. Education and skills development must be linked more closely with the needs of the economy. Small businesses need easier access to finance and a predictable regulatory environment. Energy costs must become more manageable for both households and industry.

Most importantly, economic growth must eventually translate into better living standards.

Pakistan cannot build a strong economy on statistics alone. Growth must be felt in the household budget. A family should be able to pay its electricity bill without sacrificing groceries, educate its children without going into debt and save something for the future after meeting basic expenses.

The middle class rarely demands special treatment. What it wants is predictability: predictable prices, reasonable taxation, better employment opportunities, affordable energy and the confidence that hard work will lead to a better life.

That confidence is perhaps the most important economic asset Pakistan can rebuild.

The country’s middle class has survived inflation, economic uncertainty and repeated crises. But resilience should not be mistaken for unlimited capacity to absorb pressure. If Pakistan wants sustainable growth, it must ensure that the people who keep its economy running are not gradually pushed out of economic security.

A strong middle class is not a luxury for Pakistan. It is one of the foundations of a stable, productive and prosperous country.

# When Public Hospitals Fail: Pakistan’s Healthcare Crisis Beyond the Headlines

Written By: Syed zulfiqar ali shah  
Published By: ANI News Agency

For an ordinary Pakistani, falling sick is not only a medical problem. It can quickly become a financial, emotional and even social crisis.

For families who cannot afford expensive private hospitals, government hospitals are often the only realistic option. These hospitals are expected to provide affordable treatment to everyone, regardless of income. But for many patients, reaching a public hospital is only the beginning of another struggle.

Long queues, overcrowded wards, limited diagnostic facilities, unavailable medicines, poorly maintained equipment and shortages of doctors and other healthcare workers are problems that patients encounter far too often. The issue is not that Pakistan lacks doctors or hospitals altogether. The deeper problem is whether the healthcare system is able to make those resources available to patients when and where they need them.

The Pakistan Economic Survey 2025-26 lists 1,934 hospitals and 5,746 basic health units in the country, while public health expenditure was only around 0.8 per cent of GDP in FY2025. The numbers show the size of the healthcare network, but numbers alone cannot tell us whether a patient receives timely and quality treatment.

Walk into a busy public hospital and the reality becomes much easier to understand.

A patient may arrive early in the morning and still spend hours waiting to see a doctor. In emergency departments, dozens of people may be waiting at the same time. Doctors and nurses are expected to manage large numbers of patients, while families struggle to find beds, tests or medicines.

A 2026 study of selected tertiary hospitals in Rawalpindi found that public hospitals had a median emergency department patient volume of around 320 patients a day, compared with 210 in the private hospitals included in the study. The research also identified continuing gaps in diagnostic readiness and support services.

Beyond every statistic is a person.

It may be an elderly man who has travelled from a distant village for treatment. It may be a mother waiting with a sick child. It may be a daily wage worker



who has already lost a day’s income simply by coming to the hospital. For such people, spending hours waiting is not a minor inconvenience. It can mean losing wages, arranging transport again or delaying other essential responsibilities.

Then comes the issue of medical equipment.

A machine can be purchased with a large public investment, but if it is not maintained, repaired or operated properly, its value to the patient becomes almost meaningless. A patient who is told that a diagnostic test cannot be performed because equipment is unavailable or not functioning may have no option except to go to a private laboratory.

That is where affordability becomes a serious concern.

Pakistan has a large population of people who are neither extremely poor nor financially secure. They may be able to manage routine household expenses, but an unexpected medical bill can quickly consume their monthly income. When a government hospital cannot provide a required test, medicine or procedure, the family is pushed towards private healthcare, where costs can become overwhelming.

Cleanliness is another issue that should never be treated as secondary.

A hospital is supposed to be a place where patients recover, but poor sanitation and weak infection control practices can create additional risks. Research examining public-sector hospitals in Punjab has identified gaps involving staffing, cleaning systems, infection control monitoring and bed occupancy.

The problem, however, should not be reduced to blaming doctors.

Doctors working in public hospitals often face enormous pressure. A shortage of specialists, overcrowded departments, long working hours and limited resources can make it difficult for even committed medical professionals to provide the attention every patient deserves.

The government itself has acknowledged specialist shortages in Punjab’s public hospitals. Its Punjab Health Connect initiative specifically identifies persistent shortages of specialist doctors as a challenge and aims to bring additional specialists into public hospitals.

This points towards a larger issue: healthcare is not only about building hospitals. It is about keeping the existing system functional.

A new hospital may look impressive, but patients also need working diagnostic machines, sufficient doctors and nurses, medicines, clean washrooms, safe wards, reliable electricity, functioning laboratories and an effective system for maintenance and accountability.

Pakistan also needs to rethink how healthcare spending is prioritised. The country does need new hospitals where population growth demands them. But building new structures while existing hospitals struggle with maintenance, staffing and equipment does not solve the entire problem.

The government must now treat the condition of public hospitals as a matter of urgent public importance. Regular inspections, proper monitoring and a strong system of checks and balances are essential to ensure that hospitals are

actually delivering the services for which public funds are allocated.

Hospital management should be held accountable for the condition of medical equipment, cleanliness, availability of medicines, attendance of doctors and staff, and the overall quality of patient care. Broken machinery should not remain unused for months, and shortages of doctors or essential medicines should not be allowed to become a routine matter.

There should also be a transparent mechanism through which patients can report problems and authorities can respond quickly. Monitoring should not be limited to paperwork or occasional visits. Government health departments need to regularly assess hospitals on the ground and take timely action where deficiencies are found.

Public healthcare requires continuous attention, not occasional announcements. If the government strengthens supervision, ensures accountability and allocates resources according to actual needs, government hospitals can provide the quality and dignity of care that ordinary citizens deserve.

What patients want is actually quite simple.

They want to know that when they reach a government hospital, a doctor will be available. They want the required machine to be working. They want essential medicines to be accessible. They want clean toilets and wards. They want to be treated with dignity rather than feeling that they are asking for a favour.

These are not luxury demands. They are basic expectations from a public healthcare system.

Pakistan’s healthcare debate should therefore move beyond announcements about new projects and large buildings. The real test is what happens inside those buildings every day.

A government hospital does not succeed because it has a large building or modern signboard. It succeeds when a poor patient enters its doors and receives timely, safe and dignified treatment without being forced to choose between healthcare and feeding the family.

For millions of Pakistanis, public hospitals are not simply another healthcare option. They are the last line of hope.

That is why improving them should not be treated as an administrative task. It should be regarded as a national responsibility.

# Tajik Ambassador extends warm “Independence Day” greetings to Pakistani nation

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

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

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

## Foundation University Islamabad Marks Independence Day with Month-Long Celebrations

**By: FT Reporter :**

ISLAMABAD -- Foundation University Islamabad, under the leadership of Rector Dr. Raza Ali Khan, celebrated Independence Day with a flag-hoisting ceremony and community brunch, as part of its month-long celebrations.

The celebrations featured public art activities, a photography exhibition titled Pakistan Through the Lens, sports activities for schoolchildren, poetry recitations and a discussion on Jinnah of Pakistan.

A major blood donation drive, cultural performances and theatrical productions were also organized. The university will continue the celebrations with a tree plantation drive in Kotha Kalan, educational out-



reach activities and the MED SURG FUSH Olympiad on August 29.

The month-long programme aims to promote patriotism, community

## Pakistan, France Discuss Multilateral Cooperation and Global Challenges in Paris

**By: ANI Correspondent**

PARIS --- Pakistan and France held consultations on multilateral affairs in Paris, focusing on strengthening bilateral cooperation, promoting multilateralism and addressing emerging global challenges.

The Pakistan side was led by Ambassador Nabeel Munir, Special Secretary (United Nations) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the French delegation was headed by Nathalie Broadhurst, Director for the United Nations, International Organisations, Human Rights and Francophonie.

The consultations were held under the Pakistan-France Bilateral Roadmap (2023). Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to closer cooperation and exchanged views on UN80, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Financing for Development.

The two countries also discussed recent regional and international



developments and agreed to enhance coordination at multilateral forums, particularly the United Nations, on peace and security issues.

Key areas including UN peace-keeping, counter-terrorism and United Nations reform were also discussed. The talks were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, with both sides agreeing to explore new avenues of cooperation. It was also agreed that the next round of consultations would be held in Islamabad on mutually agreed dates.

## Pakistan Independence Day Celebrated with National Fervour at Embassy in Baku



**By: ANI Correspondent :**

BAKU -- The Embassy of Pakistan in Baku celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day with national fervour at the Chancery.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the flag-hoisting ceremony. Messages from President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad



Ishaq Dar were also read out.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Qasim Mohiuddin paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal and highlighted Pakistan's progress across various sectors. He also underscored Pakistan's commitment to regional and global peace.

The Ambassador highlighted the deep-rooted brotherly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, based on mutual trust, shared values

## NUTECH Celebrates Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, Pays Tribute to 75 Years of Pak-China Friendship



**By: ANI Correspondent :**

ISLAMABAD -- The National University of Technology (NUTECH) celebrated Pakistan's 79th Independence Day with national pride and fervour, while also commemorating 75 years of enduring friendship between Pakistan and China.

The ceremony brought together faculty members, staff, students and distinguished Chinese guests.

It began with the hoisting of the national flags of Pakistan and China, followed by the national anthems of both countries.

The programme featured a "Watan Ki Awaaz" poetry segment, patriotic songs, a special Chinese musical performance by Mr Max Ma and an impressive Kung Fu performance. A documentary highlighting the history and strength of Pak-China friendship was also screened.

The ceremony concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and remarks by NUTECH Rector Lt Gen Moazaam Ejaz, HI(M) (Retd), who appreciated the longstanding bonds between Pakistan and China.

NUTECH reaffirmed its commitment to promoting Pakistan's national spirit and further strengthening the Pak-China partnership based on mutual trust, shared aspirations and strong people-to-people ties.

## Pakistan's 79th Independence Day Celebrated with National Spirit in Sibi

**By: ANI Correspondent:**

SIBI -- Pakistan's 79th Independence Day was celebrated with national spirit, patriotism and enthusiasm in Sibi, where a flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the Circuit House.

Commissioner Sibi Division Asadullah Faiz, DIG Sibi Range Parvez Khan Umrani, Commandant Sibi Scouts Munir Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd) Ilyas Kabzai, SSP Sibi Abdul Hameed Awan and Zonal Commander Balochistan Constabulary Sher-al-Zaman Khilji jointly hoisted the national flag.

Police and school bands presented a salute to the national flag, while the

venue echoed with patriotic slogans. Students presented patriotic songs, speeches, tableaux and cultural performances showcasing the traditions of all four provinces.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Asadullah Faiz and tribal leader Sardarzada Mir Hair Biyar Khan Domki said Independence Day was not merely a day of celebration but an occasion to renew the commitment to national unity, loyalty and the development of Pakistan.

They urged the younger generation to embrace education, discipline, unity and patriotism and play their role in the country's progress. Speakers also highlighted the impor-

## Grand Independence Day Ceremony Held at Arts Council Sargodha, New Art Gallery Inaugurated

**By: ANI Correspondent:**

SARGODHA -- A grand ceremony was held at the Arts Council Sargodha to mark Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, with prominent political figures, senior officials, artists and citizens participating in the celebrations.

Former Minister of State and former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Chaudhry Hamid Hamid, MNA Ms Iram Hamid Hamid, Commissioner Sargodha Division, Regional Police Officer Sargodha, DPO Sargodha and other distinguished personalities attended the event.

MNA Ms Iram Hamid Hamid inaugurated the newly established Art Gallery at the Arts Council. She visited the gallery, reviewed the artworks on display and appreciated the council's efforts to promote art, culture and literary activities.

The guests also participated in the flag-hoisting ceremony, while children presented colourful tableaux

## Grand Independence Day Ceremony Held at Arts Council Sargodha, New Art Gallery Inaugurated

showcasing their love for Pakistan. National songs and patriotic performances added to the festive atmosphere.

Addressing the gathering, Ms Iram Hamid Hamid highlighted the importance of independence, national unity and collective efforts for Pakistan's development and prosperity. Later, Chaudhry Hamid Hamid, along with the Commissioner and other officials, presented a cheque of Rs100,000, sent by the Chief Minister of Punjab, to a talented girl from Sargodha in recognition of her achievement.

The ceremony concluded with special prayers for Pakistan's security, stability, peace, prosperity and continued progress.



## Islamabad Business Community Marks Independence Day, Pledges Support for Young Entrepreneurs

**By: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD-- The Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI) and Rawalpindi Islamabad Distribution Association (RIDA) jointly organized an Independence Day event at the Business Incubation Centre of the International Islamic University Islamabad.

ICSTSI President Muhammad Awais Satti attended as the chief guest and participated in a tree plantation activity. Head of the Business Incubation Centre Dr Mirza Ahsan and prominent business leaders also attended the event.

The participants discussed entrepreneurship, business development, incubation facilities and opportunities for young entrepreneurs. They stressed the need for mentorship, guidance and modern business facilities to promote entrepreneurship and strengthen Pakistan's economy.

The event concluded with a commitment to launch further initiatives for traders, entrepreneurs and the young business community.



## CPSP Celebrates Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti Attends as Chief Guest

**By: ANI Correspondent :**

KARACHI: The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) celebrated Pakistan's 79th Independence Day at its headquarters in Karachi, with senior leadership, council members, faculty, staff and representatives from regional and international centres in attendance.

Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, attended as the chief guest. CPSP President Professor Muhammad Shoaib Shafi, Senior Vice President Professor Khalid Masood Gondal and Vice President Professor Muhammad Masroor were also present.

The ceremony began with Quran recitation, flag hoisting and the national anthem, followed by prayers for Pakistan's peace, stability and prosperity. A tree plantation activity and cake-cutting ceremony were also held.

Professor Khalid Masood Gondal highlighted CPSP's national and international achievements and its contribution to postgraduate medical education.

Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti congratulated CPSP and appreciated its academic role, assuring support for its educational initiatives. Representatives from CPSP centres across Pakistan and abroad also joined the celebrations online.

The ceremony concluded with prayers for Pakistan's continued progress and prosperity.

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## AJK PM Pays Tribute to Martyrs at Jammu Kashmir Monument in Muzaffarabad

**By: ANI Correspondent**

MUZAFFARABAD: On Pakistan's Independence Day, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, along with the General Officer Commanding Murree, laid a floral wreath at the Jammu Kashmir Monument in Chhattar, Muzaffarabad, and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs. The Pakistan Army also presented a salute at the Martyrs' Memorial on the occasion. Senior civil and military officials were present at the ceremony.

The ceremony began with Quran recitation, flag hoisting and the national anthem, followed by prayers for Pakistan's peace, stability and prosperity. A tree plantation activity and cake-cutting ceremony were also held.

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