



MQM-P says will be approaching other parties to set off 'grand national dialogue' on new provinces



Taliban regime exporting terrorism into Pakistan through proxies: Murtaza Solangi



Fahd Haroon felicitates nation, Muslim Ummah on arrival of Rabi-ul-Awwal

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JI holds sit-ins in major cities against petroleum levy, rising inflation

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) began its latest round of protests and sit-ins in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta on Sunday against the petroleum levy, rising petroleum product prices and rising inflation. The protests formed the next phase of the party's nationwide campaign after demonstrations were held at hundreds of locations earlier this month. In Karachi, JI workers marched from the area near the Sindh High Court towards Governor House. Led by JI Karachi chief Munim Zafar, the procession reached Fawara Chowk, where the party announced a sit-in against the petroleum levy and rising fuel prices. Police were deployed around Governor House as protesters gathered in the area.

Authorities said the road from Fawara Chowk towards the Press Club and Arts Council remained open to traffic. In Lahore, JI workers marched along Mall Road and reached Faisal Chowk near the Chief Minister's House. Punjab JI chief Javed Qasuri and other party leaders participated in the demonstration. The party had announced a sit-in outside the Chief Minister's House to protest higher petroleum prices, the petroleum levy and inflation. In Peshawar, JI workers staged a sit-in outside the Governor House, leading to the closure of the road between Saddar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Chowk. JI Deputy Emir Liaquat Baloch was scheduled to address the protesters. The party also organised a sit-in in Quetta as part of its simultaneous protests across the four provinces.



Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) began its latest round of protests and sit-ins in Karachi.

Security forces kill 7 terrorists in IBO in Balochistan's Kharan

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed seven terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Kharan, state media reported on Sunday, citing security

sources. The IBO was carried out in the district's Lajay area under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, during which several terrorists were also injured, state-run Pakistan TV reported. It added that security sources said weapons, ammunition, two vehicles and a motorcycle were recovered from the terrorists' hideouts.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the security forces for the successful operation and appreciated their professional capabilities, his ministry said in a statement posted to X. "The remarkable successes achieved by the security forces in establishing peace in Balochistan are commendable," the ministry's statement said, adding that the IBOs would continue "until the last terrorist is eliminated". On Saturday, security forces also killed 10 terrorists and injured many others in an IBO in the Shor Pard area of Balochistan's Khuzdar district.

Iran's deputy FM tells US Strait of Hormuz 'has been, is, and will remain Iranian'

PEAK POINT



IRAN: Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi has said the Strait of Hormuz will remain under Iranian control, while accusing the United States of suffering "serious strategic defeats". In a post on X, Gharibabadi addressed US officials, saying: "Accept the reality once and

for all: so far, you have suffered serious strategic defeats. The Strait of Hormuz has been, is, and will remain Iranian."

"It will only be opened or closed at Iran's command. As long as you refuse to accept the reality of your defeat and continue to indulge in delusions, Iran will continue to enforce the blockade," he said. Iran's Deputy FM Kazem Gharibabadi to US officials:

An Iranian military official said on Sunday that Qatar should allow an Iranian team to enter the country to investigate the fate of pilots whom Tehran says were captured by Qatari forces, Iranian media reported. Qatar denies holding any Iranian pilots. Doha said on Saturday that its search and rescue teams had found the remains of one pilot after Iranian aircraft violated Qatari airspace in March and failed to respond to attempts to contact them. Qatar said it had contacted Iran to coordinate the handover of the remains and had invited Tehran to review details of its search and rescue operations, but had received no response.

Mohammad Baqerzadeh, commander of the Committee for the Search for Missing Persons of Iran's Armed Forces General Staff.

Pakistan embassy unveils Quaid's statue in Washington

PEAK POINT



WASHINGTON: A statue of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was unveiled at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington on Friday, giving the

country's Independence Day celebrations a distinctly historical dimension and placing the founder of Pakistan at the centre of a ceremony that also highlighted the evolving Pakistan-United States relationship. Ambassador of Pakistan to the US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh unveiled the statue during an Independence Day ceremony attended by members of the Pakistani-American community, diplomats and media representatives. The statue, donated by the Quaid-i-Azam Foundation of Houston, will remain permanently at the embassy. Its unveiling comes as Pakistan prepares to mark Jinnah's 150th birth anniversary later this year. Paying tribute to the founder, Ambassador Sheikh said the nation remained grateful to Mr Jinnah for his constitutional struggle and tireless efforts that turned the idea of Pakistan into a reality. "The inspiring leadership of Quaid-i-Azam united the Muslims of the subcontinent under one flag and blessed.

Nawaz says political rivalry should not turn into 'enmity'

PEAK POINT

MURREE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday that rivalry was a normal part of politics but differences should not be allowed to escalate into enmity. Addressing a party meeting in Murree — attended also by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz said he had not expected the Pakistan Peoples Party to raise objections over the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections, as the party was in power in the region. The PML-N president said the political environment that had emerged during the AJK polls.

Thousands await aid after deadly Indonesian quake

PEAK POINT

INDONESIA: Help started arriving on Sunday for thousands of evacuees on Indonesia's Flores island after a powerful earthquake killed 48 people, injured dozens and damaged hundreds of houses and buildings.

Some 5,000 people fled their homes as the 7.7-magnitude quake hit the island early Saturday, followed by at least 341 aftershocks in the hours that followed, a spokesman for the BNPB national disaster agency, Berton Suar Pelita Panjaitan, said. People in some areas were left without electricity and telecommunications and at least one emergency access road remained inaccessible. "We need food, drink, medicines, and diapers for the children," Umri, a resident of

Nangahale village on the north coast of Flores, told



AFP on Sunday morning.

The 55-year-old, who like many Indonesians uses one name, has been hiding out on a hilltop for 24 hours with others afraid to return home. Nurhidayati, also 55, spent the night on a mat on the same hill. "I'm still terrified; my heart is pounding hard remembering yesterday's tremor... We just ran up here yesterday. I'm very scared now, still tra-

matised by the quake in 1992. I don't dare to go

home," she said. Flores was struck by a 7.7-magnitude earthquake in 1992 that triggered a tsunami and killed about 2,500 people. "I hope the government will soon distribute logistics to help us," said Nurhidayati. BNPB head Suharyanto said on Sunday at least five helicopters, several planes, a naval vessel and search and rescue ships were on their way to

help.

Berton said at least 101 Flores residents were reported injured in the quake.

Survivors were in urgent need of assistance in the form of emergency tents, food, medicines, blankets, camp beds, mats, clean water and electricity generators, he added.

The death toll rose by one from Saturday night to Sunday morning. Local search and rescue official Fathur Rahman told AFP on Sunday there were no reports of people buried or missing. The epicentre of the shallow quake was located just off the north coast of the island, geological authorities said. The affected areas have few, if any, high-rise buildings. Berton said at least 914 houses were severely damaged and hundreds of others to a lesser degree.

PML-N leads Azad Kashmir election with 25 seats, needs two more



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Re-polling at 23 polling stations across two constituencies of Azad Kashmir has been completed, with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidates winning the two seats according to unofficial and unverified results. In LA-15 Central Bagh, PPP candidate Sardar Zia Qamar secured 17,121 votes and was declared successful according to the unofficial results. In LA-16 Eastern Bagh, PML-N candidate Sardar Mir Akbar Khan won with 20,793 votes, according to the complete unofficial and unverified results. Meanwhile, victory notifications have been issued for two successful candidates from the third phase, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and Sajid Iqbal.



SPORTS



Bangladesh claim first Test win in Australia as Green ton in vain



PEAK POINT

MELBOURNE: Bangladesh chased down 57 runs to complete a landmark nine-wicket victory over Australia in the series-opener in Darwin on Sunday in one of Test cricket's greatest upsets.

Mominul Haque cut Beau Webster to seal Bangladesh's first Test win in Australia within four days in stifling heat at Marrara Oval, foiling a valiant century from home all-rounder Cameron Green.

The winning boundary triggered jubilation among Bangladesh's players, who jumped

and shouted on the sidelines.

Floored by a full-strength Australia, the world's top-ranked Test nation in their own backyard, will be regarded by many as the South Asian nation's finest victory in 26 years of playing the game's longest format.

It took 23 years for Australia to host Bangladesh in a second Test, series since sweeping them 2-0 in 2003, so Najmul Hossain Shanto's side were determined to prove their worth. They did far more than that, as they dominated the World Test Championship leaders with bat, ball and in the field in virtually every session.

Bangladesh had heroes throughout the match, but on day four it was spin-bowling all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz standing up to strike the decisive blows as Australia were bowled out for 284.

Having scored 65 with the bat in Bangladesh's first innings and caught-and-bowled Australia's traditional saviour Steve Smith for 44 on day three, Miraz took another four wickets on the final day after Australia resumed on 161 for four, still 67 runs in arrears.

"It was excellent, a great moment for us," Miraz said.

"The way we are playing Ahmed.

shows our character. Everything was perfect."

The grinning 28-year-old had wicketkeeper Alex Carey caught behind for 30 and bowled all-rounder Beau Webster for five with a pair of sumptuous deliveries to bring Australia's tail into play. Australia captain Pat Cummins was caught in close for eight, with Miraz inducing a bat-pad catch for Shadman Islam.

Mitchell Starc dug in with Green for a defiant eighth wicket partnership of 43 but he was caught behind for 18 off the bowling of fellow seamer Taskin Ahmed.

Aisam defends world title as Pakistan finishes with four medals in Lisbon



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan's tennis legend Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi successfully defended his world mixed doubles title, leading an impressive Pakistani campaign that yielded four medals at the ITF Masters World Team and Individual Championships in Lisbon.

According to information made available here, partnering Austria's Nina Hermann, Aisam produced another masterclass to defeat Portugal's top-seeded pair, Fred Gil and Rita Freitas, 6-4, 6-3 in the mixed doubles final, retaining the world crown he won last year and adding another remarkable chapter to his distinguished career. The triumph highlighted an outstanding fortnight for Pakistani tennis, with Aisam playing a central role in two medal-winning performances and Aqeel Khan contributing to two more as Pakistan emerged among the event's standout nations.

Aisam and Aqeel also reached the men's 45+ doubles final, where they settled for the silver medal after a gripping contest against France's Jacques Glay and Jean-Baptiste Renault.

PSB, ACTIVIT sign landmark MoU to strengthen health and wellness through sports



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Coaching Centre Lahore and ACTIVIT have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at promoting sports, improving health and wellness, and creating sustainable opportunities for athletes through long-term collaboration.

The agreement was signed by PSB Coaching Centre Director Noorish Sabah and ACTIVIT CEO and Director of National Hospital Lahore, Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed. Under the partnership, ACTIVIT will sponsor annual sports events organised by the PSB Coaching Centre Lahore on the occasion of

Independence Day, promoting healthy lifestyles and empowering Pakistan's youth. "I am grateful to Rd. Rizwan for his valuable contribution to the cause of sports and youth development. People like him are not only a national treasure but also a true inspiration for all of us who believe in supporting the national cause and contributing to Pakistan at every possible level. We look forward to working together on many more impactful initiatives in the years ahead." Rd. Rizwan described the agreement as an important milestone in expanding grassroots sports and strengthening the role of the PSB Coaching Centre Lahore.

PSB and ACTIVAT celebrate Independence Day with sports gala in Lahore



Pakistan unveils five-year plan to revive national hockey

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mohiuddin Ahmad Wani has announced a long-term plan to revive the country's national sport, saying hockey can no longer rely on temporary decisions and short-term experiments.

The announcement comes after Pakistan suffered a defeat to England in their opening match of the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, renewing concerns over the team's competitiveness on the international stage.

Speaking to The Express, Wani said the federation was preparing a three-to-five-year roadmap aimed at rebuilding the sport from the grassroots level to the senior national team. "Our priority is not just to win one tournament but to rebuild the entire hockey ecosystem," Wani said.

Under the proposed model, players will progress

through school, district, provincial and national competitions through a transparent and merit-based pathway leading to the senior national team.

Wani said Pakistan would follow development models

through foreign experts while increasing international exposure through overseas tours and by bringing foreign players to Pakistan.

Players representing Pakistan will also be offered improved financial incentives



adopted by leading hockey nations such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and India by prioritizing infrastructure and modern training methods instead of short-term solutions.

The federation also plans to provide advanced training for local coaches in collabo-

ration with foreign experts and clearer long-term career opportunities, according to Wani. The plan includes increasing the number of astro turfs across the country from 52 to 100 over the next five years, with every facility required to support coaching programs, competitions and the development of women's hockey.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary General Saleem Akhter Advocate in a group photo with Tennis players during a closing Tennis tournament during a ceremony in connection with Independence Day celebration.



TWIN CITIES

Daily Peak Point, August 17, 2026



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected unopposed Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photojournalists Association the "Apna Panel" President Sajjad Haider, General Secretary Sohail Shahzad, Fiance Secretary Muhammad Asim in a group photo with office barrier of RIPJA during a ceremony held at Rawalpindi press club.

46-Day 'weapon-free Islamabad' Drive nets 379 suspects, 365 firearms

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 379 suspects, registered 373 cases and seized 365 firearms during a 46-day crackdown from July 1 to August 15, 2026, as the capital intensified its drive against illegal weapons, display of arms and aerial firing.

An ICT Police spokesperson told APP on Sunday that the Weapon-Free Islamabad campaign, launched on the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, was being pursued through targeted operations across the federal capital.

The spokesperson said the seized firearms included 29 Kalashnikovs, 18 rifles/carbines and 318 pistols of different calibres, besides 32 daggers and a large quantity of ammunition recovered during the special campaign.

Police warned that possession of illegal weapons, display of arms and aerial firing were offences under the law and violators would face strict legal action.

SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza said ICT Police were pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against illegal weapons and display of arms and would further intensify targeted operations to rid the capital of such weapons.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan Leads Launch of AI-Powered Tourism Platform GOPKZ

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's tourism sector took another step towards a technology-driven future with the launch of GOPKZ, an artificial intelligence-powered digital tourism ecosystem, with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Advisor and National Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Tourism, leading the ceremony as chief guest. Held at a local hotel in Islamabad, the launch brought together representatives of Pakistan's tourism industry, the diplomatic community and the private sector, highlighting the

country's vast tourism potential and the growing need to connect it with technology, investment and global markets. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan has emerged as a prominent voice for the development and international promotion of Pakistan's tourism industry, advocating greater private-sector participation, investment and modern infrastructure to transform the country's tourism potential into a sustainable economic opportunity. His presence at the GOPKZ launch underscored the growing convergence between national tourism lead-



ership and technology-led private-sector initiatives aimed at making Pakistan a more accessible and competitive destination for international travellers. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan emphasised the importance of harnessing Pakistan's immense tourism potential and creating an environment in which innovation, investment and private

enterprise can contribute meaningfully to the sector's growth. GOPKZ brings accommodation, tours, experiences, transportation and intelligent trip planning together within a single digital ecosystem. Its AI-powered travel companion, Nigehban, enables travellers to communicate their requirements through simple prompts and receive personalised travel recommendations and solutions. The initiative is being led by Muhammad Shahroz Habib, Group Executive Vice President of Siddiqi Hospitality and GOPKZ, who has overseen

the platform's strategy, development and execution. The launch was also attended by Managing Director PTDC Aftab ur Rehman Rana, diplomats, tourism representatives and members of the corporate community. For Pakistan, the significance of technology-enabled tourism extends well beyond convenience. The country possesses an extraordinary range of tourism assets, from the high mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to its historic cities, cultural heritage and coastal destinations.

Opinion & Editorial

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Our moon mission

The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has named the nation's first lunar rover, selecting the name submitted by a 17-year-old from Bahawalnagar. While hardly original, Jinnah-1 is still a fitting name for the first 'made-in-Pakistan' vehicle to traverse the lunar surface. Despite decades of disappointments that betrayed his vision for the country, at least we can be sure Quaid-e-Azam would be proud of this achievement, which is scheduled to take place in 2029. The Pakistani lander will piggyback on China's Chang'e-8 mission to the Moon's south pole, which is itself a notable scientific effort. The collaborative mission is also a good example of the strength of Pakistan's bilateral relationship with China. If all goes well, the lander will make significant contributions to the world's understanding of lunar plasma, radiation and surface geology. It will map terrain and test technologies essential for future human presence on the Moon. The 35kg rover is expected to cost around Rs400 million - including research and development - and will be operated by Pakistani specialists. But the mission is not just about building a lander. That is arguably the easy part. Challenges abound, from the sheer technical difficulty of a soft landing to the intense competition from established spacefaring nations.

Endless wait for a miracle

Muhammad Amir Rana
PAKISTAN celebrated its 79th Independence Day a couple of days ago. Once again, the anniversary arrived wrapped in the optimism that perhaps the next year will be different and bring some relief to ordinary citizens. The source of this optimism is the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. Walls have been covered with graffiti, while streets have been decorated with bunting, flags and pictures of the leaders of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Pakistan's streets witnessed similar enthusiasm just over a decade ago, when the country's power elites sold the nation the dream of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Though the Makkah Agreement is different from CPEC in essence, as the latter project was conceived as a plan for economic connectivity, the recent trilateral accord is a geopolitical initiative involving the region's middle powers, and ordinary people have attached their hopes to it. Just as they expected CPEC to bring relief to their lives, create employment and generate economic activity, the perception now being nurtured is that the accord will bring foreign investment into the country, Saudi money, oil on deferred payments and employment for more Pakistanis in the Gulf.

Waiting for a miracle to happen is an old practice of Pakistan's power elite. Every few years, the ruling establish-

ment constructs a new narrative of hope: that a breakthrough is just around the corner, prosperity is waiting beyond the horizon, and Pakistan need only remain patient for the miracle to unfold. This habit of looking abroad for transformation dates back to the country's inception, when its leadership placed its hopes in the US, joined Seato and Cento, and became a Western defence and security partner alongside Iran. Pakistan's dreams of geopolitical influence and economic gains through its defence partnership with the US have been shattered repeatedly. Yet, its power elites have repeatedly restored their optimism and embraced new partnerships, expecting external allies to increase the country's strategic weight and generate financial inflows.

The same pattern has extended from Pakistan's relationship with the US and its Western alliances to its strategic partnership with China, the CPEC, the anticipated opening of Central Asia, and now, the emerging security architecture involving Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. One may recall that when Nawaz Sharif began his third term as prime minister in 2013, and CPEC was formally launched in 2015, it was described as a 'game changer'. Islamabad's streets were covered with Pakistani and Chinese flags, creating the impression that an extraordinary partnership was about to transform

Pakistan's economic destiny. China and Pakistan were and remain close strategic partners, and CPEC has delivered important infrastructure and energy projects. But more than a decade after its launch, the promised transformation remains incomplete. Pakistan continues to struggle with debt, inadequate exports, weak productivity and recurring balance-of-payments crises. It still depends on IMF programmes, financial deposits, loan rollovers and other forms of support from friendly countries, including China and Saudi Arabia. CPEC therefore demonstrates the limits of relying on external partnerships as substitutes for the difficult domestic reforms required for sustained economic transformation.

Pakistanis have been conditioned to look outward for a change in their fate.

In the same sequence, the power elites cultivated the dream of economic transformation through Afghanistan. When the Taliban came to power, Pakistan's dreams of connecting economically and strategically with Central Asia and regions beyond would come true.

One may recall Independence Day in 2021, when the power elites were echoing similar narratives about Afghanistan. As the Taliban approached Kabul, flags of the Islamic emirate appeared at some mosques and other locations in Islamabad.

Courtesy Dawn

The first test for a regulator

Hammad Rohila

Every major investment begins with a commercial opportunity. Increasingly, however, the first question investors ask is not just commercial or technological, but also institutional. Before deciding whether to enter a market, they want to know which regulator they should approach, how regulators relate to one another, and whether meaningful engagement is possible before capital is committed.

That question is becoming more important as governments regulate emerging industries. Businesses often know precisely what they intend to build. Regulators may equally agree that oversight is necessary. Yet before licensing or compliance can begin, a more fundamental issue frequently arises: how should a new business model be legally classified, and which institution is responsible for answering that question?

I have earlier argued that Pakistan's remittance debate reflects the legal architecture of payment systems as much as the technology through which payments move. More recently, I suggested that investors studying the National Gemstone Policy were examining relationships between public institutions rather than the powers of any single regulator. Pakistan's emerging virtual asset framework raises the same question from another direction. Digital asset businesses rarely fit neatly within traditional legal categories. A single model may simultaneously involve remittances, payment systems, banking relationships, foreign exchange and virtual asset services. Each subject already has its own regulatory framework. The challenge is understanding how those frameworks interact when innovation reaches their boundaries. That uncertainty does not necessarily deter investment. Sophisticated investors routinely adapt to regulation. The greater challenge arises where innovative business models intersect with multiple legal and regulatory frameworks.

Courtesy Tribune

Naqvi comes to CDA chairman, Islamabad IG's defence as they draw flak over buggy video with 'colonial' undertone



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday came to the defence of two government officials who drew flak after a video of them riding in a horse carriage during an Independence Day parade in Islamabad went viral on social media.

In the widely circulated video, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman retired Lt Sohail Ashraf and the Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi are seen riding into the

parade in what appears to be the presidential buggy. Even as the attendees are prompted to applaud for the officials, no claps are heard in the video. The video sparked criticism on social media, with many likening the act to a "colonial" mindset. Meanwhile, Naqvi issued a clarification on X, stating that it was not the officials' fault. "The chief guest and I were delayed due to the president's meeting with the prime minister. The crowd had been waiting since 5pm, and at around 6:00 pm, when it became clear that we

would be late, we instructed the officers to start the programme because we did not want the public to wait any longer." Naqvi maintained that the carriage was arranged for the chief guest but had to be used by officers "due to unavoidable circumstances". "I can say on record that both officers initially resisted starting the programme in your absence, but we specifically instructed them to proceed for the convenience of the public," he said, adding that he remained grateful to the residents of Islamabad for making the event "a true celebration". But others continued with the criticism. Even after his clarification, former federal minister Shireen Mazari shared a post by digital rights activist Usama Khilji that included the video and said, "Unbelievably stupid to try and revive such colonial practices! Self-humiliation!" Khilji, in his post, criticised the two officials, saying, "This is what happens when you do things unbecoming of your office".

80th Independence Day of Pakistan celebrated in Ottawa

PEAK POINT

OTTAWA: The High Commission of Pakistan in Ottawa as well as the three Consulates General in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver commemorated the 80th Independence Day of Pakistan and the year-long 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The flag hoisting ceremony was organized at the Chancery premises in Ottawa to celebrate the country's Independence, the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the resolve and unity of the Pakistani Nation. Special messages of the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister on the occasion were read out.

The 80th Independence Day celebrations also marked the year-long 150th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of the nation. A documentary highlighting his life, leadership and historic struggle for Pakistan was screened. A digital photographic exhibition portraying key

moments from his life and significant milestones in Pakistan's history was also organized. In his remarks, High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem conveyed felicitations on the auspicious 80th Independence Day of Pakistan. He paid tribute to the enduring legacy of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the Quaid's vision of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country. He added, Pakistan will continue to pursue peace, dialogue, cooperation and respect among states. He also highlighted the pivotal role of the Pakistani diaspora in Canada in strengthening people-to-people ties. The Independence Day event was attended by a large number of the Pakistani community representatives and friends of Pakistan in the Greater Ottawa Area.

The enthusiastic participation of the families and especially the youth reflected the strong spirit of patriotism. The participants paid rich tribute to the valour and sacrifices of the armed forces and the people.



Pakistan Independence Day celebrated at Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa, Canada.

Governor Kundi condoles deaths of journalist's father, ex-deputy mayor's wife

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of the father of senior journalist Syed Sultan Shah, and offered condolences to the bereaved family.

In a condolence message, the Governor extended heartfelt sympathies to Syed Sultan Shah and his family, saying the loss of a father was an irreparable tragedy.

He prayed that Almighty Allah may forgive the deceased, grant him a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and bless the bereaved family with patience and fortitude to bear the loss. Meanwhile, Governor Kundi visited the residence of former Deputy Mayor Raja Muhammad Yousaf in Rawalpindi to offer condolences over the death of his wife.

The Governor expressed sympathies with the deceased's sons, Raja Sohail Yousaf and other members of the bereaved family. He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul, elevation.

MQM-P says will be approaching other parties to set off 'grand national dialogue' on new provinces

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) announced on Sunday that it was taking the initiative to begin a "grand national dialogue" on the creation of new provinces and approaching other political parties for talks.

MQM-P Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui made the announcement at a press conference in Karachi, where he stressed the need for a grand national dialogue on the matter.

He said his party had been contending that the creation of existing provinces in Pakistan did not meet all legal merits and had a linguistic basis. He continued his argument, adding that more provinces were needed in the country, because just like districts and divisions, these too were administrative units.



"We have been saying for the past 40 years [...] that Pakistan's existing provinces were not created in accordance with law and were made based on linguistic grounds," he said, adding that the country's growing population also presented the need for the creation of administrative units.

Siddiqui expressed gratitude that political parties were choosing to favour MQM-P's "long-standing" demand for more provinces. He said that the objective of Sunday's press conference was to "give people the message that, regardless,

Fahd Haroon felicitates nation, Muslim Ummah on arrival of Rabi-ul-Awwal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon on Saturday felicitated the Muslim Ummah, particularly the Pakistani nation, on the arrival of Rabi-ul-Awwal, saying the sacred month holds immense religious significance as it is associated with the blessed birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), whose advent brought a message of mercy, guidance, love, peace, patience and brotherhood for all humanity.

In his message, he said the simple life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) provided the best guidance for Muslims to lead a successful life.



He said the Prophet (PBUH) taught humanity the values of justice, equality, tolerance, patience, fraternity, compassion and respect for the rights of others.

SAPM Fahd Haroon prayed to Allah Almighty to bless Pakistan and the entire Muslim Ummah with peace, progress, prosperity, unity and stability through the blessings of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

He also prayed for an end to the difficulties and hardships facing the Muslim world, protection of Pakistan from all crises.

Taliban regime exporting terrorism into Pakistan through proxies: Murtaza Solangi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson to the President Murtaza Solangi Saturday said at a time when Pakistan was working to secure peace in the region and the world at large, the Afghan Taliban regime was busy exporting terrorism into Pakistan through its joint proxies in collaboration with India.

In a post on X, he said, "Five years ago today, buoyed by the Doha Agreement with the United States, the Taliban took over Kabul." "They promised a representative government, said they would not repeat their repressive anti-women policies against girls and women, and pledged not to



allow Afghan soil to be used for terrorism or the narcotics trade as they had done until their overthrow in 2001," he noted. He said, "They have reneged on every one of those promises to this day. Reports of the UN's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team over the past five years say that Afghanistan today poses a persistent and enduring threat."

CM Afridi blames federation for unrest, terrorism in KP

PEAK POINT

BANNU: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi undertook a one-day visit to Bannu as part of preparations for the 27 September Long March. During the visit, he led a Street Movement rally and addressed the participants. PTI Provincial President Junaid Akbar Khan, Provincial Ministers Shafi Jan and Meena Khan Afridi, MNA Shahid Khattak, and other provincial and local leaders also participated in the rally. The Chief Minister thanked the people of Bannu for turning out in large numbers and extending a warm welcome despite the intense

heat. He said the same spirit and determination must be maintained, adding that the 27 September march would be decisive and required thorough and effective preparations. He said the country was at a critical juncture where its political destiny and history could be reshaped, and that the people themselves had to play their part in determining their future. "No one will come from outside to change our destiny; we have to do it ourselves," he said. Speaking about the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Chief Minister said peace had prevailed in the province when Imran Khan was the Prime Minister until 2022, while the



circumstances that emerged thereafter were before everyone. He held the incumbent government and those responsible for bringing it to power responsible for the deterioration of peace in the province. He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been treated as a laboratory for experiments for the past

two decades and that its people had been treated as though their lives and rights were of little consequence. He made it clear that the provincial government would resist every decision that undermined the interests and rights of the province and its people. The Chief Minister said the people

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had made immense sacrifices, including thousands of lives, for the restoration and preservation of peace. However, he said, decisions taken behind closed doors had undermined that peace. He stressed that peace was indispensable for sustainable development, economic opportunity and prosperity, and reiterated that the provincial government was taking all possible measures, within its mandate and priorities, to restore peace. Paying tribute to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Muhammad Sohail Afridi said the provincial police force remained at the forefront of efforts to restore peace and pro-

tect citizens. He said the provincial government was providing the force with all possible support. A budget allocation of Rs191 billion had been made for the police, while substantial resources were also being invested in police infrastructure, modern equipment and professional training. The Chief Minister said that between 2018 and 2022, decisions taken in the public interest had contributed to improved conditions of peace and prosperity in the country. In contrast, he said, the present situation was such that even the courts had been held hostage, while the country's most popular leader remained unjustly incarcerated.