

PAF releases song on the occasion of Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has released a song on the occasion of Independence Day.

According to PAF spokesperson, the song pays tribute to the brave soldiers of Pakistan Air Force who are always alert and ready to defend the country.

The song also highlights that Pakistan Air Force is moving towards innovation and self-reliance to further increase its operational capabilities. —Online

The Business

Multan, Sunday, August 14, 2022 Muharram 15, 1444

Jl announces candidates for by-polls in NA-22, NA-24, NA-31, NA-45

PESHAWAR: A leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim announced party candidates for four different vacant constituencies across KPK for the forthcoming By-polls on NA seats. He said in a press statement issued here, Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim said that Muhammad Aslam would be Jamaat-e-Islami's candidate for the by-polls from NA-31 Peshawar, Abdul Wasi Jamaat-e-Islami candidate from NA-22 Mardan, Mujibur Rahman Jamaat-e-Islami would be candidate from NA-24 Charsadda and Malik Sher from NA-45. —APP

Empowering parliament to decide future: Zardari

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Saturday that an empowered parliament can decide the future of the country and the nation and all democratic political parties should unite to empower the parliament.

In his message to the nation on Independence Day, he said that the supremacy of the elected parliament of the people is essential for a free, independent and dignified Pakistan.

The former president said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation of Pakistan as an independent state. Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made Pakistan a strong and stable country by giving it the unanimous 1973 constitution which is still a symbol of trust and bond between all the units of the federation.

Asif Ali Zardari said that the dictators distorted the constitution for power but failed. He said that only an empowered parliament can decide the future of the country and the nation. President Zardari said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto solidified the pact of unity and solidarity between the federation and all units with her blood. He said that the 18th Amendment is the guarantee of a strong and stable Pakistan.

Another PTI worker apologises over anti-army campaign

BAHAWALPUR: Another PTI worker has apologized for his anti-Pak Army comments on social media.

Zulqarnain, of Bahawalpur, has admitted that he had opened a fake account titled, Umme Hareem. "But now I regret what I shared online against the country's army. Therefore, I offer my apology," he said, and also advised others to refrain from indulging in posting anti-army content. "Truth of the matter is that Pakistan's armed forces and their martyrs are our pride," he commented. —DNA

Pakistan Food and Cultural Festival held in China

BEIJING: Pakistan Embassy Beijing on Saturday organised a Food and Cultural Festival at the state-of-the-art Silk Road Art and Cultural Centre in the city of Langfang, an hour drive from Beijing, to celebrate the 75th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan.

The two-day festival is aimed to showcase Pakistan's rich history, beautiful landscapes, cultural heritage, products, arts and crafts, literature, and traditional food.

The opening ceremony was attended by over 300 people including Chinese dignitaries, government officials, business executives, members of the diplomatic corps, media representatives and Pakistani community.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque stated that 75th Anniversary of Pakistan's Independence was a historic milestone for Pakistan which stands today the 5th largest nation of 220 million hard working, talented people.

He highlighted the strengths of Pakistan as an investment and tourist destination and invited people of China to visit Pakistan next year being celebrated as Year of Tourism Exchanges. The ambassador also spoke at length about the special friendship and iron brotherhood between China and Pakistan which is time tested. He hoped this festival would help in promoting cultural cooperation and people to people exchanges between the two countries. President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Ambassador Sha Zukang said that Pakistan and China have a long history of friendly relations and both the countries have been helping each other at difficult times. —APP

President approves NITB Bill 2022

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has granted his approval to the National Information Technology Board (NITB) Bill 2022 under Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Under the said bill, NITB will be established. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday. —APP

PTI holds power show in Lahore

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residences of other PML-N leaders are not far away.

In conversation with journalists, the former information minister said that investigations have been launched against Special Assistant to Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

"...what do they (Tarar and Sanaullah) fear? They should surrender themselves before the law," said Fawad, as he cautioned the ruler that if PTI wants, it could overthrow the federal government within five days through street power.

The PTI leader's warning comes after the Punjab Police conducted a raid on the residence of Tarar in Lahore, with no con-

firmation as to why it was done.

In response to a question about PTI Chairman Imran Khan's chief of staff Shahbaz Gill, Fawad claimed that he was being "pres-sured".

"Shahbaz Gill was under pressure to confess that his statement was given on the directives of Imran Khan. However, Gill told the magistrate that it was not the case and his statement was not based on directions from anyone," he said.

Gill has been in police custody since Tuesday after he made controversial remarks on a private TV channel. His plea for bail was also rejected.

Khan has also distanced himself from Gill's controversial remarks, noting that he "shouldn't have said that".

The PTI leader noted that his party was ready to speak with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government if they announce the date for general elections.

"If Shehbaz Sharif announces the date for elections, then we can talk to them about the framework. [I know] that the government will demand to dissolve the assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab."

Fawad added that if the government demands to dissolve the assemblies of KP and Punjab, then the PTI will call for the dissolution of the Sindh Assembly.

"The demand of ending our governments in the provinces is part of the election framework. Once they announce the date for elections, only then will we talk to them about the dissolution."



LAHORE: LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice-President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice-President Haris Ateeq with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the foreign diplomats.

US to continue support for trade ties with Pak: Envoy

KARACHI: US Ambassador Donald Blome visited Karachi to further strengthen the robust economic partnership and bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United States.

According to a press statement Saturday, during his visit, Ambassador Blome met with the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, the Chief Ministers of Balochistan and Sindh, the Administrator of Karachi, the Commander of Pakistan Navy Pakistan Fleet (COMPAK), government officials, financial and business leaders, trade and energy executives, and other business and commercial representatives.

"I am glad to be back in Karachi, a financial and commercial hub with tremendous energy," said Ambassador Blome. "This year marks the 75th anniversary of U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations and I look forward to strengthening U.S.-Pakistan partnerships in trade, investment, clean energy, health, security, education, and other mutually beneficial priority areas."

Ambassador Blome visited Port Qasim and met with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faisal Subzwari. The Ambassador expressed interest in how the United States can work with Pakistan to develop more linkages with U.S. port and maritime institutions. In the Ambassador's meetings with Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, he discussed political, economic, and security matters, as well as the ongoing relief efforts to address

the tragic impact of the recent floods in both provinces.

In his meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Shah, Ambassador Blome announced the United States is providing a new \$1 million grant to build the resilience of agricultural communities in Sindh Province, and support Pakistan's disaster management authorities in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan provinces, to better respond to future disasters.

Ambassador Blome and Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab discussed the impact of flooding and other challenges in the city, as well as opportunities for growth including in the information technology sector.

During the Ambassador's meeting with COMPAK Vice Admiral Ovais Bilgrami, he further discussed relief efforts in flood-stricken areas and affirmed the importance of the U.S.-Pakistan military relationship and the desire to strengthen and expand our ongoing security cooperation.

Ambassador Blome met with CEO of Cargill Pakistan Imran Nasrullah. The Ambassador also toured Excelerate's floating storage and regasification unit at Port Qasim to emphasize our mutual interest in seeing Engro and Excelerate's LNG joint venture succeed in Pakistan. He met other U.S. and Pakistani business leaders to show his commitment to promoting U.S. business and investment in Pakistan through a wide range of effective services,

products, and programs.

The U.S. government is dedicated to expanding the ties between the Pakistani and American people to promote a more stable, secure, and prosperous future for both our nations. Bilateral trade reached nearly \$9 billion in 2021.

The United States is Pakistan's largest single country export market and one of the largest sources of foreign investment, with U.S. direct investment growing by 50 percent in the past year. U.S. companies and their local affiliates are among Pakistan's largest employers, with roughly 80 U.S. companies directly employing more than 125,000 Pakistanis, and more than one million Pakistanis employed indirectly. In 2021, U.S. firms invested up to \$5.7 billion in corporate social responsibility initiatives in Pakistan.

One of the highlights of Ambassador Blome's time in Karachi was a visit to the Lincoln Corner Karachi at Liaquat Memorial Library where he inaugurated the StartUp Lab! along with Minister of Sindh for Education, Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives, Syed Sardar Ali Shah. "The StartUp Lab! is unique and a one-of-a-kind space in Pakistan where aspiring entrepreneurs with an idea for a startup business can turn ideas into reality using the latest technology and equipment for free," noted Ambassador Blome.

"The people-to-people ties between the United States and Pakistan are among our greatest strengths. —APP

Good policy can help Pakistan cope with challenges: Bilawal

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that a good foreign policy can help Pakistan cope with the economic challenges.

He was speaking at the Annual Goodwill Dinner of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) in honour of foreign diplomats in Pakistan, on Saturday. LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq also spoke on the occasion while the former LCCI presidents and Executive Committee Members were present on the occasion. As many as over 40 diplomats graced the LCCI prestigious function.

The Foreign Minister said that he has given message to the world that Pakistan wants trade, not aid. He said that the Foreign Office has a strong focus on resolving critical issues such as FATF and GSP Plus

Status for Pakistan. "I have visited China, USA and other countries and also talked to the representatives of Central Asian countries and got a positive impression for Pakistan from everywhere.

Bilawal said that the economic diplomacy is a must for economic stability and the role of Foreign Office in this regard is commendable. He congratulated Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry for completing its 100 years and also for arranging goodwill dinner for diplomats. He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to provide all possible assistance for the promotion of trade and export led growth. He said that this is in line with our economic diplomacy goals driven by focus on geo-economics.

LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir in his address apprised the august gathering that Lahore Chamber has completed a century of its establishment in 2022 and he got this unique honour of becoming the 100th

President of this premier business support organization of the country.

He said that Pakistani nation has made tremendous sacrifices in the war against terrorism and we have been the most affected country in this war. Pakistan has played a key role in the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan and development of United Arab Emirates.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that in the times of prosperity, Pakistan also contributed significantly in the economic development of the current economic powers like Malaysia, Singapore, China and Germany. He said that Pakistan's five year economic plan was adopted by South Korea in 1960s which laid the foundation for the emergence of South Korea as one of the strongest economies in Asia. Delegations from various countries, which now rank among the developed economies used to visit Pakistan in 1960s to study our model of Industrialization and growth.

Police raid SAPM Ata Tarar's home in Lahore

LAHORE: Reacting to police raid on his home in Lahore, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday he did not think Punjab Home Minister Hashim Dogar was such a non-serious man.

In a tweet, Ata Tarar asked him what he wanted to prove by sending police to his home where he had been living for the last 15 years. He went on to add that when a minister would stoop so low how he would run a ministry. "Don't go too far while defending the anti-state narrative," he commented.

Police raided Ata's home early Saturday morning. But he was not present at home at that time. In a statement, the police clarified that they have not arrested anyone from Tarar's house. —DNA

Alvi's invitation for talks to political leaders ridiculous

ISLAMABAD: The PDM spokesperson Hafiz Hamdullah has said invitation to talks or advice by president Arif Alvi to political leadership is ridiculous.

He was reacting to the offer of talks extended by president Arif Alvi to political leadership here Saturday.

In a statement issued here he said Arif Alvi should first prove either he is president of Pakistan or tiger of Imran Khan. Arif Alvi should prove either he is subordinate to constitution or to the orders of Imran Khan. He held the Election Commission also proved them false in prohibited funding case. —Online

Imran exposed as PTI hires firm for lobbying: Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Saturday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's fake narrative of regime change operation got exposed after its US chapter hired the services of a firm to maintain relations with the American administration.

"On the one hand, Imran Khan claimed that his government was changed as a result of foreign conspiracy, while on the other side, he was hiring the services of a firm to improve relations with the same country," he said while addressing a news conference here.

The minister said Imran Khan was misleading the nation over the regime change conspiracy. He should tell truth to the nation about the firm named Fetton Group hired by his party in the United States for lobbying there. —Online

Alvi announces remission in convicts sentences

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has announced to remit sentences of convicts under the advice of the Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif on the Independence Day.

The President has granted these remissions in pursuance of the approved policy in exercise of his powers under Article 45 of the Constitution

The remission, however, would not be admissible for condemned prisoners and those convicted of murder, gang rape, bank robbery, espionage, anti-state activities, Zina, robbery, dacoity, kidnapping and terrorist acts. —Online

Govt deploys army, Rangers for KPL security

ISLAMABAD: The Federal cabinet has accorded approval to deploy army and Punjab Rangers for security of Kashmir Premier League.

Azad Kashmir government had requested the federal government to deploy army and Rangers for security of Kashmir Premier League. The federal government while accepting Azad Kashmir government plea gave approval to the deployment of army and Punjab Rangers in connection with security of Kashmir Premier League. —Online



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan Hafiz Saad Rizvi waves to his party workers at the Nazaria Pakistan March rally. —Online