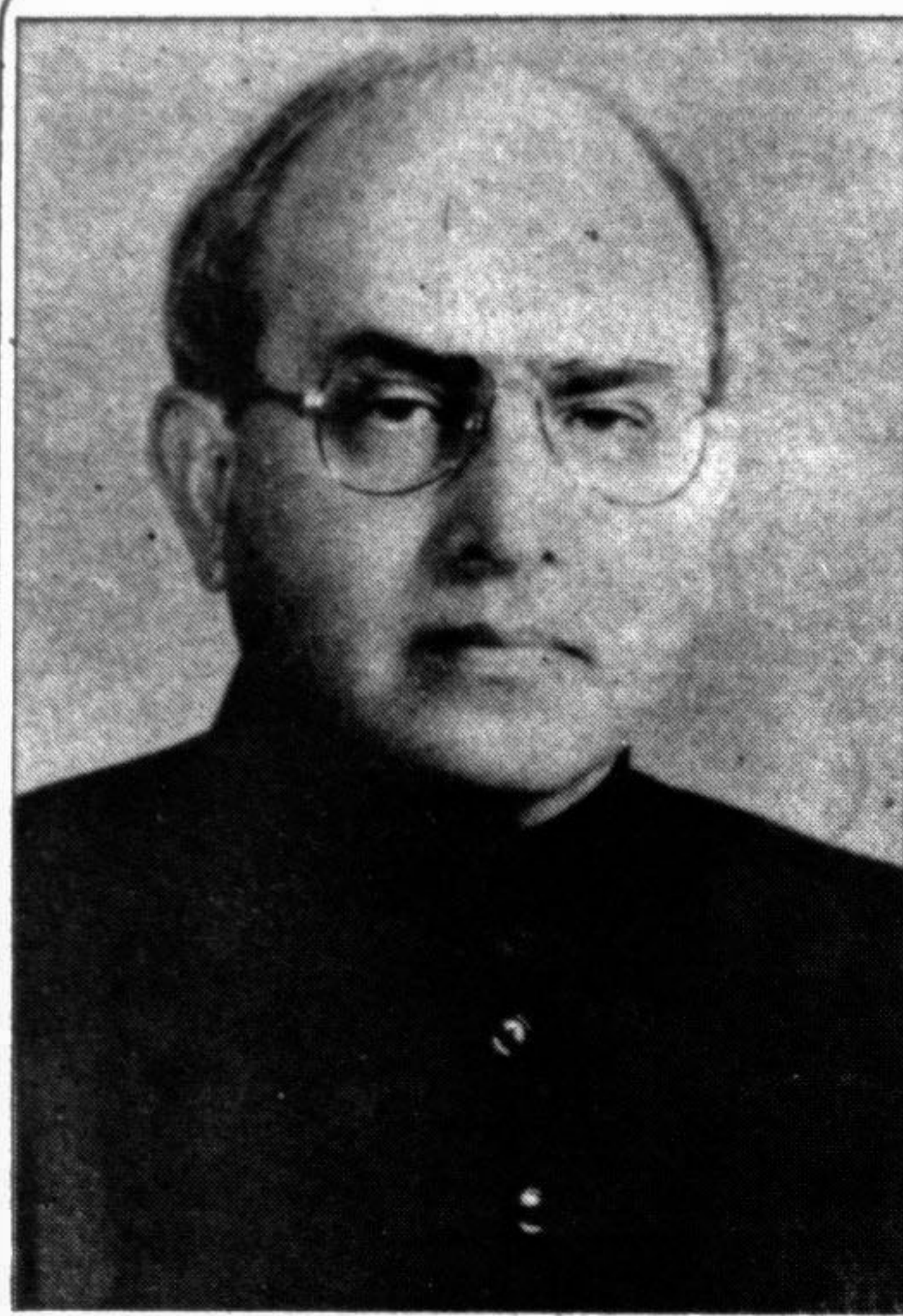


Independence Day of Pakistan

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Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan Marches ahead with Determination

IF there is a resolve and determination and that too of a young nation, nothing can deter it from marching ahead towards its cherished goal of achieving qualitative development in the life of its people. This is true of Pakistan, a South Asian country, which has come a long way since its independence in 1947 and is now poised for entry into the 21st century as an aspirant for the status of another Asian Tiger.

Economic development which remained steady all throughout its existence after independence, despite political vicissitudes, remains the mainstay of the country's progress. It is the inner strength of the country's economy which has been propped up by the abundance of physical and human resources that has brought Pakistan into the threshold of middle-income group of countries. Like its high diplomatic profile which has given it an enviable position in the comity of nations with active role in various United Nations organisations and peace-keeping operations, Pakistan's economic resilience is recognised all over the world, as the country is actively represented in the in-

by **MI Lashkar**

ternational agencies dealing with economics, finance and trade. Pakistan is now a sought-after market for international investors. Planners in the country are, therefore, projecting a steady growth in the inflow of both direct and portfolio investment in the coming years.

But all this has not been achieved overnight. The initial years of Pakistan, after independence, were not without the birth pains which were of special nature for this nation. The country had to start from zero, as it was created anew after being carved out of British India on the basis of two-nation theory according to which Pakistan, being a country of Muslims, was to consist of the Muslim-majority areas. It had to create a new capital city; it had to develop its own administrative set-up and it had to raise its own army — all from scratch. And in the initial years, there was the gigantic problem of setting over a million Muslim refugees who came from the other side of India which also got independence as a Hindu-majority area.

While remaining preoccupied in grappling these issues

in the initial years, the rulers in this new country were, however, not unmindful of the need for economic development. As it is mainly an agricultural country, the development efforts were initially concentrated in this sector. It was also a coincidence that in these years, Pakistan found keys to its green revolution that revolutionised agriculture with the availability of high-yielding seeds of wheat and rice coming out of the international research centres. It continued throughout 1960s.

It is through this green revolution that Pakistan has improved its total cropped area from some 14 million hectares in 1947 to around 22 million hectares with foodgrains production rising from a mere 6 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes, wheat and rice being the major crops. Pakistan is also producer of two major cash crops: sugarcane which is now feeding many sugar mills making Pakistan not only self-sufficient, but also occasional exporter; cotton, the other cash crop which, increasing in production from a mere 300 thousand tonnes to some two million tonnes now, has made Pakistan one of the few cotton-growing and exporting countries of the world.

The achievement was made with the increase in the supply of improved seeds from just 22 thousand tonnes to 156 thousand tonnes, fertilizer offtake from some 20 thousand nutrient tonnes to over two million nutrient tonnes and irrigation water from 63 million acre feet to 128 million acre feet. Pakistan's fertilizer consumption per hectare also improved

from just 15 kilograms to over 90 kilograms, higher than India, USA and USSR in the particular year of 1991-92.

Pakistan's mineral wealth has also been considerably exploited with crude oil and natural gas being the major products. Crude oil production which was just 3 million barrels in 1960s, rose to over 22 million barrels now, while natural gas production rose from 124 million cubic feet to over 580 million cubic feet during the period.

In the manufacturing sector, Pakistan has made outstanding success. At the time of independence, there were just two or three manufacturing units of just nominal size. In view of the availability of raw cotton, textile industry has made significant growth in Pakistan. In 1950s, use of cotton for yarn production was less than 150 thousand kilograms which rose to over 1.5 billion kgs now with yarn production rising from 115 thousand kgs to 1.2 billion kgs and cloth production remaining at a level of over 300 thousand square meters.

With a steel mill whose production is increasing steadily to make the country self-sufficient in no time, Pakistan has also entered into medium and heavy industries production. A number of automobile factories are now working in the country, producing certain renowned cars and vehicles, some of which are meant for export. Pakistan is manufacturing diesel-powered railway engines with an eye on export markets. It is also making various machinery in its two public sector and one private sector factories.

The present government of Pakistan is now concentrating on the development of infrastructure which is necessary for Pakistan's entry into the second stage of development. Electricity generation is a part of the programme. With a present capacity of around 11,000 MW, the generation is planned to be increased to around 20,000 MW by the year 2000 AD.

In the services sector, shipping is already making significant contribution.

These are some areas of physical development in which Pakistan has made outstanding progress. But this is not all for gauging the will and determination of this nation of 120 million enterprising people whose own human development potential is very high. The present government is taking particular care of utilizing this potential. Public expenditure on education and health facilities is being multiplied under a special programme known as Social Action Plan (SAP) which is being implemented with the assistance of international agencies to improve various social indicators.

The author is the Economic Editor of mass-circulation English Daily the NEWS of Pakistan.



Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

MESSAGE

On this day 47 years ago the Muslims of the sub-continent achieved, under the leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam their goal of a separate, sovereign homeland through a democratic struggle. It is a unique day in our history. I wish to extend my heartfelt felicitations to all my countrymen.

Fourteenth of August is no ordinary day for us. It was on this day that freedom triumphed over colonialism and rule of law and democracy over dictatorship. The day marks the triumph of democracy. A peaceful democratic struggle led by the Quaid culminated in the establishment of an independent sovereign state wherein the Muslims of the subcontinent could shape their lives in accordance with their values, beliefs and tenets.

Today is a day to pay homage to the heroes of our independence struggle. To remember those who laid down their lives and suffered for the cause of freedom. They died so that we may live honourably. They suffered so that we may live in peace and prosperity. It is a day of renewing our pledge to uphold the principles for which Pakistan was created. These were the principles of Islam, democracy, social justice, equality and fraternity which guided and inspired our independence struggle.

We renew our pledge to stand and fight for the principles for which Pakistan was created. We shall not succumb to internal strife whether sectarian, provincial, or ethnic. Let us pledge that we will uphold the values of religious tolerance, ethnic harmony and national unity — values so essential for our survival and progress.

Let us wage Jihad against all social evils especially the evils of intolerance, violence and disunity. Let us join hands to build a great country. Let us unite to solve our economic problems. Let us establish political institutions based on principles and the supremacy of the constitution and law. I appeal to my countrymen and political leaders to forge unity in their ranks, shun all differences and march towards the goal of national prosperity. Let us unite to make Pakistan a truly Islamic welfare state.

May Allah bless us in our efforts and enable us to prove worthy inheritors of the heritage of Pakistan bequeathed to us by the Quaid.

Brighter Prospects for Exports

IN the export sector of Pakistan, a major overhauling is underway with a view to ensuring higher quality of export goods, greater incentives for exporters and developing an 'export culture' in the country, particularly in the rural areas where about 70 per cent of the country's populace lives. The government is also encouraging export based imports by revising duties for import of raw materials and machinery required for exportable goods.

The sector, obviously buoyant with a seven billion US dollar foreign exchange earnings in 1993-94, has however been running mainly on its own steam, exporters negotiating with concerned government agencies for facilities and rebates in their personal capacity. The sector wore a somewhat disorganised look with individualism marking the scene more than a collective effort. The present government has tried to provide comprehensive and sympathetic leadership to the sector.

The first step in this direction was the appointment of a full-time Chairman for Export Promotion Bureau, the federal organisation overseeing the sector, from the private sector; previous heads of EPB were usually bureaucrats who mulled over issues and re-

by **Zafar Samdani**

quests till the exercise became academic. The new Chairman, Mian Habibullah, himself a leading exporter of textile goods, has brought in a professional approach and is trying to respond to the exporters' need item by item as well as generally work for the growth of the sector.

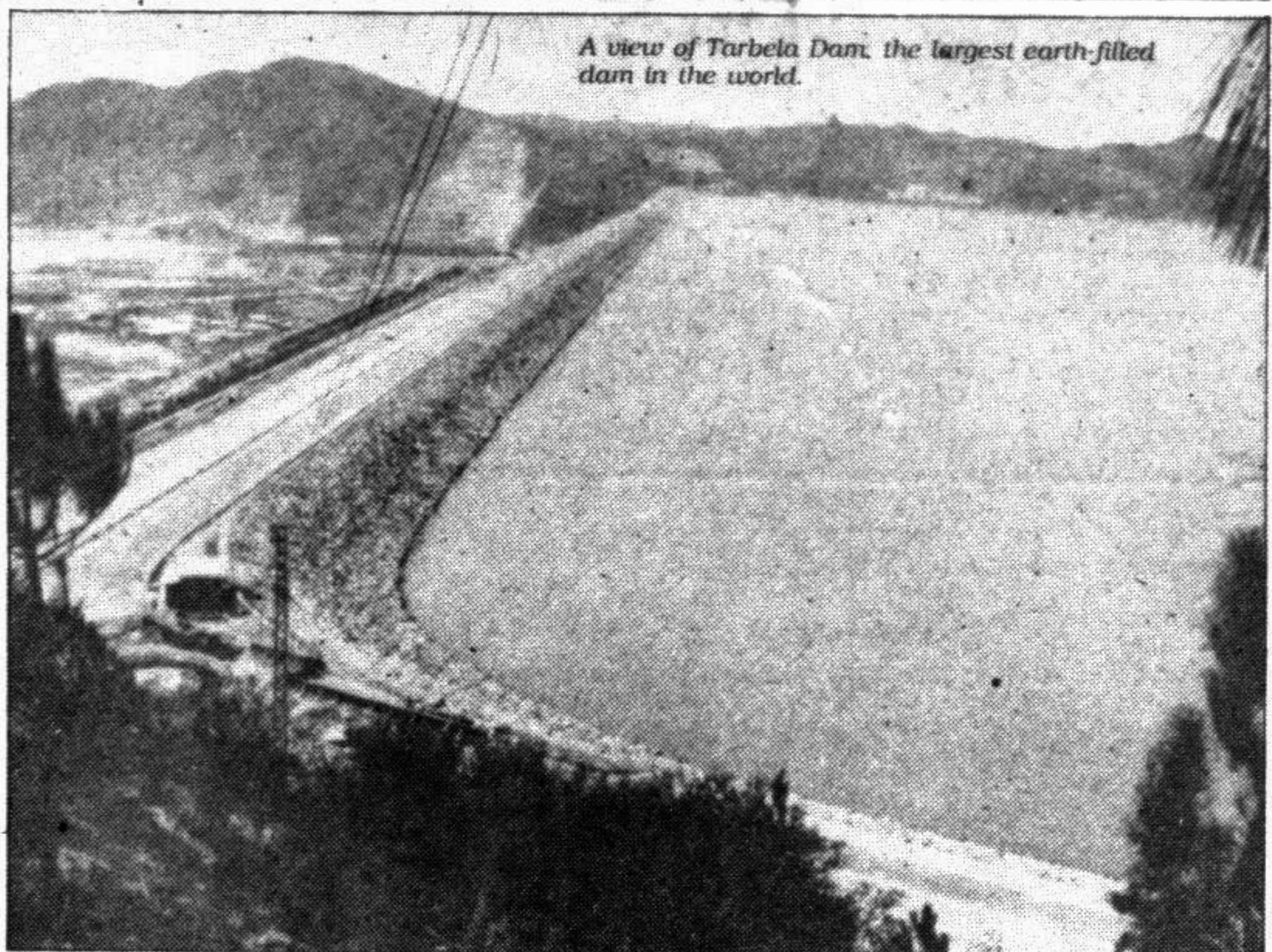
EPB has consequently looked around for widening the base of exporters and listed over 200 'non traditional items' which had an unexplored potential. Studies were conducted on about fifty items to identify their problems and prospects and suggest ways and means of undertaking their export if the area was untrodden and boosting business if the goods were already on the export inventory but the quantum was low. These studies have led to plans for increasing export of such items as furniture, fruit, leather and leather products, wool and wool products, fish and fish preparations, marble and stone, minerals, fertilizers, cutlery, sports goods, engineering and electrical goods, handicrafts, plastic manufactures, jewellery, etc. In most cases, EPB has recommended reduction in duties, subsidies in freight charges, loan facilities and above all, efficient

payment of rebates as incentive for exporters.

Some areas are already organised and productive such as cotton products, carpets, rice, leather goods. For these products, EPB is providing assis-

tance to exporters in finding new markets, arranging participation in international fairs, advising the government on inflow of raw materials, importing them if needed and generally acting to augment exports. But its more important role seems to be in developing 'non traditional exports.'

Continued on page 9



A view of Tarbela Dam, the largest earth-filled dam in the world.

With our Good Wishes on the occasion of
The Independence Day of Pakistan

MITSUBISHI LANCER

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