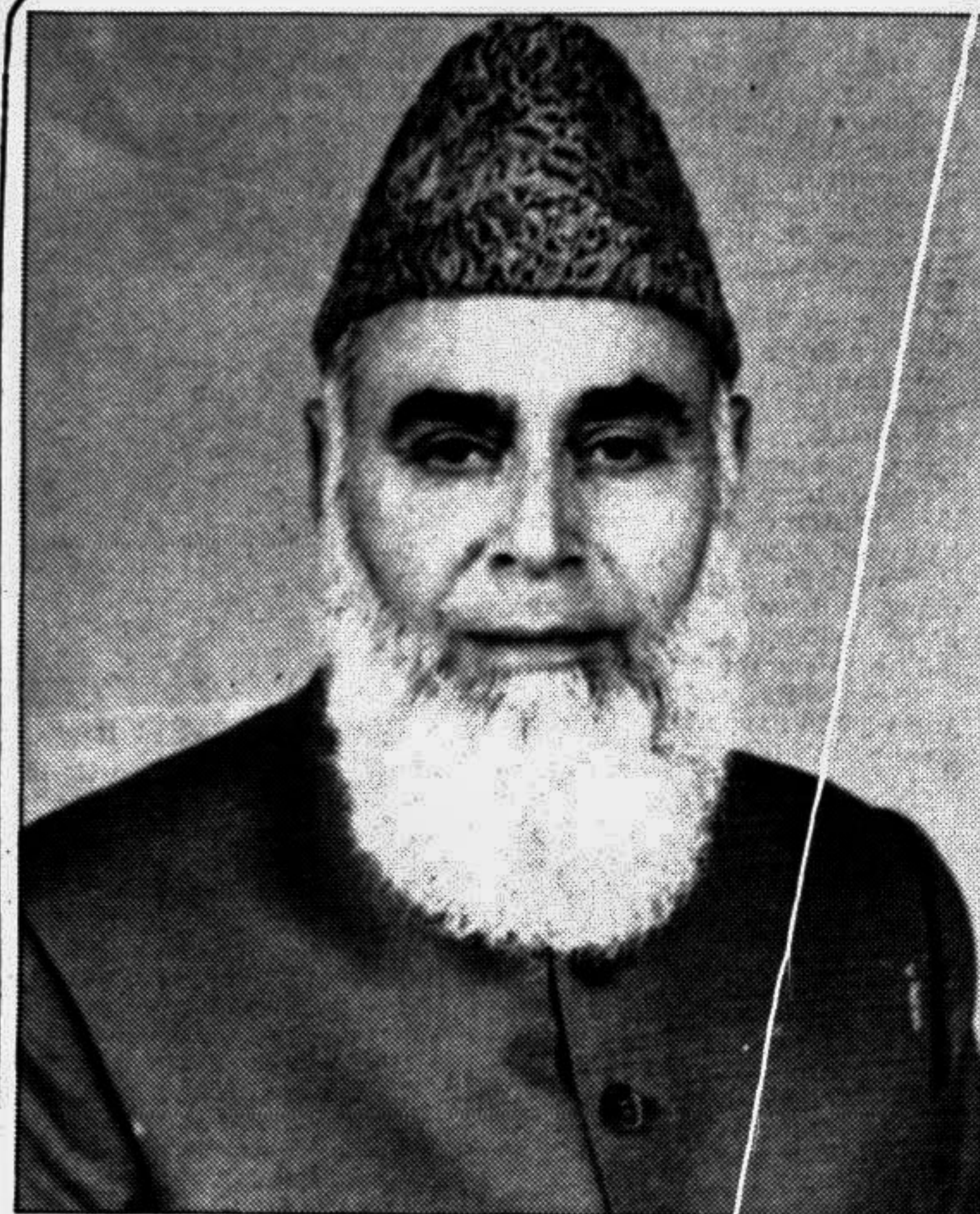


Pakistan Day

The Daily Star

Special Supplement

March 23, 1998



Muhammad Rafiq Tarar
President of Pakistan

MESSAGE

Twenty-third of March is a unique day in our history. On this day the Muslims of the sub-continent had, through a formal resolution, expressed their determination to achieve a separate homeland wherein they would be able to lead their lives according to the tenets of Islam. Today is the fifty-eighth anniversary of that historical pledge. It is a day of thanks-giving as well as of self-accountability. On this day, we shall also look back to see what have we achieved since the 23rd of March, 1940.

Independence and freedom in themselves are great blessings of Allah. They, however, have a greater purpose. To allow freedom of action to realize higher values and attain superior ideals of life by the grace of Allah, we have been able to take significant steps towards laying the foundations of our state policy on Islamic and democratic lines as visualized by the Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal. It is the duty of the government and the people of Pakistan to ensure the integration of these Islamic democratic principles in every facet of national activity and to make our country strong and prosperous.

While we celebrate the Pakistan Day, we must remember those millions of Muslims of the sub-continent who made every sacrifice in the unprecedented freedom struggle under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children died for the sovereign independence of this country. Many more suffered untold miseries and lost their hearth and home in order to secure a homeland for the Muslim masses. Let us pay tribute to those millions of our valiant soldiers of freedom and rededicate ourselves to the cherished goals for which they fought. Let us pledge to spare no effort to make Pakistan a strong, stable and prosperous country, a country where we and our future generations could live in peace and safety.

Let us resolve to accelerate the pace of national development and keep the Quaid's motto — Unity, Faith and Discipline ... as our guiding principle for shaping the destiny of our great nation.

Pakistan Painsdabad

MESSAGE

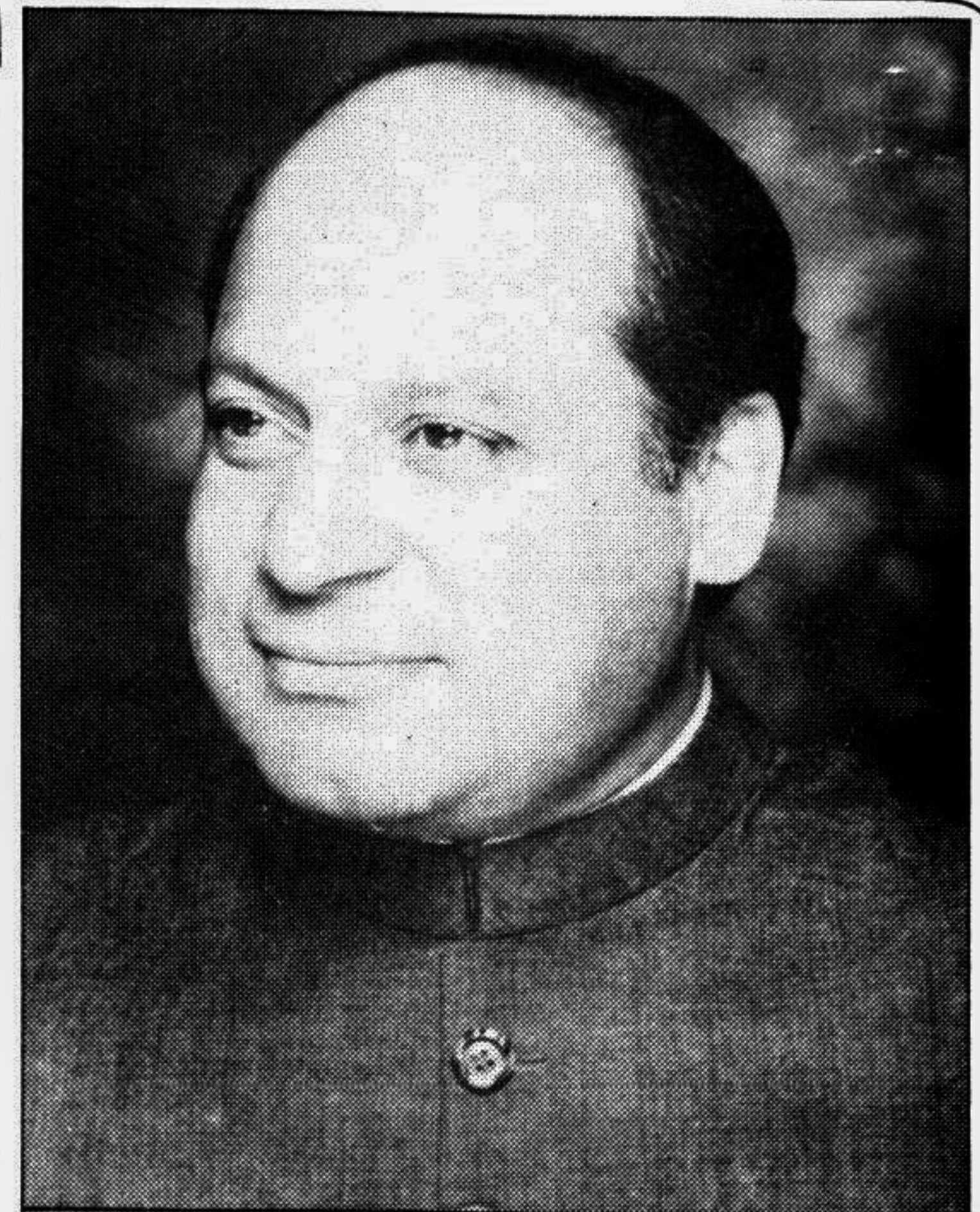
I congratulate my countrymen on the fifty-eighth anniversary of the adoption of the Pakistan Resolution in Lahore on 23rd March 1940, a day that we celebrate as the Pakistan Day. It reminds us of the immense sacrifices rendered by Muslims of the sub-continent to carve out a homeland of their own for ordering their lives in accordance with the teachings and traditions of Islam.

By the grace of Allah, Pakistan is now in the 51st year of its existence as a sovereign independent Islamic state. We bow our heads before Allah to thank Him for granting historic success to our freedom struggle under the able guidance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Despite inevitable failure and shortcomings, we continue to march on the road to progress as a free nation. While we rejoice our successes, we must also learn from our failures, particularly those that fell on us because of inept handling of the affairs of the state and exploitation by the vested interest, only recently. We had the misfortune of suffering another period of mis-governance marked by uncertainty, frustration and rampant corruption which brought us to the brink of a catastrophe. Thanks to Almighty Allah that the dark days are now behind us.

I consider it a great honour that I was blessed with an unprecedented heavy mandate in February 1997 elections. My government remains deeply committed to promoting welfare of the common people and I am determined to make Pakistan strong and prosperous by improving the quality of life of the people and ensure good governance and establish the rule of law. Programmes to achieve these goals have already been launched. Insha Allah, the day is not far off when the ills like corruption, illiteracy, nepotism, parochialism and sectarianism will be wiped out from the society.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the objectives of the Pakistan resolution and pledge to work hard for ordering our lives in accordance with the principles of Islam and for strengthening the democratic institutions so that the will of the people is hallowed and acted upon. We will, Insha Allah, succeed in achieving these goals and make Pakistan a decent place to live in. On this auspicious occasion, I call upon my countrymen to pledge their full support to the social and economic programmes of this government. May Allah bless us in our efforts to prove ourselves worthy of the heritage bequeathed to us by our beloved Quaid-e-Azam.

Pakistan Painsdabad



Mohammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's First Year in Office

(February 1997-February 1998)

(Abridged)

THE Pakistan Muslim League government completed its one year in office on 17 February 1998 which is a good point of time to look back on what it has done and what it plans to do. No government can produce overnight miracle solutions with the wave of a magic wand nor undo the mistakes of the past in one flourish, no more than it can make problems go away by merely so wishing.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif is perhaps alone among Pakistan's leaders through history who has scrupulously refrained from making tall claims or varnishing reality. He has been honest with the people who have given him their massive mandate to lead the country into the 21st century by telling them in straight and simple terms what he can do and what he can only try to do. He has run an open government, sharing his thinking on all issues with the people. He has never pretended that his task is easy, nor has he held out false hopes. He has constantly emphasised that the going in the next few years can only be tough, that before things get better, they may get worse. At the same time, he has asserted his faith in the ability of this country and the people to overcome the difficulties that they face and move ahead triumphantly into the future. He continues to urge everyone to do his best for Pakistan and in that effort, he has led from the front.

In the last one year, the Pakistan Muslim League government has covered a great deal of ground. But there is still a long way to go. What his party and its young and determined leader have given the people of Pakistan is a sense of purpose. They have turned their back on corruption and exercise of

power for its own sake. While a systematic effort has been afoot to expose the graft and misdeeds of the preceding government and its leader, there has been no witch hunt in contrast to what the Prime Minister, his family and his political associates were subjected to by the government which was rejected so decisively by the people of Pakistan in the last election. It takes a big man and a great leader to rise above personal considerations. Nawaz Sharif's conduct as Prime Minister has been gracious and without rancour towards those at whose hands he and his party suffered persecution. He has no personal concern: his only concern being Pakistan. His record in office shows how fast and decisively he has moved on all fronts. He has a vision of Pakistan which he is determined and committed to translate into tangible reality. Nawaz Sharif is one leader who does not believe in promising what he cannot deliver. Actions speak louder than words and what he has been able to achieve in just one year is out there for everyone to examine.

It is in the fitness of things to go over the record and achievements of the Pakistan Muslim League government led by Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

The Pakistan Muslim League led by Mohammad Nawaz Sharif won a scintillating victory in the February 1997 general elections with 135 seats in the National Assembly and representation from all four provinces, including the federal capital area of Islamabad. He was elected leader of the House with 177 votes in an assembly of 217, and when he sought a vote of confidence he was backed by 181 members. The party secured another runaway victory by securing the highest number of Senate seats a

month later. Sharif was sworn in as the country's 19th Prime Minister on 17 February 1997, the second time the people of Pakistan had reposed their confidence in him. In his first speech to the nation, he spelled out a series of radical and imaginative steps to overcome the economic crisis engulfing the country.

He identified Pakistan's large foreign debt as its most serious and immediate problem and called upon the nation, including the country's large expatriate community, to lend a hand in helping the government balance its books. His appeal found enthusiastic response at home and abroad.

The first national budget unveiled by the Muslim League government was free of taxes, a step without precedent in Pakistan's history. It was popularly hailed with commentators agreeing that it was the best possible budget given the worst economic crisis ever faced by the country. The principal beneficiaries of the new measures were the least advantaged sections of society.

Sharif announced far-reaching social reforms aimed at encouraging thrift, discouraging wasteful expenditure on traditional observances, establishment of the merit principle in public service, new laws to deal with heinous and dehumanising crimes against women, simplicity in official lifestyles and transparency of government operations. He also took steps to make it exceedingly difficult to divert public funds to unauthorised, ill-advised or personalised use.

The Prime Minister also ordered all government expenditure to be reduced to the minimum. He forewent his own salary and vowed that he would use official transport for strictly official purposes. He also cut foreign tours, including his own and reduced the size of his official entourage to a "bare bones" level.

A special fund was set up by the Prime Minister for the uplift of youth so that it could play its true role in the development of the country. To mark half a century of Pakistan's establishment, he announced a five-year remission in the prison terms of those serving life sentences. Others were also accorded the facility depending on the period of their incarceration.

tion. To curb sectarian and factional violence, an anti-terrorism law was passed in August which enabled the government to set up special courts for speedy justice. The new legislation also contained a provision for the deployment of the country's armed forces if a provincial government apprehended an outbreak of sectarian violence and requested the federal government to come to its aid.

On the foreign policy front Nawaz Sharif moved quickly, declaring normal and friendly relations with neighbouring countries, including India, as his first priority. He also called for peaceful settlement of all outstanding disputes, led by Kashmir which he called the core issue since it involved the exercise of the basic and inalienable right of self-determination by the people of the former state. He said the foreign policy of Pakistan would be based on the Father of the Nation, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's famous precept: friendship with all, enmity with none.

Agriculture being the mainstay of Pakistan's economy, the Prime Minister set into motion a number of steps designed to modernise and improve this crucial sector with full emphasis on increased output and every necessary assistance to the farmer. Support price of wheat and rice, the staple crops, the latter being one of Pakistan's prime export commodities, was increased to assist the farmer, as was that of edible oil seeds. Existing duty on import of fertiliser ingredients was slashed and power supply charges paid by farmers brought down appreciably. Agricultural credit was made both abundant and easier.

Small farmers were given special concessions: irrigation and drainage were improved and a crash programme launched to desalt water courses. To provide a safety net to landless farm workers, animals such as milch cows and sheep were provided to them under a special scheme. Steps were also taken to increase livestock production and measures were initiated to protect animal health. Research in

animal husbandry was stepped up with adequate funds.

On the political front, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif moved quickly, part-repealing the 8th Constitutional Amendment — a legacy of military rule which had made it possible for the removal of an elected government through executive decree. No single step taken since the birth of Pakistan 50 years ago has done more to consolidate democracy than the repeal of this unpopular law.

To fight the menace of the drugs trade, Nawaz Sharif took decisive measures, making it

punishable with death or transportation for life. The administrative and legal machinery was geared up to deal with the growth of what has popularly come to be known as "Kalashnikov culture."

Another vital decision taken by the Pakistan Muslim League government was the exercise that has not been undertaken for well over a decade due to the political sensitivity of the issue in some areas. The Prime Minister took what one economist described as "revolutionary decision" because he knows that all basic decisions which affect the economic and social sector depend upon accu-

rate and updated statistics. Planning "in the air" or planning based on old data, the Prime Minister rightly argued, was self-defeating and could only work to the nation's detriment.

Textiles, Pakistan's prime industry, received a shot in the arm with the announcement of a textiles quota management scheme giving associations of textile manufacturers the freedom to manage all aspects and categories of textile exports to countries with textile quota restrictions. The government ceded all decision-making powers to the industry, retaining only the right to auction growth quotas. The new system thus laid down a transparent mech-

anism with checks and balances to ensure trouble-free implementation of a policy aimed at removing unnecessary irritants.

The first year also saw the resignation of the President following a political crisis which involved the supremacy of Parliament and the survival of the parliamentary system of government itself. The new President, Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, a former Judge of the Supreme Court, took office in December as Pakistan's ninth head of state. There was also a change at the Supreme Court, with Mr Justice Sajjad Ali Shah making way for Mr Justice Ajmal Mian as the Chief Justice of Pakistan.



National Bank of Pakistan

The leading banking institution

Placing special emphasis on Pakistan's economic growth through aggressive, balanced lending policies and accelerated loan recoveries, NBP maintains its position as Pakistan's premier bank, determined to set higher standards of achievement.

Unmatched Banking Facilities:

- Deposit security. Guaranteed by Government of Pakistan.
- Highest rates of return to encourage savings.
- Lowest rates on exports and other borrowings.
- Largest contribution towards Government and Semi-Government requirements.
- Agents of the State Bank of Pakistan for handling Treasury Functions, receipts of Taxes and other Revenues.
- Handling of salaries and pensions of country's federal/provincial employees and defence personnel.
- Utility Bills collection.
- Hajj arrangements.
- Rational Human Resource Management.
- Electronic Banking.
- Overall quality of service.

Products & Services Offered:

- NBP Credit Cards.
- Corporate Branches with ATM and other facilities.
- Rupee Travellers Cheques.

Overall Performance:

- Total Assets: Rs.370 billion.
- Earning Assets: Rs.200 billion.
- Gross Revenue: Rs. 24 billion.
- Deposits: Rs.243 billion.
- Capital Adequacy: 7.3% (highest in Pakistan).
- Largest custodial handling of NIT stocks: Rs.28 billion.
- Full provision for non-performing loans.
- Highest collection towards National Debt Retirement Programme.
- Extensive network of 1491 domestic and 24 overseas branches.

Overseas Branches:

- London (2 branches), Manchester, Glasgow, Bradford, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Birmingham, Paris, Frankfurt, New York (2 branches), Washington D.C., Chicago, Tokyo, Osaka, Hong Kong (2 branches), Seoul, Beijing, Bahrain, Dhaka, Cairo, Ashghabad.

Subsidiary:

National Discounting Services Limited.



National Bank of Pakistan

79 Motijheel C.A. G.P.O. Box No. 2226, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh

SOUND VALUES • MODERN BANKING

Tel: 9560248, 9560249
Fax: 880-2-9560247
Telex: 632393 NBP-BJ
Cable: MILLATBANK

Heartiest Felicitations on the occasion of Pakistan Day

Trusted for taste across the world



Jams, Pickles, Squash, Syrups, Sauce, Vermicelli & Much Much More

Also available Jam for Diabetic Patients.

Mfg. AHMED FOOD INTERNATIONAL, Pakistan.

Contact: 031-723582, 018-215472

Now available at your nearest shop.

Turn Around in Economy

Growth in first six months 1997-98 (F.Y.) under PML compared with 1996-97 (F.Y.) under PPP

Exports	7.1% increase
Imports	(-16.0) decrease
Foreign remittances	46% increase (988 million US dollars from 614 million US dollars)
Foreign Currency Accounts	90% increase (794 million US dollars from 418 million US\$)
Current Accounts Balance	240% improvement (-814 million US \$ from 2774 million US dollars)
Inflation	8.9% (last year 12-15%)
Industrial Production	5% increase (-1.4% decrease last year)
(Index)	
Agriculture	5% (expected)
Wheat	20-24% increase over last year
Sugar	23% increase over last year
KSE index	30-40% increase

Other Achievements

1. \$ 1.6 billion IMF Enhanced Structural Loan.
2. \$ 10 billion Social Action Plan.
3. \$ 100 million Poverty Alleviation Fund.
4. Completion of Motorway (Islamabad-Lahore).
5. Revival of Sick/Closed mills.
6. Sectoral Policy Incentive Packages.
7. Introduction of Monitoring System in Public Sector Projects.
8. Implementation of fiscal, monetary and financial discipline in public sector.
9. Rationalisation of taxation policies including marked reduction in tariff regime.
10. Participation of private sector in policy formation and implementation.