

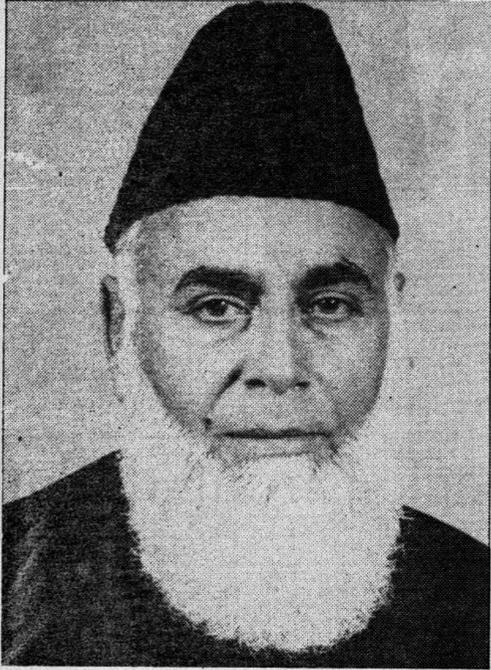
Independence Day of Pakistan



The Daily Star

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Muhammad Rafiq Tarar
President of Pakistan

History

Pakistan is a young country but an ancient land. Stone-age hunter-gatherers lived on the Potohar plateau and in the Soan Valley in Northern Punjab 300,000 years ago. Sites excavated in Sindh and Baluchistan show more advanced cultures flourished along Indus more than five thousand years ago. These early civilisations reached their peak in the Indus valley cities, of which Harappa and Mohenjodaro are the most notable examples.

The region has also been the passing ground for the armies of Alexander the Great, Mauryans and the Greeks coming through Afghanistan and Central Asia. The last millennium witnessed the advent of Islam gifting to the land of glorious heritage, culture and traditions. Pakistan is thus truly located at a cross road of civilisations and the meeting point of South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia regions.

Constitution

Pakistan is a parliamentary democracy, with a population of about 135 million. Its constitution guarantees the fundamental rights, including the freedoms of thought, speech, religion and worship, assembly, association and the press as well as equality of status.

The president is Head of State and is elected for a five-year term by a joint sitting of both the houses. The lower



Father of the Nation
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Economy

Pakistan has a mixed economy, which is predominantly agricultural. The agricultural sector comprising of fisheries and forestry accounts for a quarter of the GDP. The economy has been developed through a series of five year plans and medium term policy frameworks agreed with the IMF and the World Bank.

In the 60s, protectionist policies were adopted, followed by massive nationalisation in the 70s and economic liberalisation since the 80s. The policies since 1990 adopted during the first tenure of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are based on encouragement of private enterprise. With the deregulation of the economy, the climate for direct foreign investment has improved considerably. Privatisation measures have also included selling of state run banks and manufacturing enterprises.

Incentives

The Nawaz Sharif Government is taking wide ranging steps for the revival of the economy, which suffered slight set-back due to the sanctions imposed on the country following its nuclear tests triggered by the Indian tests. This economic revival is mainly envisaged through macro-economic stability, fiscal discipline and export expansion. The tariff base has been drastically reduced and quantitative restrictions have also been almost eliminated.

The Pakistan stock markets are now open to foreign buyers. The FDI which was US\$ 354 million in 1992-93 reached up to \$601.3 million in 1997-98. The Government has undertaken to honour its contracts with foreign investors, and the Board of Investment (BOI), has been made the focal point for all foreign investment. The BOI also serves as a "One stop shop" for the benefit of potential investors. Some of the other incentives that have been given to investors include the following:

- Foreign investors are now allowed 100 per cent equity in many sectors including hotel and tourism, agriculture, services, infrastructure and etc.
- Government sanction is no more required for setting up manufacturing units.
- Full legal coverage has been provided to foreign investment.
- Restrictions on payment of royalties/technical fees have been removed.
- No work permits are required for expatriates working in industrial undertakings.
- Workers now have the opportunity to become shareholders owning up to 5 per cent of the total holding in their company.

Industry and Trade

Pakistan's main industry which consists of textiles, processing, beverages, construction materials, clothing, paper products, fisheries serves both its domestic and export markets. The main sectors are food processing and textiles. Of the agro-based industries, sugar and vegetable oil are important products; tobacco and beverages are also produced. Engineering industries include tyre production and bicycle manufacture. Cement, urea, fertiliser are im-

portant process industries. Their is a steel mill also which is based in Karachi.

The traditional items of export consist of raw cotton, cotton cloth, cotton yarn, garments, leather, carpets and rice. These account for about 60 per cent of Pakistan's total exports. US, Germany, Britain and Japan are Pakistan's main trading partners for exports. Exports of manufactures have also grown strongly in the past few years.

The main import items consist of capital goods, consumer good, edible oils, petrochemicals, and industrial raw materials. The main trading partners are EU, Japan, US, China, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

Human Resources Development

Acutely conscious of the need for the development of the human resource of the country, priority is also being given to the development of such resources. A National Training Policy has been formulated, and a Skill Development Council has been established to formally associate employers with the evolution of vocational training, planning and management.

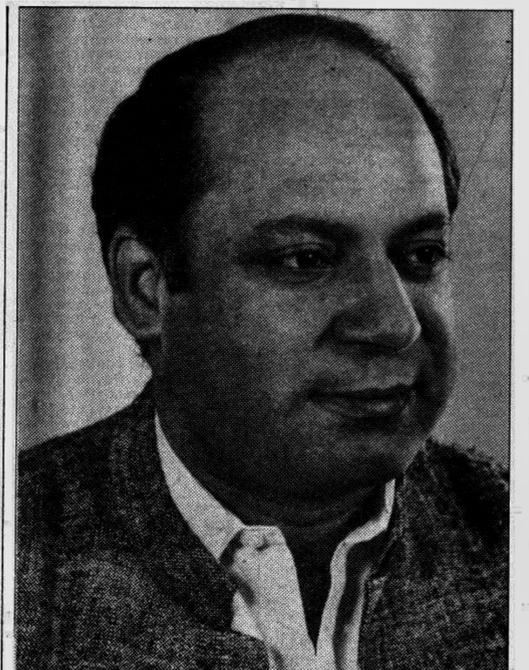
For the unemployed youth of the country a special self-employment scheme has also been announced by the Prime Minister under which loans on soft terms are provided. This scheme is personally monitored by the Prime Minister himself. A Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has also been set up to assist and guide entrepreneurs in obtaining loans to set up industrial units.

Infrastructure

The Nawaz government has taken very keen interest in the development of infrastructure of the country. Towards this end, a world class three lane dual motorway linking Lahore with Islamabad has been inaugurated in November 1997. With this a beginning has been made and soon there will be a network of motorways linking the whole of Pakistan, right from Karachi up to Peshawar. Work on the Islamabad-Peshawar and Karachi-Hyderabad motorways is already under way.

Tourism

The development of tourism has been at a modest level so far, despite the fact that there is enormous potential. The country has a wealth of archaeological and architectural history. These include remains of the famous Mohenjodaro and Harappa civilisations, besides other remains of the various civilisations that passed through the land. The beauty of the Northern areas of Pakistan, which is a meeting place of the three biggest mountain ranges; the Karakorum, the Hindukush and the Himalayas, is breathtaking. More than one hundred mountain peaks over 7000 metres, including the formidable K-2, the second highest mountain in the world, are located in Pakistan. In addition to mountaineers, this area attracts a large number of tourists.



Mohammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan

THE government has devised a new investment policy to provide an integrated strategy for creating an investor-friendly environment with focus on further opening up of the economy and marketing the potential of all economic sector for direct foreign investment. The essence of the policy is to keep Pakistan attractive in international market by improving the policy regime, offering fiscal and tariff relief and through providing additional procedural and social facilitation.

Thanks to a reforms programme, incentives package for the foreign investors and a boost from agriculture and industrial sector, the macroeconomic indicators in Pakistan have started to improve tremendously. The silver lining of the horizon is significant because the macroeconomic indicators were spelling red till recently due to a soaring inflation and low economic growth during the last few years.

Even in the face of Asian economic downturn of the late 90s, the central message in Pakistan is still one of hope. With the launching of an ambitious economic reforms programme last year Pakistan is likely to engineer a breakthrough to develop its economy by adapting the strategies used in other countries successfully. A member of both Economic Cooperation Organization

Investment Climate Gets Attractive in Pakistan

by Absar Alam

(ECO) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Pakistan is geographically located at the confluence of Central and South Asian regions. With its close proximity to the Gulf States and the Middle East makes Pakistan even more attractive for long-term investment. The location thus can play an important role in promoting multi-dimensional trade, investment and economic cooperation among the regions.

Having a consumer market of 140 million people, with a considerable number of urban middle class, Pakistan is poised probably at the best place for the investors who plan to set up an industry to cater to the requirements of resource-rich Central Asia and oil-rich Gulf states.

In September this year Pakistan, in collaboration with World Economic Forum, is to host a Central Asia and South Asia (CASA) Summit in its capital city Islamabad. Pakistan expects that the summit will promote mutual cooperation among the regional countries. Besides highlighting the economic potential of Central and

South Asia the Summit will serve to enlarge foreign investment and expand trade opportunities in the entire region.

At the dawn of next millennium the world is going to witness a highly liberalized trading system and an open economy. To face the new world with confidence Pakistan is gearing up and has introduced a comprehensive package of reforms in fiscal, financial, investment and privatization sectors. The achievement objectives of these reforms, new policies are based on liberalization, deregulation, denationalization, decontrol and an extensive administrative restructuring.

Apart from introducing reforms in all sectors the other key area where Pakistan has focussed is the foreign investment. To attract foreign investment Pakistan recently announced an investment policy offering great incentives to businessmen around the globe. To facilitate the investors further Pakistan has also reduced its rates considerably. After the introduction of unprecedented tax and duty cuts Pakistan has become a country where tax rates are even lower than Sin-

gapore.

The announcement of a new and vibrant investment policy now enables foreign investors to own 100 per cent equity in any manufacturing ventures of their choice. To set up any industry the foreign investors do not need any approval from the government. What they will have to do is just to walk in to the Board of Investment (BOI) office that will facilitate him to find the potential areas of investment and subsidies. Moreover, the foreigners have free access to Pakistan's capital market, and there are no restrictions on the repatriation of dividends and profits. The new investment policy has been envisaged with the view that vibrant policies are indispensable for a country, like Pakistan.

Previously only manufacturing sector was opened to foreign investment but it has now been decided to liberalize the policy regime, open up other economic sectors for Foreign Director Investment (FDI) and mobilize the domestic financial resources towards long term investment.

Towards Prosperity

THE Movement for the creation of Pakistan was an ideological, political and just struggle of the Muslims of South Asia to carve a homeland for themselves. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, reverently called Quaid-E-Azam (the greatest leader) by his followers, proved

himself to be a man of exceptional foresight, self restraint and statesmanship and led his people to the achievement of their goal in a short span of seven years. Pakistan emerged as an independent nation on August 14, 1947.

house, the National Assembly, has 217 directly elected members, who serve for five years. The National Assembly elects the Prime Minister. The upper house, the Senate has 67 members elected for six years with one third retiring every two years.

MESSAGE

Pakistan is proud to celebrate today the 52nd anniversary of its independence. On 14 August 1947 Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as an independent country. Freedom was achieved after a long and arduous struggle under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. The Quaid visualised Pakistan as a progressive, democratic and an Islamic welfare state playing a constructive and responsible role in the comity of nations.

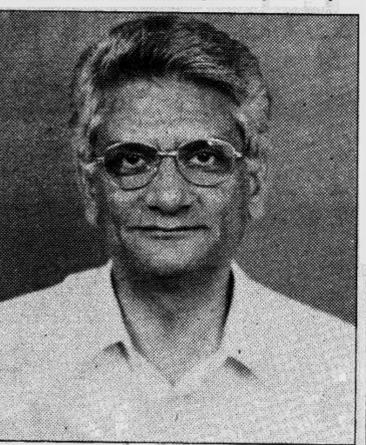
The journey over the past 53 years has not been an easy one for the Pakistani nation. However, inspired by Quaid-e-Azam's motto of "Unity, Faith and Discipline" we have successfully overcome the many challenges faced by us and continued to march on the road to progress. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has set himself the task of fulfilling the vision of Quaid-e-Azam. He has instituted measures to further strengthen democracy and supremacy of the rule of law, undertaken wide ranging reforms in the economic and financial sectors to make the country prosperous and self-reliant as well as initiatives designed to promote regional and international peace and stability.

Pakistan regards Bangladesh as a reliable partner in the region which shares its vision of a close and cooperative bilateral relationship and a progressive and prosperous South Asia flourishing in a peaceful and secure environment. This is natural, given the many commonalities that exist between the two countries. Over the years Pakistan and Bangladesh have successfully developed a multifaceted relationship based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

I arrived in Dhaka barely a month ago to represent Pakistan as its High Commissioner. The warmth, goodwill and cooperation that I have received from the Government and people of Bangladesh have been a source of great encouragement to me personally and in my efforts to

further strengthen and deepen the Pakistan-Bangladesh ties. May Almighty Allah bless our endeavours.

Long live Pakistan!
Long live Bangladesh!
Long live Pakistan-Bangladesh friendship.



Iqbal Ahmad Khan
High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh

১৪ই আগস্ট পাকিস্তানের স্বাধীনতা দিবসে আমাদের শুভেচ্ছা
ফ্রেশবেলের জন্য আকর্ষণীয় সুযোগ

পাকিস্তান আহমেদ ফুড-এর
Freshwel
একটি ম্যাগো/ অরেঞ্জ কোয়াশ
এর সাথে ১টি গ্লাস লাভ করুন

বেশি বেশি কোয়াশ/
পান করুন
বেশি বেশি উপহার
লাভ করুন

নকল হতে সাবধান
Freshwel ট্রেডমার্ক ও
পাকিস্তান আহমেদ ফুড
দেখে ক্রীব

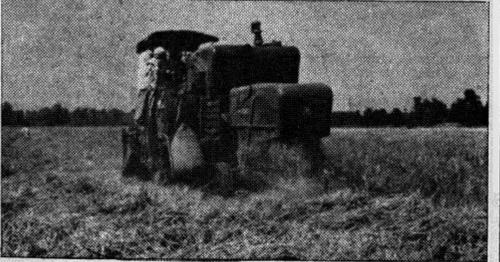
আমরা আরও সরবরাহ করছি পাকিস্তান
আহমেদফুড-এর সাবরাস সিরাপ, রসবের
আচার, কাশ্মীরি আচার, মিরচ আচার, কাঙ্গুরী
আচার। সুপার ফ্রি জাম: (অরেঞ্জ, মিরচ, আপেল)
নরমাল জাম: (মিরচ স্ট্রট, অরেঞ্জ, ঝুঁকুরী)
আপেল জাম, টমেটো সস, চিলি গারলিক সস।
মসলা: হোল্ডিন, বোমে বিবিরানী, চিকেন, চাট)
জেনিকিটাল (অরেঞ্জ, বালনা, ঝুঁকুরী, চেরী) ক্রীম
কারামেল, সেমাইনহ হারেক বকম
জিনিস।

বালোদেশে একমাত্র এজেন্ট
গুয়াট ট্রেডিং



TODAY, WE ARE FLYING HIGHER THAN USUAL.

August 14, 1999. PIA joins all Pakistanis in celebrating Pakistan's 52nd Independence Day with heads held high and hearts filled with joy. PIA and Pakistan - Flying high today.



Mechanised harvesting of wheat in the province of Punjab.