

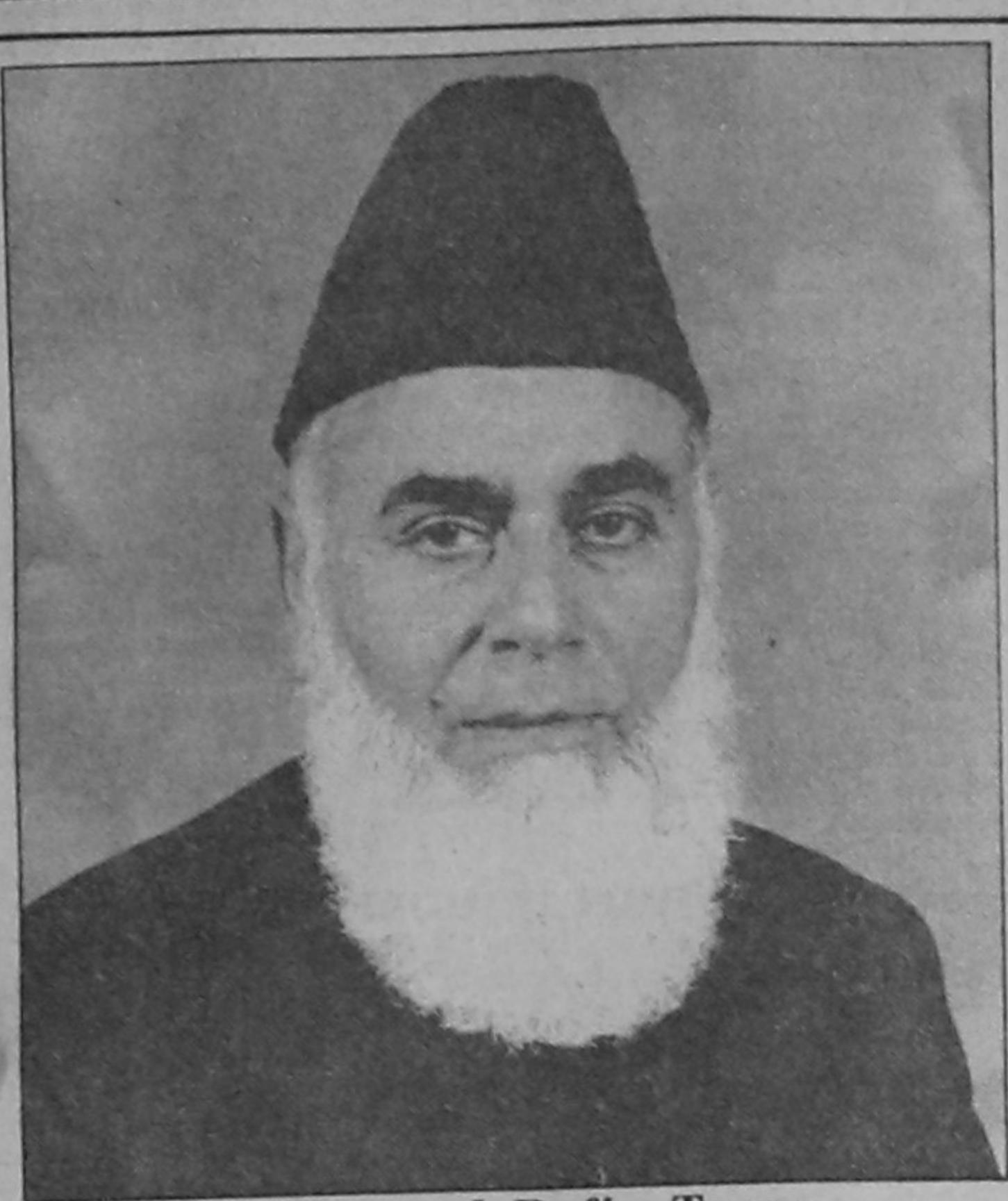


# Independence Day of Pakistan

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

August 14, 2000



**Muhammad Rafiq Tarar**  
President of Pakistan  
**MESSAGE**

It is with great pleasure that I greet the nation and join them in celebrating the 53rd anniversary of our independence. It is a day of thanks giving and introspection. While bowing our heads before Allah for the gift of freedom, we must also look inwards to assess as whether we have been able to live up to the ideals and objectives which provided the basis for the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of South Asia.

Pakistan is not merely a geographical entity, it represents an ideology which was given to mankind by Almighty Allah through the instrumentality of His last Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). The struggle for independence of the Muslims of South Asia was therefore motivated by a burning desire to have a state where Muslims could live in accordance with the abiding principles of Islam.

In the past 53 years, since independence, we have achieved a lot but much more still needs to be done. The government is doing its best to address the challenges facing the country both internally and externally by putting in place policies and action plans which would meet our national aspiration and address genuine international sensitivities without compromising on our permanent national interests. We must work hard and consolidate our unity to face the challenges that lay ahead.

I am confident that a nation imbued with the sense of direction and commitment would surmount all the difficulties to make Pakistan a proud and progressive Islamic Welfare State. May Allah bless our efforts in this behalf.

## Muslim Art Heritage: Architecture

by Dr Ahmad Nabi Khan

**T**HE Islamic architecture of Pakistan takes its birth with the establishment of Muslim rule in Sindhi. It has been asserted by the Arab chroniclers that Muhammad bin Qasim built a mosque at every place he conquered during his campaign. However, none of these exists now. The first city subdued by him was the seaport of Debul, now known as Baubhore, an insignificant small town located at about forty miles north-east of Karachi on the old high-way of

Hyderabad. The remains of religious and secular buildings revealed through archaeological excavations give an insight into the nature and characteristics of the early Arab architecture on the soil of Pakistan. The city of Debul consisted of two parts: the fortified citadel on a comparatively higher level, and the unwalled lower city. The citadel possessed impressive buildings, both secular as well as religious, erected from time to time. In the lower city were located bazaars and facto-

ries and other residential quarters for traders and industrial workers. The buildings were mostly constructed with semi-dressed or undressed blocks of sandstone. Sometimes, the interior was plastered with mud, mixed with lime, and then whitewashed. Some of the spectacular buildings, uncovered in the citadel area, were remains of a massive-built stone fortification wall, the great mosque, and

other residential buildings. The fortification wall had three gateways and several bastions. A flight of exceptionally broad steps went down to the lake. But the most impressive feature of the fortification were the semi-circular bastions, built at intervals.

The mosque was built as early as the first decade of the 2nd century Hijra (8th century C.E.). Within a stone boundary wall, the mosque was erected on a square plan right in the centre of the citadel. There were corridors and cloisters on the three sides of the courtyard, and, on the western side, was a spacious prayer-chamber. The mosque had two entrance gates. The facade of these gates was decorated with inscribed stones, several of which were discovered from the ruins of the mosque. One of these gives the date of the construction of the mosque, and some unidentifiable names responsible for its construction. The courtyard was paved with burnt bricks and the roof was supported by wooden pillars placed on stone bases.

Facing the northern gate of the mosque was the building of the *Maktab*, a necessary adjunct to the mosque. It has several corridors and rooms. Similarly, on the eastern side was the big building of a *Sarai* (caravan Sarai). These two buildings complete the complex of religious and social establishments of the city of the early Arab days. The houses were divided into blocks with well-laid streets and lanes. The surfaces of the houses were mostly plastered with lime and whitewashed.

Mausura, the first Arab city, was founded near Brahmanbad, an ancient city. The remains are now located in the district of Shahdadpur. It was founded by Amir bin Muhammad bin Qasim who came to Sindh with Hakam bin Awana-al-Kalbi, and later succeeded him to governorship of Sindh, circumstantial between 110 and 120 A.H.

The remains of this ruined and forgotten city now cover an area of 9,000 feet by 4,500 feet, and rise to a maximum height of 35 feet above the surrounding level. Another mound, smaller in size, is situated to the south-east. Both the mounds are connected by an earth embankment. The main city represented by the bigger mound had a strong fortification of well-baked bricks strengthened by semicircular bastions placed at regular intervals. Within the fortification were market places, houses and other residential buildings, including a gateway with brick-paved floor.

The mosque discovered here is rectangular in plan, measuring 150 feet north-south and 250 feet east-west and surrounded

by a six-and-a-half feet wide boundary wall. The *Mehrab* of the mosque in the western wall is semi-circular in plan while the roof rested on posts of teak wood.

### Early Islamic Architecture

The inception and development of Islamic architecture in Pakistan owes a great deal to the inspiration from Central Asian traditions. It was due to the constant social and political contacts of the local people with the centers of excellence located at, for instance, Bukhara, Samarkand, Merv, Baghdad etc. The local people especially the affluent Muslims, often visited these centers. The impact deepened when immigrants from these places came and settled here as a result of Mongol invasion.

The specimens of early Islamic architecture in Pakistan have been found in Sindh and Balochistan and a tomb locally attributed to Muhammad bin Harun, an Arab governor, and located at Bela in Balochistan, may be regarded as its earliest known manifestation. Although no epigraphical or literary source is available to testify the attribution, stylistically it belongs to a date when ancient Pakistan was introduced to the

building traditions of Seljuk period. Square on plan, the brick structure is both interesting as well as instructive. The brick ornamentation with which its exterior is reverted is significant. The other specimen of this early phase, is the tomb of Shah Gardez at Adam Wali in Bahawalpur. The structure is constructed in mudbrick, both externally and internally, with burnt bricks. The zone of transition has been created with the help of corner squinches on which the high drum is placed and above it, the dome. For the first time, we notice here the concept of these 'storeys' utilized for planning such funerary memorials, and in that sense this specimen may be taken as the forerunner of the famous Multan style of architecture.

It was most probably after this initial experimentation that the tomb of Baha-ul-Haq Zakariya at Multan was designed in 1262, and then the mausoleum of Rukn-i-Alam between a period of 1320 and 1324. It has been said that the latter was originally built under the orders of Muhammad bin Tughluq as his own eternal abode, but was later on, given away to the descendants of the great saint for his burial.

homage to its martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to see the light of freedom and to have a separate homeland for the establishment of a progressive, democratic and an Islamic welfare state.

The Government of General Pervez Musharraf has instituted measures to lay solid foundations for the growth of real democracy, introduced wide ranging reforms in the economic and financial sectors to place the country on the path of prosperity and self-reliance and undertaken initiatives designed to promote regional and international peace and stability.

Pakistan regards Bangladesh as a reliable partner in the region with which it shares the 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.

On this auspicious occasion I extend my warmest felicitations to my compatriots and call upon them to work with renewed vigour and determination for the realization of Quaid-e-Azam's motto of "Unity, Faith and Discipline".

Today the nation pays



**General Pervez Musharraf**  
Chief Executive of Pakistan

### MESSAGE

14th August 1947 dawned as a day when the epic struggle for a free and independent homeland by Muslims of the South Asia under the unmatched leadership of Quaid-e-Azam bore fruit with Pakistan emerging on the map of the world as a sovereign nation-state. Today, we should refresh our memory with the noble and selfless endeavours of the Pakistan movement and take an objective stock of what we did afterwards.

There is much to reflect upon in Pakistan's history during the last fifty-three years. It has been termed as a period of missed opportunities. It is not tragic that a realm blessed in abundance with Allah Almighty's rich bounties having flowing rivers, rich and varied topography, the highest mountains, fertile plains, a vast virgin coastline, natural resources of every description, complemented by hard working, industrious and highly intelligent people, is today beset by grave economic, social and political problems?

The government has carried out an honest and critical assessment of this state of affairs, combined with a dispassionate appraisal of the reasons leading to our present plight, identified our shortcomings and prepared a viable national strategy for our future. I am of the opinion that it is the elite of the country — be it the feudal elite, business elite, official elite and most of all the political elite that have failed to provide the much-needed dynamism of leadership to the country. It is the elite that has exploited the people and abused the immense potential of our country for their petty personal gains in total disregard of greater national interests.

It is our firm resolve to end this exploitation. We will ensure that it does not happen again. Our government is determined to return unto the people of Pakistan all that is rightfully theirs. The mission is to fulfill the vision of Pakistan as seen by our great leader Quaid-e-Azam.

The plan for Devolution of Power and Responsibility is a major step for empowering the impoverished. Through the implementation of our policies government servants would be transformed into public servants. It will be ensured that all energies and resources at their disposal are utilized to serve the common man. Our plan is to lay the foundation of genuine democracy from the grass-roots upwards, in which the people can directly participate in administration, governance, identify and resolve their community's problems and contribute to building a strong, better and more prosperous Pakistan. Steps have been initiated to root out corruption from all walks of national life. The participation of every Pakistani at home and abroad is needed for the realization of this objective.

I wish all overseas Pakistanis best wishes on the country's Independence Day. Each and every one of you is our worthy Ambassador. We need your support for the progress of our nation, but most of all the country needs you through your deeds to project the proper image of Pakistan and its people.

Pakistan is more than a country, it is an ideology of hope for the Muslims of the South Asia, which has by no means ended. The sacrifices rendered by our Kashmiri brethren for their right of self-determination, despite being subjugated to the worst form of atrocities and abuses by the Indians in Indian Occupied Kashmir is living proof of this. Pakistan stands united with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just cause and will continue to extend all moral, diplomatic and political support to their indigenous struggle against state-sponsored terrorism.

I would like to assure the international community that Pakistan is a peace-loving and responsible country. We desire tranquil and harmonious co-existence with all countries of the world, particularly our neighbours and are aware that South Asia is an extremely volatile region due to the intractability of the Indian Government over Kashmir.

I congratulate the people of India on their independence day. I urge them and the Indian media to make their country's leadership shun obnoxious, stop the suppression in Indian held Kashmir show reciprocity to Pakistan's offer of meaningful dialogue. Let them come forward so that we can work together for peace in the region which is not possible without a resolution of the Kashmir dispute. This is essential for ensuring a bright and prosperous future for our peoples.

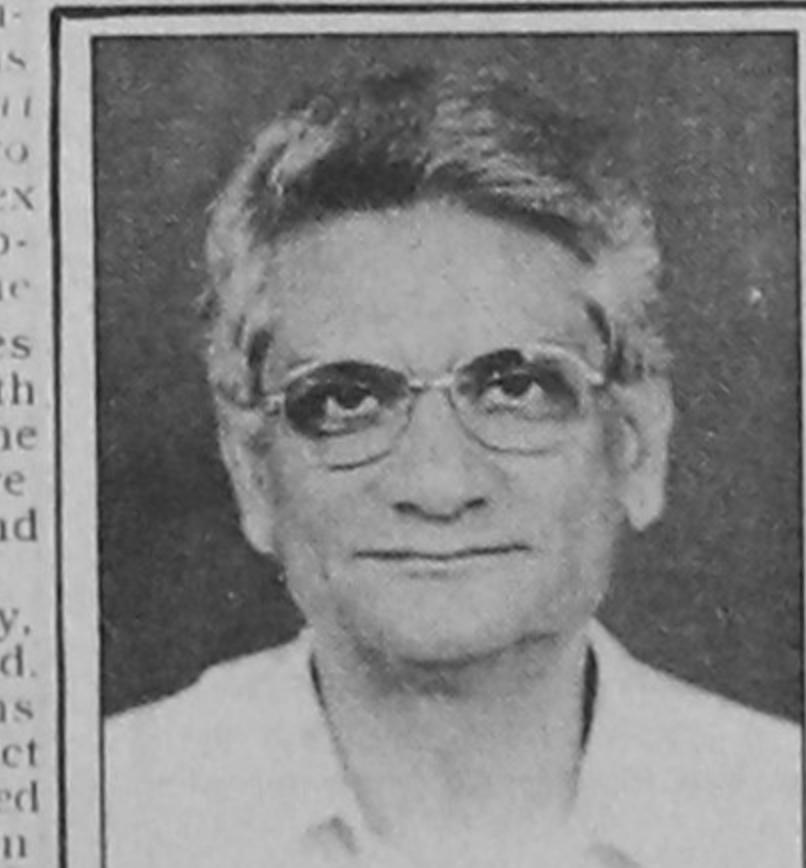
I pray to Allah Almighty to guide us in our endeavours on the correct and righteous path. Ameen!

## HIS VISION GAVE US ... OUR WINGS!



Pakistan International! Flag carrier of the nation in international skies. Flying to 92 destinations across 4 continents. On the wings of the Quaid's vision as ambassador of a modern and progressive country. Celebrating Independence Day with the people of Pakistan at home and across the world!

**PIA**  
Pakistan International  
Great people to fly with



**Iqbal Ahmad Khan**  
High Commissioner for  
Pakistan to Bangladesh  
**MESSAGE**

Pakistan emerged as an independent sovereign state on 14 August 1947. We are proud to celebrate today the 53rd anniversary of our national independence, achieved after a long and arduous struggle by Muslims of South Asia under the dynamic and able leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

On this auspicious occasion I extend my warmest felicitations to my compatriots and call upon them to work with renewed vigour and determination for the realization of Quaid-e-Azam's motto of "Unity, Faith and Discipline".

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homage to its martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to see the light of freedom and to have a separate homeland for the establishment of a progressive, democratic and an Islamic welfare state.

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Today the nation pays

**Highest Felicitations to the Government & People of Pakistan on the occasion of the Independence Day of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

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