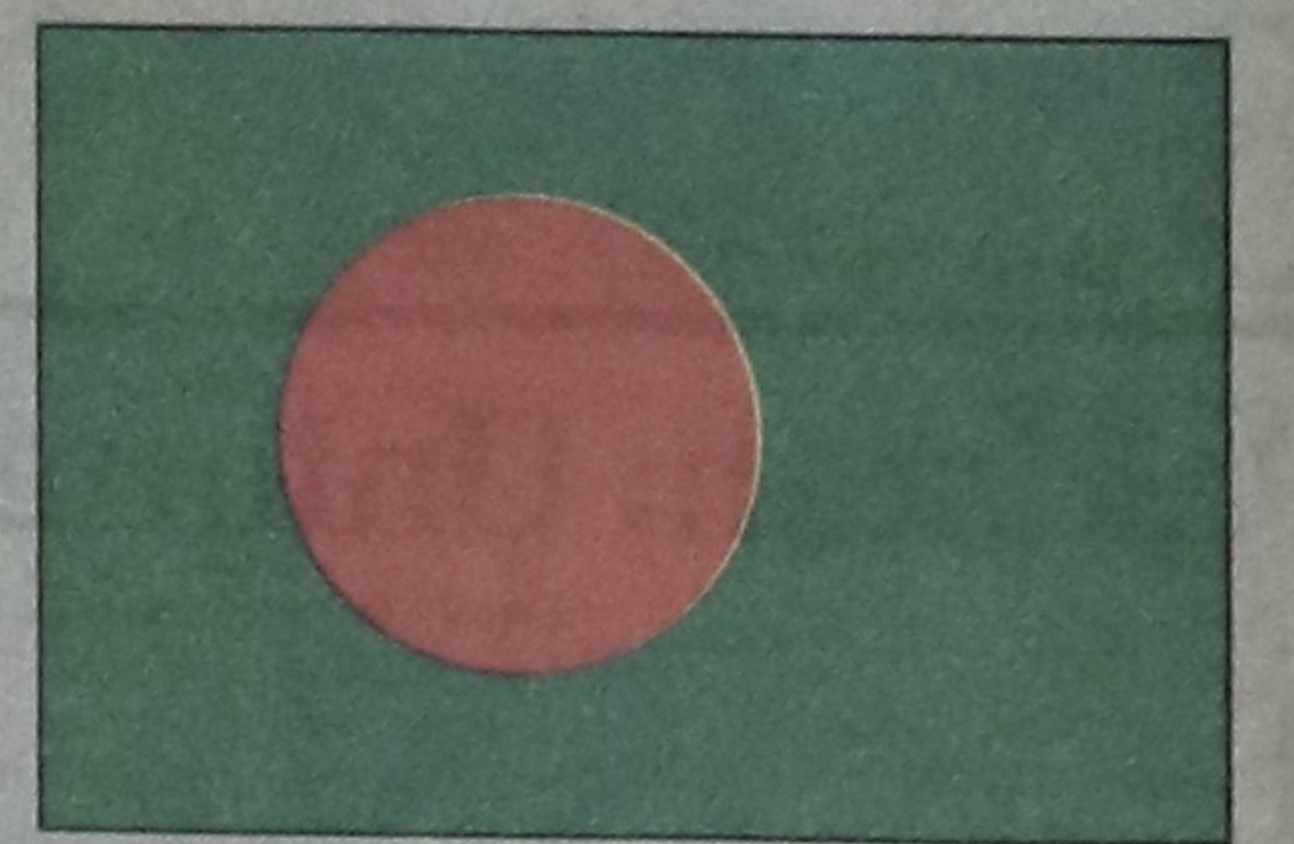


Welcome  
**PERVEZ MUSHARRAF**  
PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN



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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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## A profile

**G**ENERAL Pervez Musharraf, the second of three brothers, was born in Delhi on August 11, 1943. He spent his early childhood in Turkey (1949-1956) owing to his father's deputation in Ankara, and can consequently converse fluently in Turkish. Upon return to Pakistan, the General had his education in Saint Patrick's High School, Karachi and Forman Christian College, Lahore.

General Pervez Musharraf joined the Pakistan Military Academy in 1961 and was commissioned in an Artillery Regiment in 1964. He saw action in the 1965 War as a young officer and was awarded Imtiaz Sanad for gallantry. He later volunteered and served for seven years in the Special Services Group (SSG) "Commandos". He also participated in the 1971 War as a Company Commander in a Commando Battalion.

A graduate of Command and Staff College, Quetta and the National Defence College, General Pervez Musharraf also distinguished himself at the Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom.

During his illustrious military career, General Musharraf accumulated a diverse command experience. He not only had the privilege to command two Self-propelled Artillery Regiments as a Lieutenant Colonel, but also later had the distinction of commanding an Infantry Brigade as well as an Armoured Division Artillery as a Brigadier. On promotion to the rank of Major General on 15th January, 1991, he was given the command of an Infantry Division and later of a prestigious strike Corps as Lieutenant General on 21st October, 1995.

Aside from command experience, the General served on important staff and instructional appointments during his career. These include Deputy Military Secretary, Member of Directing Staff both at the Command and Staff College, Quetta and at the National Defence College, Rawalpindi. He served as Director General Military Operations at the General Headquarters from 1993 to 1995.

General Pervez Musharraf was promoted to the rank of General on 7th October, 1998 and appointed Chief of Army Staff. He was given the additional charge of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee on 9th April, 1999. Since 12th of October, 1999, he has been performing his duties as the Chief Executive of Pakistan and was sworn in as the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 20th June 2001. He continues to hold the office of Chief Executive, Chief of Army Staff and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

He married Sehba Farid, on 27th December, 1968. They have two children, a son and a daughter, both now married and settled in their respective lives. General and Mrs. Musharraf are grandparents by virtue of their grand daughter, Maryam and Zainab, from daughter, Ayla.

He is a keen sportsman and spends his leisure time playing squash, badminton or golf. From his college years, he has retained his keen interest in water sports such as canoeing and sailing. An avid reader, General Musharraf is particularly well versed in Military History his favourite subject.



General Pervez Musharraf  
President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## Pakistan – a land of opportunities

S R KAZMI

**A**s a nation, Pakistan has a rich and ancient past. The culture of Pakistan presents a beautiful blend of old and new, mystic and modern. The diversity and wide extent of Pakistan's geographical range has endowed it with a richly varied appearance, from the perennially snow capped mountains in the north to the beautiful sunny beaches in the south. These include the famous Karakoram Highway built on the ancient "Silk-Route" in Hunza and Gilgit, the beautiful valleys of Kaghan and Swat, the rugged and rocky Khyber Pass, the historic cities of Peshawar, Lahore and Multan, the serene and silent sites of Taxilla, Mohenjodaro and Harappa, the fertile plains of the Punjab -- the land of five rivers -- and the vast coastal-lands of Baluchistan and Sindh leading to the large commercial and cosmopolitan city of Karachi. The variety of Pakistan's scenic beauty, its Buddhist, Muslim and British legacies, the diversity of the terrain, the variety of flora and fauna, the wide range of temperatures, the different types of climate and, above all, the very friendly and hospitable Pakistanis, all combine to make the country interesting and attractive to any foreign visitor.

Pakistan ranks among the fast-growing economies in Asia with a 5 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth-rate. Agriculture contributes to 24 per cent of GDP. It's the mainstay of the economy and employs about 48 per cent of the manpower. The share of the manufacturing sector in GDP has been increasing steadily and has shown a growth rate of over 8 per cent over the years. Cotton-yarn and textiles land the manufacturing sector. With the liberalisation of the economy and the structural reforms initiated by the government, there has been a growing emphasis on the development of the engineering, electrical and non-electrical machinery, automobile, chemical and processed food industries. The economic package being implemented by the Government of Pakistan encompasses a comprehensive programme to revitalise the economy, assigning high priority to harnessing to potential of the agricultural sector, promoting small and medium-sized industries, stimulating industrial growth, encouraging oil and gas sector development and arranging the growth of the soft-

ware and information technology industry.

Owing to the policies of the government to adopt a market-friendly approach, Pakistan is now viewed as a leading emerging market. This perception has resulted in a strong flow of foreign investment and collaboration in various fields. Pakistan offers very profitable investment opportunities to both local and foreign investors, and private investment is being encouraged in major sectors of the economy. Pakistan has a fairly large market with an availability of skilled and trained manpower at competitive rates. There is also a large emerging middle class in the country. Pakistan, due to its strategic location, provides an ideal transit route to the markets of Iran, Central Asian Republics and the Middle East.

Pakistan has a developed financial sector consisting of many public, private and foreign commercial banks and the financial institutions. Commercial banks have assets of over 1 trillion rupees, of which domestic banks hold about 80 per cent and the rest is shared by foreign banks. In addition to providing working capital and long-term financing to investors, these banks offer a range of vital facilities, such as remittances of profits or dividends and foreign currency accounts. Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad have developed stock exchanges with an aggregate capitalization of over \$20 billion. Hence, Pakistan is an attractive destination for expanding economic activity.

High-quality Telecom and IT services are available in the country. The government has waived all taxes on items pertaining to information technology and all duties have been lifted from raw materials imported for re-export purposes. Pakistan's record in intellectual property rights has been good and there is a stable legal system that offers protection to all. Law and order has been under control. The constitution and business laws are in place, which provide the most liberal investment policies for foreign direct investment (FDI) in all economic sectors. The country features attractive investment incentives and equal-investment opportunities for foreign and domestic investors. Repatriation of capital, profits and dividends is fully allowed. Pakistan is proud of having an investor-friendly environment with single-window opportunity.

## Pakistan-Bangladesh relations

DR. MAQBOOL AHMAD BHATTY

**S**ITUATED in the Northwest and Northeast of South Asian sub-continent, Pakistan and Bangladesh share common perceptions and interests on significant aspects of bilateral, regional and global interaction. These provide credible basis for close and friendly relations. History and a shared

culture make it imperative for them to cooperate for mutual benefit and to work together to promote regional peace and stability in South Asia.

The peoples living in the two countries share a long history during which Islam entered the sub-continent from the west, by sea and by land, spreading westwards. After colonisation by the British, which

spread from the east to the west over the 18th and 19th centuries, the Muslim populations concentrated in the two extremities of the peninsula and became partners in the struggle to safeguard their rights. The All India Muslim League was founded in Dhaka in 1906.

The Pakistan Resolution was introduced by the Lion of Bengal, Mr. A K Fazlul Haq on 23 March at

the historic session of the Muslim League held in Lahore on 23 March 1940.

Political errors were made during the first two decades of Pakistan's existence, and Pakistan split in 1971, amid circumstances that resulted in negative historical baggage. However, though the separation of former East Pakistan as Bangladesh took place rather painfully, the relationship between Pakistan and Bangladesh has overcome psychological barriers. It has turned into a genuine friendship as reflected in a mutually beneficial, growing cooperation in many fields. Pakistan recognised Bangladesh during the Second Islamic Summit that was held at Lahore in February 1974. Since then, relations between them have acquired content and momentum of their own.

Pakistan and Bangladesh share important foreign policy objectives. These include the safeguarding of national security, betterment of the life of their people through economic development, promotion of peace and stability in their region and the world, and advancing their national ideology and prestige. The two countries have adopted the path of non-alignment, but at the same time are wedded to the concept of progress through international cooperation. This extends from the regional level, through SAARC, to the expanding spheres of commonalities in the Islamic context through OIC, and the worldwide group of developing countries, to face the challenges of globalisation.

Pak-Bangla interaction has passed through several phases. In particular, the respective political evolution in the two countries after 1971 has influenced their mutual relations. After a period of turbulence General Ziaur Rahman emerged as the President of Bangladesh and remained at the helm till his assassination in 1981. He developed closer links with Islamic countries, including Pakistan, as also with the major powers ranging from the US and Europe to China. His most important contribution was the initiative he took in 1980 to launch the concept of SAARC, for which he was able to win the support of the leaders of both India and Pakistan.

Pakistan-Bangladesh relations have acquired a momentum of their own. Trade and various forms of cooperation have developed. Friendly relations reflect the basic goodwill existing between their peoples and all-round cooperation serves their mutual interests. The position of Bangladesh as the third

largest country in South Asia, with a predominantly Muslim population, makes it an important neighbour of Pakistan. Their links of common faith and history and similarity of perceptions on a wide range of regional and international issues provide basis for a cordial and mutually beneficial relationship. This friendship is not only a source of strength to them, but is also a factor of stability in the regional balance of power. Significant all-round cooperation has developed between them in the context of such multilateral bodies as SAARC, OIC, NAM, D-8 and the UN and its specialised agencies. They have also benefited from each other's experience in tackling similar issues, such as family planning, and rural micro-credit.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have taken similar stands on terrorism. Both are equally strongly opposed to this menace. They condemn it unreservedly and fully support the US-led fight against terrorism. They were among the first few states to permit multinational forces to use their airspace, seaports, airports as well as refuelling facilities to combat terrorism. Pakistan has been in the vanguard of that fight. In the case of Bangladesh, its offer of facilities for the US-led operations was not utilised. Yet it has won Dhaka due acknowledgement from the international community.

The economic cooperation between the two countries has been growing and they have set up a Joint Economic Commission, which last met in 1998. Mr. Abdur Razzak Dawood, Minister of Commerce and Industries visited Bangladesh in January 2002. The balance of bilateral trade has been in favour of Pakistan. Its exports were worth \$133 million last year against imports of \$33 million. It has been agreed that measures would be taken to increase imports from Bangladesh.

The visit of President Musharraf of Bangladesh is taking place at a time when the sub-continent is in the grip of a crisis. The Government of Bangladesh favours de-escalation, and the resumption of a peaceful dialogue, to avert the threat of war that could turn nuclear.

Thus, while maintaining a discreet attitude of avoiding involvement in Indo-Pakistan issues, Bangladesh has attained the high moral ground by favouring a peaceful dialogue, and underlining the need for finding a settlement of the festering Kashmir dispute.

### National Bank of Pakistan

extends its heartiest felicitations to

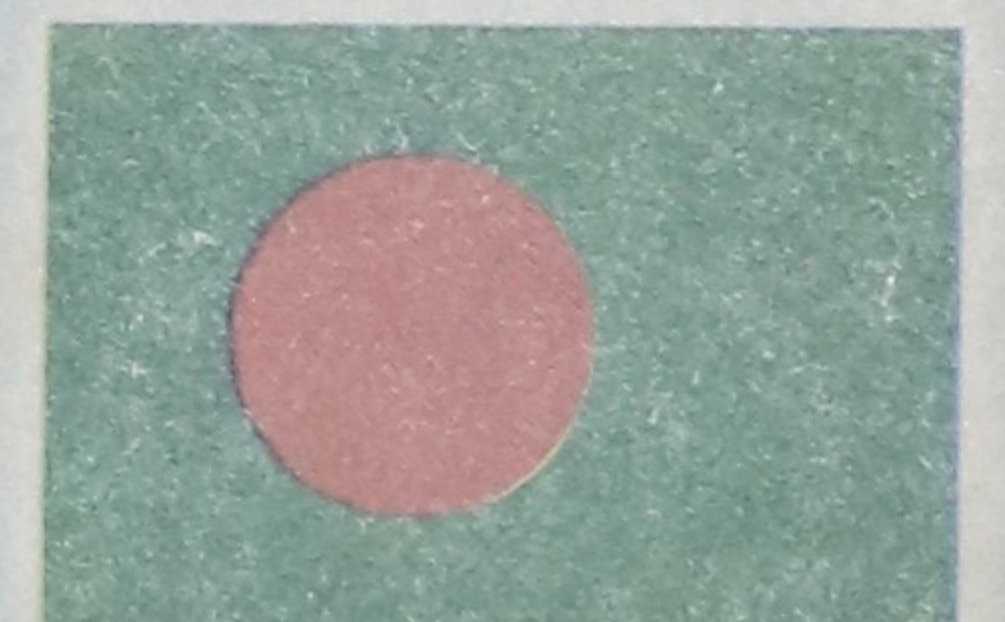
### President Pervez Musharraf

on his visit to brotherly

### Bangladesh

on the invitation of

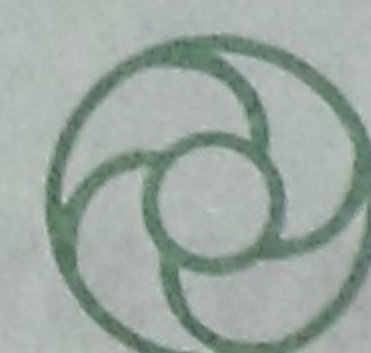
### Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia



Insha Allah this visit will augur well for further cementing the brotherly ties with fellow Muslim country Bangladesh. Together, we shall move forward to make a better future for the people of our nations in particular and the entire SAARC region in general.

### National Bank of Pakistan

joins them in the mission to improve the economic and social conditions of their people



### National Bank of Pakistan

-the nation's bank



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