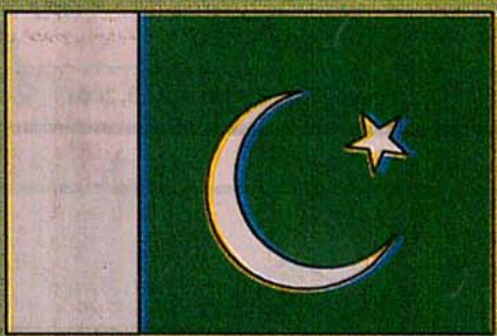




PAKISTAN DAY



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

MARCH 23, 2004



Pervez Musharraf
President of Pakistan

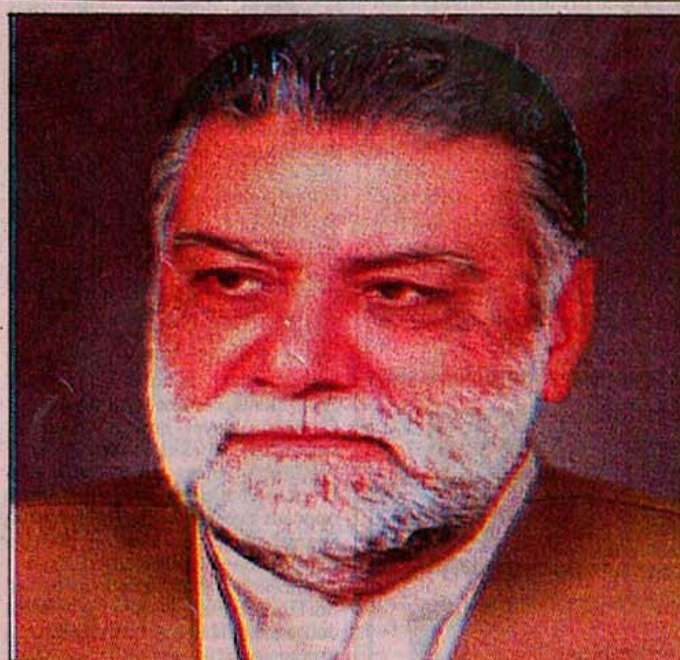
Message

23RD March, 2004 23rd of March observed as Pakistan Day every year is truly a historic milestone in our nation's quest for independence from colonial rule. It is a manifestation of the resolve of the Muslims of South Asia and their unanimous will resulting in the creation of Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah; a homeland where they could live in peace, harmony and in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

On this occasion I would like to urge all Pakistanis to remain steadfast and united to achieve the ideals and aspirations for which our country was created. As we commemorate this day we have to remember that the struggle must go on, particularly against those forces that aim to deflect us from our cherished goal of making Pakistan a modern and progressive Islamic Welfare State.

Allah has gifted our country with tremendous natural resources and our people with immense capabilities. They have always faced up to every challenge in the past, whether it was related to the creation of Pakistan or to its defence. I am confident that if we abide by the guiding principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline given by the Quaid-e-Azam, we will InshaAllah make Pakistan an impregnable fortress of democracy, peace, progress and attain our rightful place in the comity of nations.

May Allah be with us in our endeavours. Ameen.
Pakistan Paindabad



Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Message

TODAY the nation is celebrating the sixty-fourth anniversary of the passing of the historic Pakistan Resolution. This document served as the seed for the plant that was to sprout on 14th August 1947 and grow into the great tree that it is today. This was the tree that has given shade and shelter to the 70 million Muslims of the subcontinent who wanted a homeland of their own in which they could live in accordance with their religious, cultural and intellectual aspirations.

The day reminds us of the exciting and momentous times when the Muslims of the sub-continent rallied around the dynamic personality of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and under his inspiring leadership resolved to carve out for themselves an independent and sovereign country. The people of Pakistan can never forget the debt they owe to that unique man, who almost single-handedly guided them to their goal. He was neither overawed by the might of the British rulers nor was he cowed by the brute non-Muslim majority, both forces vehemently opposed to the Pakistan idea. He succeeded because the Muslim nation was united behind him and fought for Pakistan like one man.

Let me remind you, my countrymen, that in the present environment it is all the more imperative for us to place national unity and integrity above everything else. If we want to build a prosperous and stable future for ourselves we shall have to shed petty differences and controversies and subordinate our personal and parochial wishes to the higher values of life that Unity, Faith and Discipline demand from us, and always keep in mind these three words left us as a legacy by the Father of the Nation.

Let us, today, renew our covenant to make Pakistan an enlightened, modern Islamic welfare State.

May Allah bless us with the ability and the wisdom to follow the Quaid's motto in letter and spirit. Ameen!
Pakistan Paindabad!



Manzoor Shafiq
High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh

Message

THE 23rd of March is a red-letter day in the history of Pakistan. On this day in 1940 was adopted the historic Lahore Resolution which envisioned the creation of Pakistan as an independent state. It marked a turning point in our struggle for freedom, giving our people a concrete goal. With an unshakable faith in their destiny and a remarkable unity in their ranks, they triumphed over heavy odds to build a country of their own. Under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, they were able to transform, within a short period of seven years, the vision of Pakistan into reality.

Pakistan has achieved a lot since independence. But nation-building is a continuous process and we have set ourselves new and higher goals. With improved governance and political stability, Pakistan has registered steady progress in diverse fields. Our

economic growth, at 5.3 per cent in 2003, is set to exceed 6 per cent this year. We are aiming at raising it to 7 per cent in 2005. Already, we have reached record levels in foreign exchange reserves, exports to other countries, revenue collection as well as remittances sent by Pakistanis working abroad. Successful economic reforms, a stable currency, reduced cost of doing business and improved law and order generated a 71 per cent increase in FDI during 2003. Privatization is proceeding apace as is the disinvestment of Government holdings. These include Pakistan State Oil, Karachi Electric Supply Corporation, Oil and Gas Development Corporation and the banking sector. Several mega projects have been initiated in recent years, in particular, Gawader deep-sea port, Saindak Gold Project, gas pipeline link with Iran and Central Asia as well as new highways across the country.

Pakistan attaches high priority to close brotherly relations with Bangladesh. These are special in many ways - rooted in a common history, shared values, mutual goodwill and identity of interests. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited Pakistan in January this year to attend the 12th SAARC Summit. She held valuable talks with President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali. Earlier, President Musharraf and Begum Khaleda Zia had met on the sidelines of the NAM and OIC summits held in Malaysia in February and October 2003, respectively. Talks between the top leaders have been reflective of the close understanding that characterizes our brotherly relations.

Trade and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Pakistan

has maintained an upward trend. The two-way trade increased by 14 per cent during 2002-03 and by triple that rate during the first half of the current year. The duty-free access given to Bangladeshi jute and tea in Pakistani markets has been particularly helpful in this regard. A number of Bangladeshi students have been pursuing studies in Pakistan. Scholarships allocated to them have been increased twice during the past two years to accommodate more students. The additional scholarships are meant for studies in Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, IT and MBA - areas which could be of maximum interest and value to students from Bangladesh.

Regional peace and co-operation have been a high priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. We have been in the vanguard of the fight against terrorism and have taken important initiatives on the regional plane. I am glad to note that the 12th SAARC Summit held in Islamabad (4-6 January, 2004) was a great success. The Heads of Government of all the member states, assembled in Pakistan, made valuable contributions to regional co-operation. Bangladesh, as the birthplace of SAARC, has a place of eminence in this premier regional organization of South Asia. We are confident that SAARC, having taken a new start, will play its rightful role more effectively in the months and years ahead.

As we celebrate our National Day, I felicitate all Pakistanis living in Bangladesh and extend my greetings to the brotherly people of Bangladesh. I wish Pakistan-Bangladesh friendship continued strength and stability to the mutual advantage of our two peoples.

Review of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

DR MAQBOOL AHMAD BHATTY

GIVEN Pakistan's geographical situation at the junction of West, Central and South Asia, and the turbulence and instability found in what has been called the "arc of crisis" in the world, Pakistan's foreign policy has had to cope with multiple and daunting challenges. Afghanistan to the west has witnessed internal instability, foreign military intervention, and the onslaught of the Coalition against Terrorism after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against US.

Apart from the political and military threats to its security, Pakistan shares the economic and social problems of the developing countries, so that its foreign policy should not only focus on security, but also on development in a world whose resources are shared unequally. The past year saw the government, in which the representatives elected in the October 2002 return to democracy, were playing an increasingly active role, tackle new challenges, and create new opportunities for peace in the region.

Having started its term on the UN Security Council from January 2003, Pakistan had to play its role on the world stage during a year the world body was subjected to strong pressure by the Bush Administration to rubber stamp its preemption in Iraq. Pakistan played a principled role, joining the majority, which sought a continuing UN role in determining whether Iraq posed a real threat. After the Bush-Blair led coalition decided to go ahead anyway, and its forces got bogged down, Pakistan resisted pressures to send its own forces except under international auspices.

With the US encountering resistance on a national scale in Iraq, the Bush doctrine of preemption, and specifically the war on Iraq were questioned. At the same time, the influence of the neo-conservatives remained dominant, and in the campaign to ban or eliminate weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), Pakistan, the only nuclear capable Islamic country remained in their hostile focus. Pressure mounted against Iran, as well as Syria, and indeed the tendency to view the Islamic world in an adversarial light was intensified.

Pakistan's foreign policy had to maintain the delicate balance between safeguarding Islamic concerns on the one hand and the war against terror on the other. President Musharraf, as well as Prime Minister Jamali, conducted diplomacy at the personal level, to cement ties with the developed countries for security and development, and to reinforce links with Islamic and regional countries. Pakistan acquired a central role in the war against terrorism, on account of its strategic location. At the same time, Islamabad continued to play a leading role in promoting the image of moderate Islam, as well as in fostering regional cooperation.

The past year will stand out for successful handling of challenges in several key areas. Pakistan hosted the 12th SAARC Summit in Islamabad, from January 4 to 6, 2004. This grouping had been held back by tensions between India and Pakistan almost since its inception. Despite obduracy from New Delhi, Pakistan continued to take measures for reconciliation, and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee decided to respond. He not only attended the SAARC summit, but also reached an agreement with the Pakistani leadership to resume the dialogue with Pakistan that had been held up since the Agra Summit.

The first round held at the level of officials in Islamabad in February, agreed on a roadmap of further negotiations on the basis of the agenda that had been agreed in June 1997. President Musharraf played a leading role in creating the right environment for this paradigm

change that could be the harbinger of a new era of peace and progress in South Asia. Judging from the popular will in favour of good-neighbourly relations, and of ameliorating poverty, the outlook is indeed bright.

A serious challenge for our foreign policy emerged towards the end of 2003, as Libya agreed to open its WMD programmes to international inspection, and evidence of transfer of nuclear technology from Pakistan to Libya and Iran came to light in documents provided to IAEA. President Musharraf handled the resultant crisis, in which sanctions could have again been slapped and Pakistan's nuclear programme endangered, with great skill. He agreed to cooperate fully with IAEA, and while declaring that it was never official policy to transfer nuclear technology to other countries, instituted personal inquiries into

the personal conduct of scientists and other personnel with access to such technology.

Though the inquiries involved highly respected figures who had played a key role in promoting national security, they drew forth confessions that unearthed a global black market involving other countries. Pakistan's role was seen in a different light, as a country opposed to proliferation. The US leadership, as well as that of EU expressed satisfaction over the way the matter was handled.

Pakistan's relations with the major powers were promoted and developed in a manner that would be seen as mutually beneficial. The country's role was recognized as crucial in a region where most of the world's trouble spots were located. President Musharraf's championship of a role of "enlightened moderation" for Pakistan and the Islamic

world was widely appreciated. The relationship with trusted friends, such as China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey continued to gain in depth and content.

Apart from security related issues, the major tasks of development and poverty amelioration also remained at the centre of foreign policy. The main content of relations with the developed countries, notably the US, EU and Japan continues to be that of addressing these concerns, and Pakistan's improved pace of development represents the success of this approach. Apart from the bilateral sphere, the avenue of regional cooperation has received due attention.

The past year will be remembered for the infusion of new life into SAARC as a result of the Summit held in Islamabad. Significant progress was made in moving towards free trade, and

with Indo-Pakistan relations moving in a positive direction, this grouping is expected to become more effective in fostering cooperation and development.

Pakistan also played host to the first meeting of Finance Ministers of ECO countries, at which important decisions were taken to increase cooperation, notably in trade and communications. Pakistan is building up its infrastructure of ports and highways to provide an outlet to the sea to the many members that are land-locked. The 4th Summit of D-8 countries in Tehran promises to give additional fillip to Pakistan's interaction with the Islamic countries.

Overall, the past year witnessed Pakistan playing a growing role in the world, a role in which the emphasis was always on consolidating peace, and promoting the well being of the people.

With best wishes
on the Occasion of
Pakistan Day



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Boeing 777

Together we rise

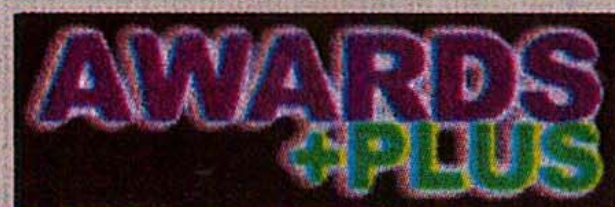
PIA Pakistan International

London - New York - Chicago - Toronto

SUMMER SCHEDULE effective 28th Mar '04 to 30th OCT '04

DAY	FLT NO	SECTOR	DEP	ARR
SAT	PK 266	KARACH-DHAKA	0730	1145
TUE	PK 266	KARACH/DHAKA	0730	1145
THU	PK 266	KARACH/DHAKA	0830	1245
SAT	PK 267	DHAKA-KARACHI	1305	1530
TUE	PK 267	DHAKA/KARACH	1305	1530
THU	PK 267	DHAKA/KARACH	1405	1630

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