

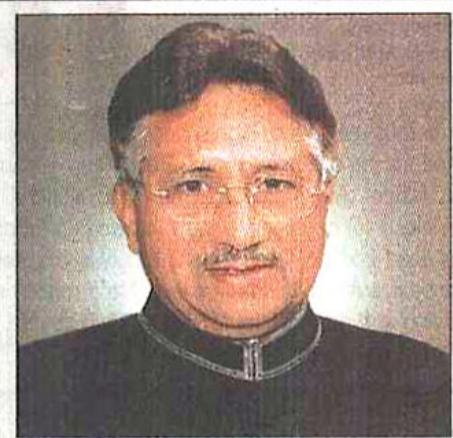


The Daily Star

# Pakistan Day



MARCH 23, 2007



General Pervez Musharraf  
President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## MESSAGE

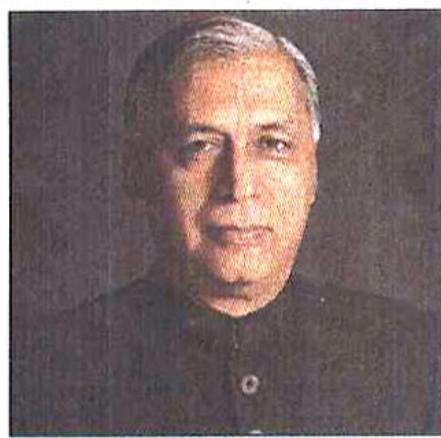
Pakistan Day is a truly historic milestone in our nation's quest for independence from colonial rule. It is a manifestation of the resolve of the Muslims of South Asia, and their unanimous will resulting in the creation of Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah; a homeland where they could live in peace, harmony without fear of domination of subjugation.

From that momentous day in 1940, our nation has come a long way. Having attained independence on 14th August 1947 against seemingly insurmountable odds, our country has been confronted with many challenges both external and internal in the post independence period. The problems have indeed been many as well as complex. It most certainly goes to the credit of the Pakistani nation that we have always risen to the occasion and successfully overcome adversity by demonstrating patriotism, steadfastness, resilience and unwavering faith in Almighty Allah.

Pakistan is rapidly moving on the path of progress and development. Reforms in all sectors have been successfully introduced and are bearing fruit and a new direction has been given to our nation's destiny in line with the principles given to us by our founders.

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 Inshallah 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!



Shaukat Aziz  
Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## MESSAGE

Today we are celebrating the 67th anniversary of the Pakistan 'Resolution'. On this day in 1940, in a resolution adopted in Lahore by the All-India Muslim League, the Muslims of India vowed to strive for a homeland of their own. Under the inspiring and matchless leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, they succeeded in creating a new state for ordering their lives compatible with their religious,

social, political and cultural aspirations.

Our ideological strength lies in our firm adherence to Islam, and our progress and prosperity depend on the cherished principles of Unity, Faith & Discipline, the motto given by the Father of the Nation. Let me add that by acting on this motto, conscientiously and sincerely, we can hope to build our future on the lines visualized in the momentous Pakistan Resolution.

Today we have to remember that the Quaid's motto was for everyone in Pakistan -- the rich and the poor, the ruler and the ruled, women as much as men, young as well as old; and, of course, all the provinces and regions of the country. Without keeping these facts in mind, we shall lose the inspiration that these three words provide us and start wandering aimlessly among the comity of nations.

Let me remind my fellow citizens, 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 the motto demands.

Therefore, let us renew our covenant today to make Pakistan a developed, enlightened, forward looking, progressive and 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!

## MESSAGE

On 23rd March the people of Pakistan celebrate their National Day with great fervour and pride. On this day in 1940 the historic Lahore Resolution was adopted which spelt out the demand of the Muslims of the Sub-continent for a separate and independent homeland. It served as the starting point for the freedom movement which successfully culminated in the independence of Pakistan on 14th August 1947.

Since then, the South Asian region has witnessed significant developments. Today, our nations are striving to achieve economic progress and prosperity in a world transformed by the information technology revolution and globalization. Together they have created new opportunities and challenges for us.

On 23rd March the people of Pakistan rejoice their freedom. At the same time, it is an occasion for reflection on where we are today and where we want to be in the future. Like all nations, we seek socio-economic development at home and friendly and cooperative relations with other countries.

As part of this endeavour, Bangladesh-Pakistan relations are now on a new trajectory based on the shared aspirations of our people of peace and stability in the region and economic progress and well-being at home. Our special relationship continues to expand and deepen encompassing a wide range of areas of mutually beneficial and cooperative inter-action.

People-to-people contacts continue to grow. In addition to the regular travelers and visitors, last year we saw the exchange of delegations comprising academics, intellectuals, think-tanks and media representatives. Cultural interaction has increased. A number of Bangladeshi artists have held highly successful painting exhibitions in various cities of Pakistan. At the same time, Pakistani artists and musicians have held exhibitions and concerts in Bangladesh.

Cooperation in the fields of education and health has further grown. For academic year 2006-7, 18 Bangladeshi students successfully secured scholarships in various universities in Pakistan. 12 scholarships are in the field of medicine and remaining 6 in engineering. Three computer lab centers have been established in schools in different parts of Bangladesh. Two fully equipped ambulances were made available to the Chittagong District Health Authority and one each to Dhaka and Bogra. In addition, equipment was provided to several charitable hospitals in the country.

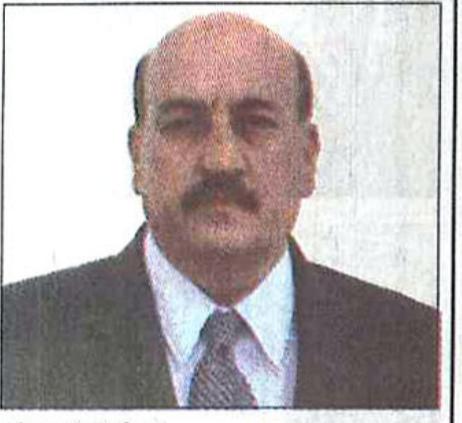
Our economic relations have entered a new phase. Bilateral trade has shown a 20 per cent

growth from US\$267 million in 2004-5 to approximately US\$340 million in 2005-6. Seventy per cent of Pakistan's exports to Bangladesh are in the form of raw materials for its export oriented garments industry creating benefits of value addition for the country. Foreign Direct Investment from Pakistan to Bangladesh now amounts to approximately US\$90 million. Economic complementarities exist between our two countries which need to be further harnessed through establishment of more forward and backward linkages, particularly in the textile and services sectors.

As members of SAFTA, bilateral economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh would receive fresh impetus. Pakistan and Bangladesh are members of D-8 which provides an additional mechanism to further enhance the ongoing cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The private sector has also joined this growing trend. The two Chambers of Commerce and Industry met last year and established a Joint Business Council. Over 60 Pakistani business firms participated in the Dhaka International Trade Fair 2007. Pakistan also participated in the Chittagong International Trade Fair 2007 for the first time as Partner Country. Bangladeshi and Pakistani women entrepreneurs have also come together and successfully held trade fairs in Dhaka and Chittagong.

I invite the people of Bangladesh to jointly build upon these new trends in our relationship for the mutual benefit of our two countries. Through cooperative ventures, we can help each other chart a better future. I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the brotherly people of Bangladesh.



Alamgir Babar  
High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh

## 2007-visit Pakistan year

DFP RESEARCH CELL

**Y**EAR 2007 has been designated as 'Visit Pakistan Year' by the government to exploit true tourism potential of the country. A glance at the global tourism industry reveals that tourism tops the world trade in terms of export earnings, employment, infrastructure development, benefits to the environment as well as local cultures. Its importance can be gauged from the fact that during last year over 715 million arrivals and \$ 480 billion expenditure entailing tourism related activities were reported from different regions of the world. However, Pakistan has negligible share in the global tourism market, despite home to peculiar flora, fauna and precious cultural heritage dating back even to pre-historic age. The government is not oblivious to the importance as well as enormous

potential of the country's tourism. Designating 2007 as 'Visit Pakistan Year' is an extension of state policy to promote both domestic and foreign tourism. During the last few years, substantial inbound business travels due to extraordinary growth of economy, have given positive exposure to our tourist products and services.

Pakistan has numerous attractions for the tourists from all over the world. Pakistan cradles half a dozen ancient civilizations which include Indus valley civilization (2500 BC), Aryan civilization (1500 BC), Persian civilization (600 BC), Greek civilization (327 BC) Muslim civilization, (712 AD). Ancient civilization sites of Mehrgarh (Balochistan), Moenjodaro (Sindh), Harappa and Taxila (Punjab) provide invaluable opportunity of study particularly to the curious minds interested in ancient history. Likewise over 900km long coastline of the country's crystal clear water and

clean sandy beaches, lagoons, mangroves, swamps and soothing sunshine offer plenty of attractions to the marine life lovers. Manchar Lake in Sindh province with its highly pulsating expanse of about 200 sq miles is famous for its foliage of towering grasses, its meadows of floating lotus, and its inhabitants in their boat houses. Away from Arabian sea shores, in the interior of Sindh, "Halji Lake" is the largest fowl reserve of Asian continent serving as a temporary abode for the hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. For the bird watchers, the lake is next to paradise. Majestic landscape of the Northern Pakistan is unique as it is adorned by three of the mightiest mountain systems -- the Hindu Kush, the Karakorum and the Himalayas. For the benefit of those interested in statistics, it is pointed that 40 out of 50 of the world's highest mountain peaks are in Pakistan. In Baltistan, a northern district of

(Abridged)

Courtesy: Pakistan Pictorial

## Felicitations on the Occasion of the National Day of Pakistan



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