



# Pakistan Day



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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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**Asif Ali Zardari**  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

### Message

**T**ODAY is an auspicious day. Sixty nine years ago, on this day, the Muslims of the subcontinent through a formal resolution expressed their firm resolve to achieve a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could fashion their lives in accordance with their own values, culture, mores and traditions. With the blessings of Allah and through an unprecedented struggle the Muslims of the subcontinent achieved their lofty objective within a short span of seven years. On this auspicious occasion I wish to greet the entire Pakistani nation.

When our founding fathers resolved to carve out an independent state, they had in

mind a state where constitutionalism and rule of law reigned supreme. For a long time and at intervals the rule of law and Constitutionalism has been trampled by dictators sometime under the doctrine of necessity and sometime under the theory of successful revolution. This cycle must come to an end. It will.

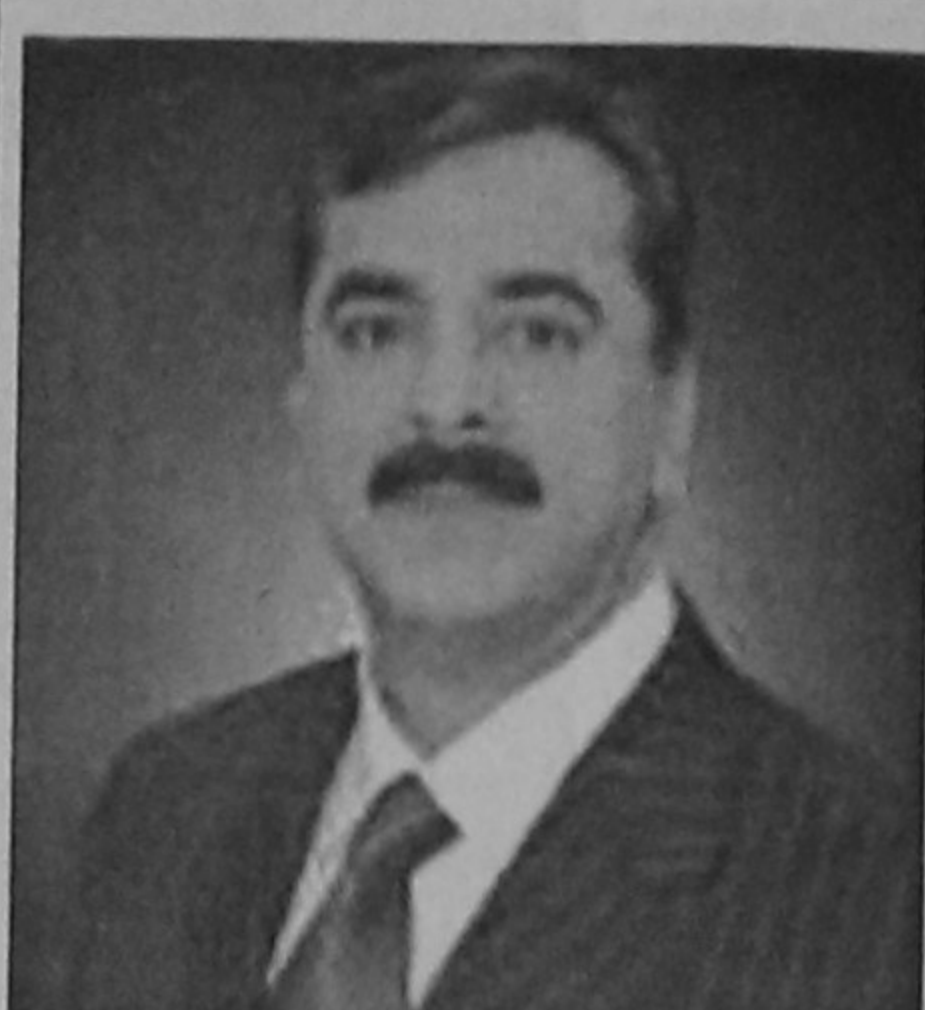
The restoration recently of the deposed Judges has raised the expectations of the people to witness an end to this cycle.

On this day I urge everyone to work in the spirit of tolerance, mutual accommodation and respect for dissent and invite every one to participate in the national effort for national reconciliation and healing the wounds.

On this day let us all resolve that we shall endeavour to uphold the Constitution, rule of law and work for the emancipation of the people. I hope that towards this end in view all institutions of the state will work in harmony.

Let us on this day also resolve to fight the tendency to have one set of laws for the privileged and another for the unprivileged. Let us dedicate ourselves to upholding the independence of judiciary in accordance with the Constitution and the guidelines given in the Charter of Democracy. Unless there is rule of law and everyone is equal before law, the future of our great country will be exposed to internal and external threats.

I am confident that if we adhere to Constitution and democratic principles we will transform our country into a truly welfare state as envisaged by the founding fathers. I pray to Almighty Allah to bless our efforts to prove ourselves worthy of the heritage bequeathed to us by the Quaid-e-Azam.



**Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani**  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

### Message

**S**ixty-nine years ago on this day, the Muslims of the sub-continent resolved to achieve a homeland of their own where they could live in accordance with their religious beliefs and culture and intellectual inspirations.

On this day, the democratic struggle for Pakistan was launched under the far-sighted and inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Praise be to Allah that the resolute effort of the people was crowned with success within a

short period of seven years.

While we celebrate this memorable achievement, we must also remember the unprecedented sacrifices of our forefathers for a strong, progressive and forward looking independent Islamic welfare state, where they could build an enlightened, tolerant and moderate society that ensures social justice and equal opportunities to all its citizens, irrespective of their caste, creed, colour and gender.

Our democratically elected government is committed to strengthening the democratic order to achieve these objectives. We shall continue to fight the evil of extremism, sectarianism and terrorism that slows down our march towards achievement of these goals, with all the strength at our command and strive to make Pakistan rise in the comity of nations.

I would also like to remind you that in the present environment, it is all the more imperative for us to place our national unity and integrity above any other consideration. Let us inculcate unity among our ranks and discipline in every aspect of our individual and collective lives. Let petty differences be subordinated to higher values of life which demand Unity, Faith and Discipline.

May Allah grant us strength and perseverance to remain united and devoted to the well-being of Pakistan and its people.

## Pakistan National Council of the Arts

**P**AKISTAN National Council of the Arts is entrusted with the role of promoting the visual and performing arts in the country. It safeguards the interest of the artist community, promotes and projects national heritage, and plays a crucial role in building a positive image for Pakistan in the domestic and international arena. PNCA is the apex organization in implementing the National Cultural Policy.

Since the inauguration of the National Art Gallery in August 2007, the cultural activities are being regularly scheduled. The masterly built four-storey National Art Gallery is stowed with every modern facility as it has a state-of-the-art auditorium with seating capacity of 412, stage facilities, cinema screen with surround sound, and 14 galleries for display of paintings.

**Publications**  
PNCA regularly publishes books on subjects relating to various aspects of the arts. All publications are visualised, designed and produced in-house by the PNCA professional team. Attractive, colourful, hardbound, coffee table publications are available in the PNCA National Art Gallery gift shop and leading book stores in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

### National Performing Arts Group



Over the years, National Performing Arts Group has developed highly professional choreographed dances on the folk/traditional music representing various regional flavors. The National Performing Arts Group, comprising a team of talented versatile dancers, an experienced orchestra and technical staff has represented Pakistan in more than 30 countries across the globe and earned worldwide acclaim. The ensemble performs for corporations, companies, festivals nationally and internationally. The ensemble boasts a rich repertoire of folk and classical dances, and is regularly choreographing new productions.

### National Puppet Theatre



Puppetry would have lost its due place and recognition amidst the influx of rampant technology, had it not been ardently rescued by National Puppet Theatre (NPT), functioning under the wings of Ministry of Culture. Since it has dexterously mastered the art of puppetry, NPT is passionately taking this art not only to the length and breadth of the country, but around the globe as well.

The National Puppet Theatre has given more than 20,000 performances not only in the major cities of Pakistan but also in small towns and villages. Besides providing entertainment, the programme aims at educating people.

Many common social problems with solutions are favourite themes of these shows which aim at creating

**Films**  
The PNCA was entrusted with the tasks previously handled by the defunct National Film Development Corporation (NAFDEC). The responsibilities include import and distribution of Foreign Feature Films, holding of International Film Festivals in Pakistan, arranging Pakistan's participation in Foreign Film Festivals, boosting of Feature Film Exports, providing dubbing and sub-titling. (Abridged)



**Alamgir Babar**  
High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh

### Message

**O**N this day in 1940 the historic Pakistan Resolution was adopted at Lahore which culminated in the emergence of Pakistan as an independent and sovereign state on 14th August 1947. Since then, 23rd March is observed each year by the whole nation as Pakistan Day with great zeal and fervour.

While we rejoice on this day, it is

also an occasion for all citizens of Pakistan to reflect and bonds that exist between us. Our relations continue to grow and expand. Today, we are engaged in cooperative interaction in a wide range of areas. Bangladesh and Pakistan are working together to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation, enhance trade and commercial relations, increase cultural and people to people exchanges, promote tourism and broaden social sector programmes.

The Government of Pakistan has taken several significant initiatives to deepen bilateral cooperation in the education and health sectors. Under a special programme, one hundred fully-funded scholarships have been earmarked for Bangladeshi students in the disciplines of medicine, engineering, IT and natural sciences that include post-graduate and Ph.D. facilities. In addition, Bangladeshi students are enrolled in various educational institutions under the self-finance scheme. Private universities in Pakistan are increasingly attracting students from Bangladesh.

Since the last three years, we have taken a new initiative in support of Bangladesh's national efforts in the area of education. Its

primary focus has been to enhance the capacity of educational institutions in the country to impart computer training to their students through the establishment of computer lab centres. I am happy to say that this cooperation has been highly successful. I am also pleased to note that this programme supplements Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's own vision of a 'Digital Bangladesh'. In 2007-8, 12 million Takkas were spent on the provision of computer training centres in different parts of the country. This year Takkas 7 million have been earmarked for the purpose. This initiative has now been expanded to include the national and regional press clubs.

The High Commission has also undertaken several projects at various institutions in the country for the physically and mentally challenged children. Special equipments have been provided to meet their educational needs. In the health sector, we have been working with a number of charitable hospitals and philanthropic organizations to strengthen their capacity to impart better services to their patients.

On the economic side, our bilat-

eral trade has more than doubled in the last several years. Pakistan has become one of the major sources of raw materials for Bangladesh's growing RMG sector. Pakistani investments in the country now exceed USD 100 million. Pakistani businessmen are participating in greater numbers in Bangladeshi trade fairs. Through the High Commission's initiative to support Bangladeshi SME women entrepreneurs, there is growing interaction between are businessmen. Together, these positive trends are injecting a new dynamism in our bilateral economic and commercial relationship.

Cultural exchanges, people to people interaction and tourism are also gaining in momentum. Links between our media, think-tanks and academics are similarly growing and expanding. Exchanges in sports and art and music are also taking place with greater frequency. In short, our bilateral relations are moving forward along a new and promising trajectory.

As we in Pakistan celebrate 23rd March, I take this opportunity to wish the people of Bangladesh continued progress and prosperity in the years ahead.

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## Pakistan economy shows resilience

**T**HE year 2009 started on a positive note for Pakistan's economy. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) surged by 45 percent in December 2008, at US\$724 million despite the global financial crisis. FDI during July December 2008 exceeded US\$ 2.32 billion. Net FDI increased by 12 percent at US\$ 2.13 billion as compared to US\$ 2.06 billion over the same period in 2007. This is remarkable in itself, considering the challenges, the country has confronted over the past few years. The reason for this success is due to the rate of return of 30-40 percent, which the multinationals make in Pakistan. No prudent investor would like to miss it, given the liberal and positive investment environment.

Despite unfavourable international economic trends, there have been many encouraging developments in the economy of Pakistan. For instance, current account deficit narrowed down by 43 percent during July December to US\$ 6.05 billion, as compared to US\$ 7.26 billion in the same period last year. The fall in prices of Oil, Fertilizer, Wheat, and Edible oil are likely to bring down further both trade deficit and current account deficit. The sensitive price index has kept falling from the height of 30 to 20 percent at the end of December, bringing some relief to the people.

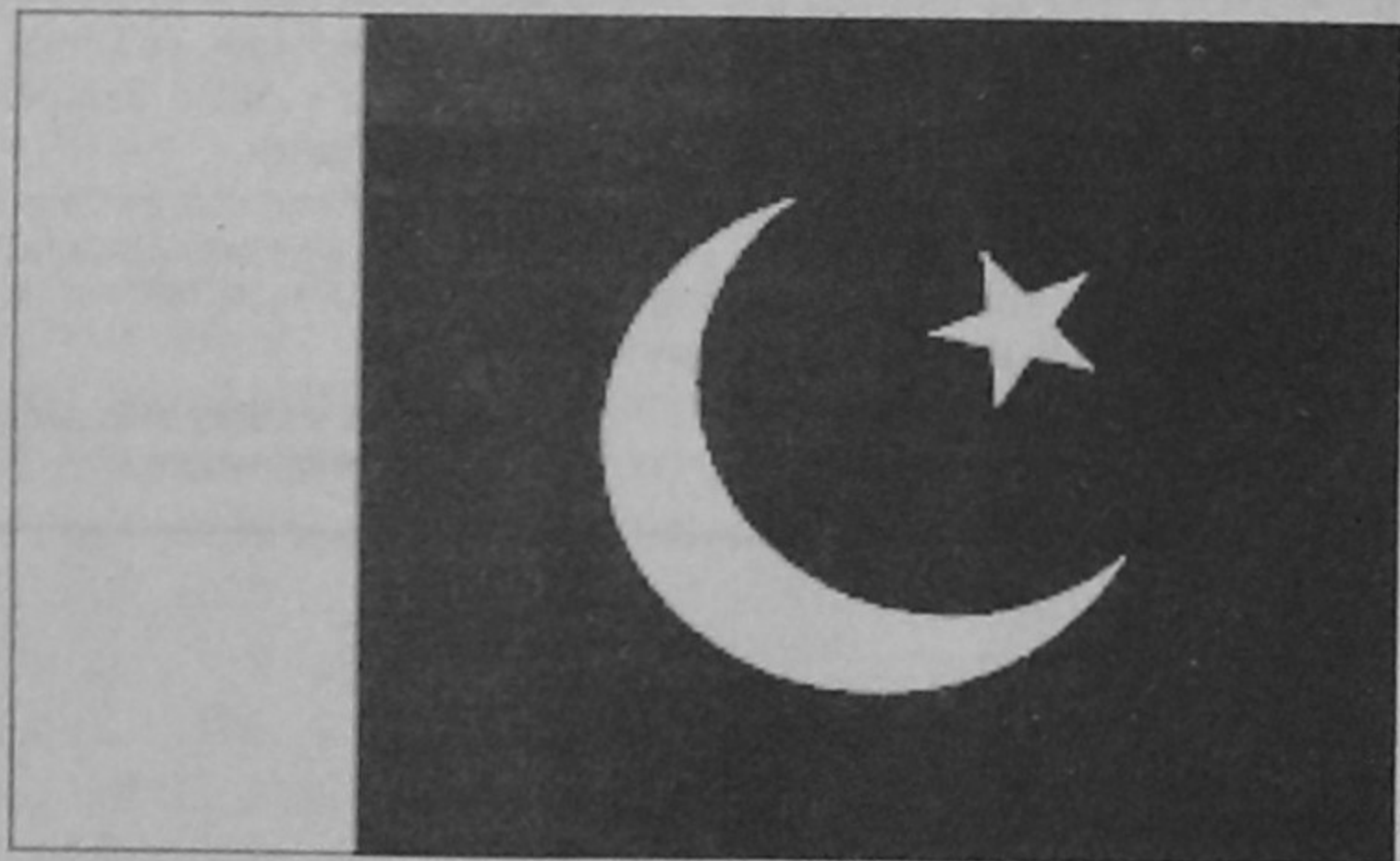
According to the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), country's exports at US\$9.57 billion projected an increase of 10.57 percent during July December 2008. Pakistan expects to exceed last year's exports of US\$ 19.5 billion. A new record was set by foreign

remittances, which increased to US\$ 673.5 million in December an increase of 40.5 percent taking six month total to US\$3.5 billion for July December 2008. In many countries, the emerging global financial crisis had badly affected not only FDI inflows, exports but also foreign remittances. Pakistan appears to 'stand alone' as a success story. We are in the process of re-positioning ourselves to attract US\$40 billion FDI from the investors, who have burnt their fingers in traditional and emerging Mega Economies, such as US, EU, Brazil, Russia, Japan and India.

In January this year a number of projects were announced by various international concerns particularly investment in power sector of Pakistan which promises huge dividends for investors due to growing demand for energy. Other sectors like cement and fertilizers also offer attractive returns on investment. For example, expression of interest by the German investors to establish a Fertilizer Plant, finalization of the agreement with a Turkish Company launching 50 MWWind Power Generation Project, interest shown by investors in Coal Power Generation and decision by CMC of China to build MW 405 Coal Fired Power Plant at Sonda Jherruck field in Thatta. The six monthly export of cement touched 5 million tons, with exports approaching a monthly million tons, despite the imposition of 10% duty by India. Pakistan cement however, continues to be in high demand in West Asia, Central Asia, Gulf and African markets.

On the occasion of  
National Day of Pakistan  
23 March

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