



PAKISTAN DAY



Asif Ali Zardari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

MESSAGE

IT is an auspicious occasion as on this day seventy one years ago the Muslims of the subcontinent formally committed through a Resolution to work for achieving a separate homeland for themselves.

With the blessings of Allah and through the heroic struggle of our peers the Muslims of the subcontinent achieved their objective on August 14, 1947, within a short span of seven years of the expression of their resolve. Our founding fathers had resolved to carve out an independent state where there will be democracy and where constitutionalism and rule of law would reign supreme.

Unfortunately, successive dictators tried to stifle the democratic aspirations of the people. Constitutionalism and rule of law was trampled by dictators sometime under the doctrine of necessity and sometime under the theory of successful revolution.

The unanimous Constitution of 1973 was disfigured by successive dictators to suit their own political ambitions. But the democratic aspirations could never be killed. The Pakistan Day this year will go down in

history of the country as the memorable day when the Parliament and the nation was poised to take a giant leap forward to realize the dream for which Pakistan was created by strengthening parliamentary democracy, federalism and constitutionalism. It is a manifestation of the democratic urge of our people that the Parliament is poised to purge the Constitution of all articles inserted into it by successive dictators. I wish to compliment the Parliament and the nation for this. On this day let us resolve that we will not permit any dictator to usurp the basic fundamental rights of our people nor allow them to trample on our democratic aspirations. This requires that we work in the spirit of tolerance, mutual accommodation and respect for dissent.

Let us also resolve that we will uphold the Constitution and never allow it to be abrogated, subverted or held in abeyance. I hope that the Parliament, the people and all institutions of the state will work in harmony towards this end.

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

TODAY, we are celebrating seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the historical Pakistan Resolution. The Day reminds us of the valiant struggle, immense sacrifices and firm resolve of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslims of the subcontinent in search of a separate homeland to live in peace and fashion their lives according to their own belief and culture.

Important landmarks of history do not reach their culmination without leadership's determination, consistency and sacrifice of the people. Our forefathers realized that salvation of their Nation lies in unity, therefore, they reposed their complete faith in the sagacious leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who was endowed with qualities of head and heart. Quaid's political acumen, vision, will as well as the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by the Muslims of the subcontinent translated the near impossible resolution into a reality in a short span of seven years. The Architect of Pakistan led Muslims of the subcontinent out of the dark-

ness of political bondage and frustration into the dawn of freedom, and gave direction to their quest for liberty and self-determination.

Pakistan Day anniversary calls for reappraisal of the national cause. Pakistan was achieved through a democratic struggle. The leadership of Pakistan movement stood for the rule of law, for freedom, social justice and representative rule where people would be the master of their destiny. They envisaged Pakistan as a welfare State. Therefore, whichever political party we may belong to, it is our collective responsibility to preserve and protect the democratic order in the country and make every effort to achieve the above mentioned goals. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said, "We want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor."

Pakistan People's Party has made the Quaid-e-Azam's vision as part of its manifesto and is committed to implementing it in letter and spirit. Our democratic government is taking concrete measures to turn

Pakistan into a peaceful, progressive and prosperous country. In line with the Quaid's dream of Pakistan being a welfare state and democratic polity, we have initiated a process of wide-ranging reforms which include empowering Parliament, restoring the original character of the Constitution, establishing unity within diverse and broad strands of political opinions, harmonizing inter-provincial relations through administrative, political and fiscal autonomy among the federating units and strengthening democratic and judicial institutions.

It is critical and decisive phase in our country's history. Our nation is up against extremism and terrorism, and stands firmly united behind its armed forces to eliminate the perpetrators of doom and gloom. This war is a long haul as it is to be fought against a perverse mindset and conservative ideology. We have a potent weapon in the form of the Pakistan Nationalism to win this war of ideas. The essential message of this auspicious Day is that we as a nation reconnect ourselves to the spirit which characterized the 23rd of March 1940 and make a vow to project the Pakistan ideology at every level as a counterweight to the forces of extremism and darkness.

I call upon my fellow countrymen to renew our pledge on this Day that we will unwaveringly strive to make Pakistan a peaceful, prosperous and democratic state. In spite of many trials and tribulations, our Nation has always emerged with renewed strength and confidence. I am confident that despite the magnitude of challenges facing us both on internal and external fronts, we shall overcome them by grace of Allah Almighty, with the cooperation of all democratic forces and the support of people of Pakistan.



Ashraf Qureshi
High Commissioner for Pakistan to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

IT gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to my fellow Pakistanis living in Bangladesh, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day of Pakistan.

The 23rd of March is of special significance for the people of Pakistan as it was on this day in 1940 that the historic Lahore Resolution was adopted by All India Muslim League. The Lahore Resolution articulated the overwhelming demand of the Muslims of South Asia for an independent homeland where they could live in peace and harmony in accordance with the tenets of Islam. It was a truly historic milestone in our quest for independence, which was achieved within a short span of seven years under the dynamic, charismatic and inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Pakistan Day is a day when Pakistani across the globe rejoice and celebrate their independence with great zeal and fervour. It is a time for us to thank Allah the Almighty for His blessings and to renew our pledge to the ideals of our founding fathers and vision of Pakistan given to us by the Quaid. It is a time to recall the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of our forefathers who led the struggle for the freedom against seemingly insurmountable odds. At the same time it is a time for us to reflect on our past achievements, present challenges and aspirations for the future. Pakistan has come a long way since our independence. There is every reason for us to be proud of our achievements. We are also cognizant of the many challenges that lie ahead. However, we remain confident that with our sense of duty and commitment that with our sense of duty and commitment to our country we shall overcome these challenges.

Pakistan is a land of many

splendours. As a crucible of ancient civilizations and historical influences, Pakistan has a rich and diverse heritage. Geographically it lies on the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle East and Central Asia covering a land characterized by verdant valleys, fertile plains, deserts, glaciers and high concentration of mountain peaks over 8000 meters. The people of Pakistan share the same hopes and aspirations as other nations and strive for peace, harmony, economic progress and prosperity at home. We seek friendship and mutually beneficial relations with all countries.

Pakistan enjoys close, cordial and fraternal relations with Bangladesh. These relations are based on shared aspirations for continued peace, security and prosperity of our peoples. We are happy that these special brotherly relations have continued to expand and diversify in a wide range of areas for the mutual benefit of our peoples. Nevertheless we feel that our political, commercial and economic cooperation can be enhanced manifold. There is a lot that our two countries can gain from each other's strengths and by sharing our respective best practices. Needless to say that our efforts would continue for the realization of the full potential of our relations in all fields, including cultural and people-to-people relations.

In the spirit of brotherly cooperation, the Government of Pakistan has taken some important initiatives in the field of education and health sectors. Hundred fully funded scholarships have been earmarked for students from Bangladesh for studies in medicine, engineering, information technology and natural sciences. In addition many Bangladeshi students are enrolled in Pakistan's professional institutions on self-financing basis. We are confident that these students on return to Bangladesh would prove to be a valuable addition to the talented human resource pool of Bangladesh.

In the field of commerce our trade with Bangladesh has continued to grow, Pakistan has become an important source of raw material for the flagship ready-made garments industry of Bangladesh. We are confident that in the coming years our bilateral trade would cross the one billion dollar mark as envisaged in our last Joint Economic Commission meeting. Pakistani businessmen are participating in increasing numbers in trade fairs and exhibitions in Bangladesh. The High Commission has organized

and facilitated visits of a number of trade delegations from Bangladesh to Pakistan and would continue to do so in future. We have also arranged and facilitated visits of women entrepreneurs from Bangladesh to Pakistan and are happy that interaction between businesswomen of the two countries has increased manifold. In the field of foreign investment, Pakistani investments in Bangladesh have increased to over US \$ 100 million. We are confident that this growing interaction between the private sector would provide an impetus to our economic and commercial relations.

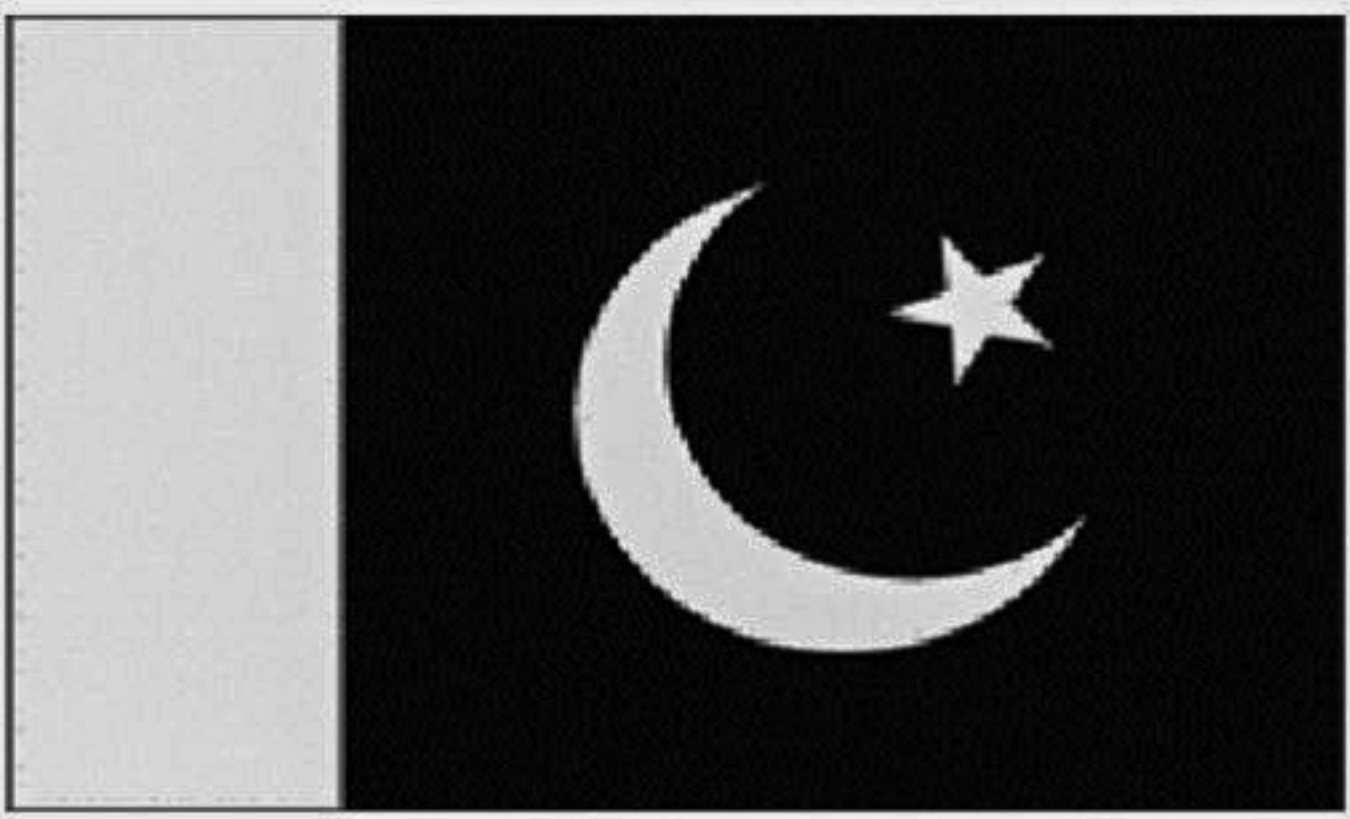
In the spirit of friendship and brotherhood that marks the relations between our two countries, we have for the last four years, taken an initiative to support and education. Our primary focus has been to enhance capacity of educational institutions in Bangladesh to impart computer training. We are happy that through our efforts, we have managed to establish computer laboratories in nearly fifty schools and institutions across Bangladesh. We would be helping more schools/institutions in setting up computer labs this year as well. We are happy that, in a modest way, we are contributing to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision of "Digital Bangladesh". In addition, the High Commission has also taken initiatives to provide medical equipment to hospitals, special equipment for mentally or physically challenged children and ambulances where needed. We would continue in our efforts in future as well.

As part of our efforts to introduce Pakistan's culture and to promote people-to-people contact, the High Commission has been making efforts to promote Pakistan's art, music and culture in Bangladesh and to develop links between media, think-tanks and academics of our two countries. I am happy that these linkages are improving and there are frequent exchanges in all these fields.

As we celebrate the Pakistan Day in Bangladesh, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my warm greetings and best wishes for the well-being and happiness of the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh, His Excellency Md. Zillur Rahman and the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Her Excellency Ms. Sheikh Hasina, and pray for the continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Bangladesh.

On the occasion of National Day of Pakistan 23 March

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A visit to Taxila -- Pakistan's heritage

TAYYAB MIR

ONLY 35 kilometers from Islamabad, at Taxila you come face to face with the great Buddha. You meet others also at Taxila. Alexander of Macedonia, for one, Asoka, the famous Buddhist king and Emperor Kanishka, perhaps the greatest of them all. Their imprints are everywhere.

One of the world's least known but more interesting civilizations took root and flourished in Taxila, an ancient city south of the River Indus about 2500 years ago. Once a province of the powerful Achaemenian Empire, Taxila was conquered by Alexander in 327 BC. It later came under the Mauryan dynasty and reached a remarkably mature level of development under the great Asoka.

Then appeared the Indo-Greek descendants of Alexander's warrior and finally came the most creative period of Gandhara. The great Kushan dynasty was established about 50 AD. During the next 200 years Taxila became a renowned centre of learning, from as far away as China and Greece. The end came in the fifth century AD. When the White Huns snuffed out the last of the successive civilizations that had held unbroken sway in this region for several centuries.

Exploring Taxila is a multi-dimensional experience. You are attracted by the richness and variety of the famed Gandhara sculpture. There are endless images of Buddha, in stone and stucco, and numerous panels depicting all the important stages of the great sage's life. Exquisitely sculpted friezes and statues of all sizes evoke the life and times of one of the world's most impressive men of peace: Gautama Buddha.


Each carved bit of sculpture, from the colossal to the miniature, and there are literally thousands of them, is a collector's

item. Even if you aren't exactly a devotee of the sculpture of the first century AD, you will find it a challenge to trace similarities between the Gandhara masterpieces and their Greco-Roman counterparts.

And then there are the excavated ruins. Three distinct cities stretch before you in a surprisingly good state of preservation. The earliest city, Bhir Mound, dates back to the sixth century BC. Its irregular streets, cramped houses and mediocre public building indicate its primitive origins. In Sirkap, having been built in the second century BC, you will find a well planned city. The wide streets had the houses of the affluent whereas in the more crowded sections dwelt the common man. The fortification wall, the long, straight and impressive main street, the Royal Palace, and Apsidal Temple and the Shrine of the Double-Headed Eagle are noteworthy. The third city, Sirsukh was apparently built by the Kushan kings in the first century AD. It has not been fully excavated as yet but it is clearly a well fortified, well laid out city, patterned after Central Asian cities and is complete with a suburb.

In addition to these three major cities, many important monasteries, stupas and palaces have been excavated all along the Taxila valley. Many more, surely, still lies buried awaiting discovery. The remarkable Dharmarajika Stupa is three kilometers east of the Taxila Museum. It comprises a main building, a monastery area where the monks lived and a series of small chapels. Sacred relics of Buddha and a silver scroll commemorating the relics were found in one of the chapels. A wealth of gold and silver coins, gems, jewellery and other antiques were discovered at Dharmarajika. They are all housed in the Taxila Museum.

(Abridged)



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