



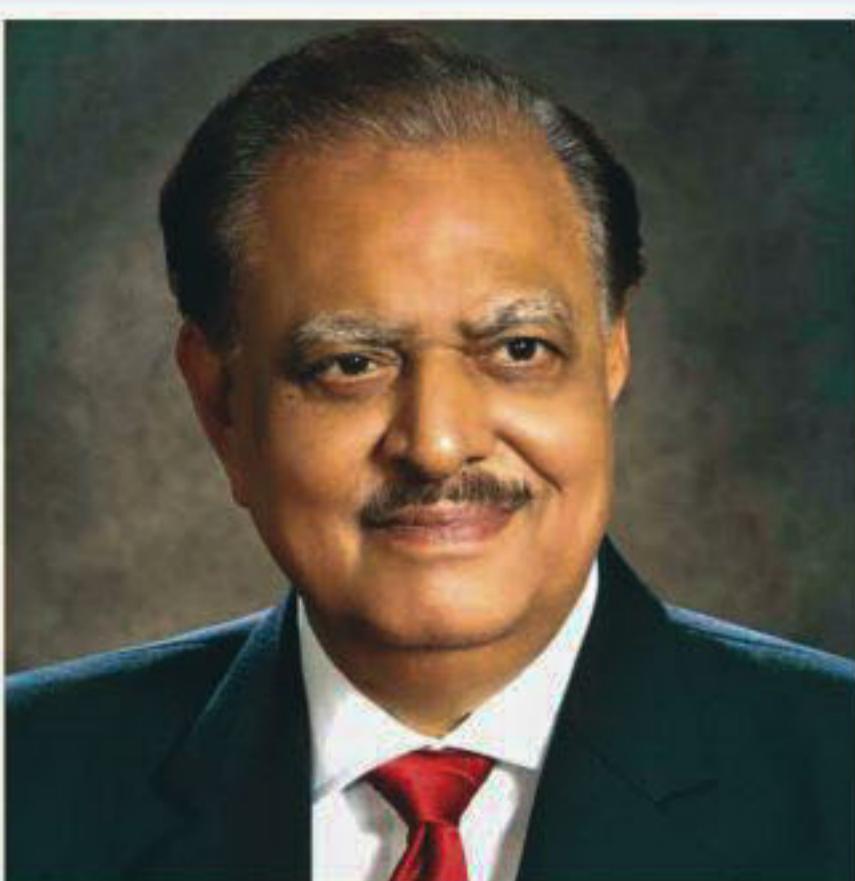
# Independence Day of Pakistan



AUGUST 14, 2014

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



and geographical boundaries. The Day is also an occasion to reflect on our past, ponder over the present and plan for the future.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction to note that despite the challenges, we have achieved significant milestones in our journey towards a democratic, prosperous and progressive nation. A state created through democratic means to witness supremacy of democratic process, rule of law and constitutionalism is being governed by a democratically elected government. Let us pledge today that we would continue to uphold the banners of democracy, constitutionalism and rule of law and let us reiterate our commitment to follow the principles of Unity, Faith & Discipline as our strength and guide towards reaching our ultimate destination.

As we commemorate this Independence Day, let us pay tribute to our brave armed forces and personnel of law-enforcing agencies who have been offering great sacrifices for the security and territorial integrity of Pakistan. Let us work together to meet the challenges that we face today.

While felicitating the nation, I once again call upon every Pakistani to stand firm and united and work diligently for a progressive and prosperous Pakistan. Let us prove ourselves worthy inheritors of the invaluable reward that we have been bestowed by Almighty through untiring struggle of our forefathers. May Pakistan always enjoy the bounties of peace and prosperity.

MOUNTAINS – the great masses that stand high against the skies and take up a quarter of all the land – are nature's most spectacular work upon earth, nowhere more so than in the northern regions of Pakistan.

Through the centuries these majestic and mysterious mountains have lured nature lovers, adventurers

and empire builders alike. In fact, Pakistan is the only country where all the three world-famous mountain ranges meet – the Karakorams, the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush.

In comparison to the Himalayas and the Karakorams, the Hindu Kush is a smaller range. Yet big enough to deter anyone from patronizing it. Before

feeling tempted to dismiss the Hindu Kush lightly, one should have a look at the vast area it covers – 640 kilometers long, 400 kms broad looming with its own giants, its own wonders. It has several smaller peaks most of them less than 7,500 meters high above sea level. Others – with heights of 21000 feet – are too many to deserve proper names

and proper mention. The highest in the range, however, is Trichmir (7,690m). Called as the Queen of Chitral, Trichmir alongwith other peaks turns Chitral into a veritable fairy land of Pakistan.

The Karakorams are a unique range of mountains in more than one respect. They possess the loftiest peaks in the world within

the smallest area. Within a radius of 160kms of the towns of Gilgit and Skardu there are as many as 100 peaks ranging from 5,500 m to the world's second highest peak, K-2 (8,611 m).

The Karakoram area is also the most glaciated area outside the Polar region containing some of the longest glaciers in the world, such as Siachen which is about 74 kms long. Apart from it, there are other large glaciers, including Batura, Godwin, Austen, Baltoro, Biafo, Chogolisa, Gondokhoro, Hispar and Yazgil etc.

There is also a uniqueness in the incomparable boldness of the silhouette of the Karakoram peaks. At the beginning of the colossal mass on the Western side is the Nanga Parbat, which rising 8,126m on the bend of the Indus, stands in almost majestic isolation like a powerful pillar sustaining the long chain.

Nanga Parbat has long been regarded as the most treacherous mountain peak. Many legends have been spun around this peak and one can hear many tales from the local people and porters. Tales based on superstitions and the many mysterious events recounted by various expeditions that failed to conquer it and also by those who finally conquered it.

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**Muhammad Nawaz Sharif**  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## Message

I wish to extend my heartfelt felicitations to all Pakistanis on the auspicious occasion of the 68th independence day of Pakistan. This day is a powerful reminder of the heroic struggle undertaken by the Muslims of the subcontinent for a separate homeland where they could live their lives with freedom and dignity, in harmony with their religious and cultural values. Our forefathers underwent great trial and tribulations, with millions suffering

the travails of dispossession and exile, and hundreds of thousands laying the ultimate sacrifice at the altar of freedom — so that our children may have a country to call their own, where they could build a prosperous and secure future for themselves.

This day we should remember the ideals and aspirations that inspired Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal. Let us not forget that Pakistan was the culmination of a long and arduous constitutional struggle. Pakistan was made possible only because millions of Muslims exercised the right to choose their own future. The Pakistan envisioned by the Quaid has to be democratic, moderate and progressive, governed by the rule of law and guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens. Let us, on this day, redeem our pledge to build the Quaid's Pakistan.

We must reclaim our country from the forces of obscurantism. Operation Zarb-e-Azb is a step in the right direction.

The need of the hour is unflinching resolve and absolute unity.

## High Commissioner's Message

SIXTY eight years ago on 14 August, Pakistan emerged as a sovereign and independent State on the world map. This day in 1947, represented the fruition of a long struggle by the Muslims of the subcontinent under the leadership of the Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Pakistan is a proud Muslim country of more than 185 million. Pakistan straddles traditional routes that link West, South and Central Asia. Pakistan is an ancient civilization and a modern country. The land that constitutes Pakistan has been one of the oldest sites of human habitation. We are home to Indus and Gandhara civilizations.

Pakistan has achieved milestones. We are fully cognizant of the challenges. Pakistan seeks a peaceful environment, and friendly and cooperative relations with all.



**Afrasiab**  
High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh



**National Bank of Pakistan**

Would like to felicitate on the occasion of INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN (14th August) of its glorious ascension. We take this opportunity to join the nation in offering our humble prayers for continued peace and prosperity in the country. On this auspicious moment we pledge to serve and proud to join the economic activities in the Brother Country Bangladesh.



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