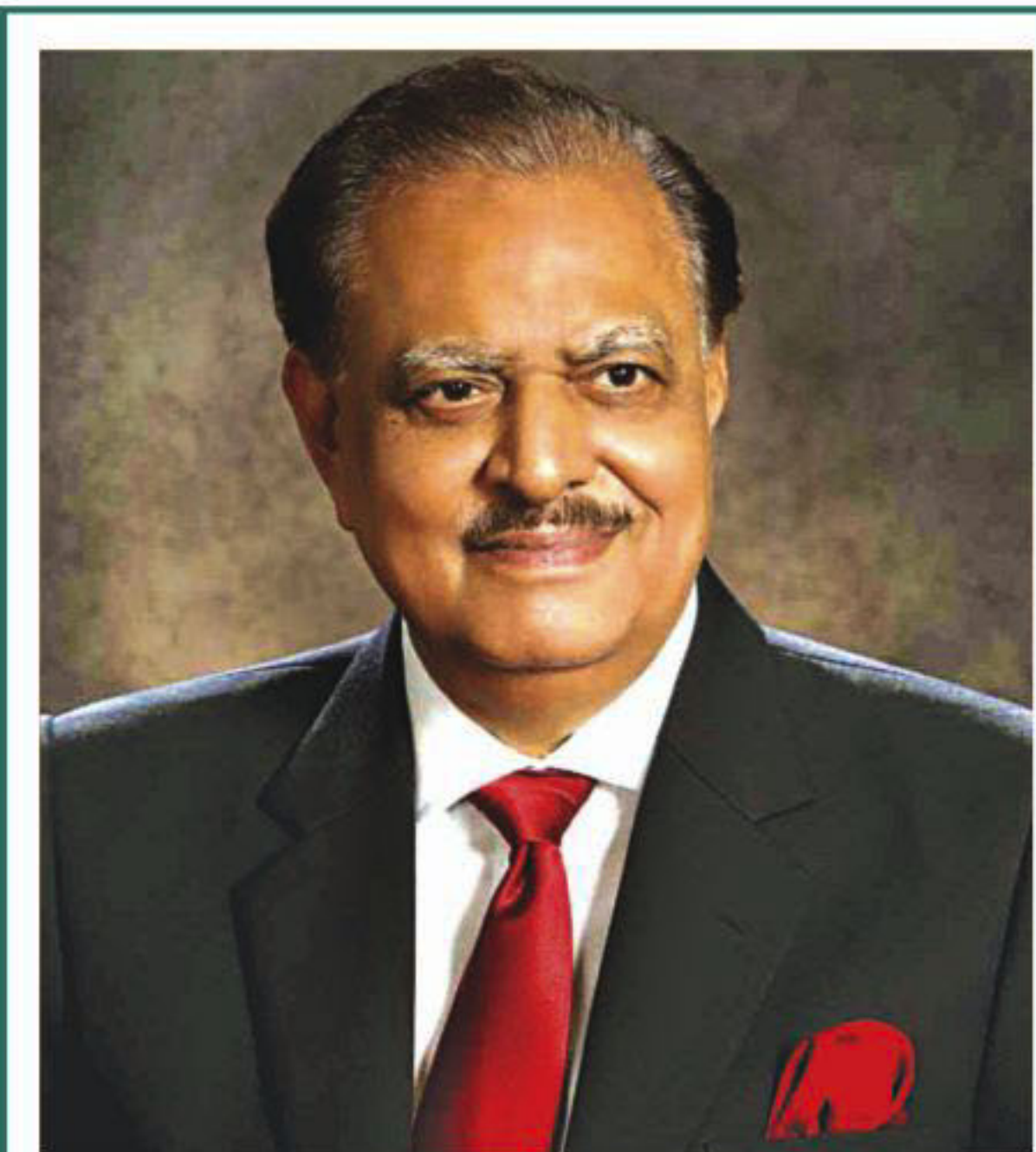


PAKISTAN DAY



Mamnoon Hussain President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Message

23rd March is the Day to renew our commitment to develop the country in accordance with the principles of justice and equity, the real objective of the creation of Pakistan. On this auspicious occasion, we pay tribute to the Father of the Nation and other leaders of the Freedom Movement who facilitated the creation of Pakistan by uniting the nation through their earnestness, wisdom and unparalleled sacrifices.

Let me remind you on this important occasion that Pakistan came into being through a long democratic struggle and now the key to its stability and development also lies in democracy. Therefore, it is essential to promote the spirit of tolerance and patience which are the fundamentals of democracy so that the existing challenges of extremism and terrorism can be overcome by the nation.

It is an unfortunate reality that terrorism has affected all segments of the Pakistani society. The terrorists have not spared educational institutions, public places and even places of worship, which demonstrate their negative and destructive mindset. I am happy that the Pakistani nation is united against this menace and fully determined to eradicate all forms of terrorism. We can win this battle by putting an end to our differences, promoting brotherhood and tolerance. Therefore, it is imperative to promote education in the country and transfer the fruits of development to every Pakistani in order to achieve this objective.

I pray to Almighty Allah to bless us with the spirit to sincerely serve our country so that we can take Pakistan to the heights of glory by following in the footprints of our great forefathers. Ameen!



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

The Pakistani nation is celebrating the 76th Anniversary of Pakistan Resolution; adopted on 23rd March 1940 under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. It changed the course of our history. The dream was achieved in the form of Pakistan as an independent country despite great opposition and challenges. The struggle was for a state where the principles of social justice and equality could prevail to ensure peace, tolerance and prosperity in accordance with the religious beliefs and cultural values of its citizens. Today, we stand determined to preserve and protect this country for our future generations.

The resolution galvanized the nation and millions of people sacrificed their lives for the sake of independence. Pakistan was a reality within a short span of time. Today we are confronted with unprecedented threats and challenges in the form of extremism and terrorism, but we are resolved to defeat these evils. The menace of terrorism and extremism will be completely wiped-out from our soil.

On this occasion we reiterate our resolve to ensure freedom, equality and social justice for every citizen of Pakistan as enshrined in the teachings of Islam. Our government has taken landmark initiatives to safeguard the minorities living in Pakistan and empower Pakistani women. Our endeavours are aimed at mainstreaming the marginalized segments of our society as we believe that each and every Pakistani is an equal citizen of the land.

Let us pledge to offer equal opportunities for every Pakistani citizen to achieve a pluralistic society where each and every man and woman work collectively for the progress and prosperity of our country. Pakistan was envisioned to be a state where people could freely practice their faith without any fear or threat. I am optimistic that our collective efforts based on plurality, equality and justice would make Pakistan a state as dreamt of by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

May Allah Almighty guide us in our efforts to prove ourselves worthy inheritors of the homeland bequeathed to us by Quaid-e-Azam and other great leaders of the Pakistan Movement. (Ameen)

PAKISTAN PAINDABAD



Shuja Alam High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Bangladesh Message

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

We share the same hopes and aspirations of other nations. We strive to achieve economic progress and prosperity at home. We seek a stable and peaceful global and regional environment.

With Bangladesh, we enjoy a special relationship steeped in many affinities and bonds that exist between the people of the two countries.

It is in this spirit to facilitate people-to-people contacts that the High Commission is following a liberal visa policy to encourage visits of Bangladeshis from all

walks of life to Pakistan. Our bilateral trade is approximately US\$ 759 million, with a potential to increase manifold.

Pakistan is the third largest contributor of FDI in Bangladesh, after the UK and South Korea, accounting for an inflow of US\$ 130 million approximately, in 2015.

The across the board consensus amongst Pakistani society against extremism has fostered a new era of hope and optimism in Pakistan. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's categorical statement that "the nation's future lies in a democratic and liberal Pakistan, where the economic sector thrives and no one is left behind", is a reaffirmation of this resolve.

Pakistan today enjoys a mature and inclusive democracy; an independent and assertive judiciary; a free media which has the liberty to question those in power and last but not the least, a vocal and vibrant civil society.

Pakistan's economy has shown a marked recovery during the last two fiscal years and today, Pakistan is poised for an economic take-off. The improving security situation, promising economic indicators, and the establishment of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offer many opportunities for the country of 200 million people, of which almost two-thirds consist of the youth.

CPEC is a trans-regional project that would benefit three billion people of the region through enhanced connectivity with other countries, and would play an instrumental role in integrating the whole region. The completion of the western and central routes would usher a new era of development and prosperity in Balochistan. Sindh would be the largest recip-

ient of energy projects where US\$ 11.5 billion of the US\$ 35 billion worth of energy schemes are being implemented under the CPEC.

CPEC is a 15-year venture, expected to be completed by 2030, focusing on infrastructure development, Gwadar seaport, energy and industrial cooperation.

Along with the CPEC, the TAPI gas pipeline and Central Asia South Asia (CASA) -1000 power import projects would redefine cooperation in western Asia.

On the social front, the PM's National Health Programme was launched in Islamabad where 1.2 million families living below the poverty line, would be getting best possible treatment at the government's expense. The programme would benefit 3.2 million families living in Punjab, Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). It would cover all diseases, ranging from cancer to heart bypass.

Pakistan's largest province in terms of population, Punjab, unanimously passed the Women Protection Bill against violence. It provides for a system for complaints, as well as penalties for offenders. All complaints would be decided within 90 days from the day of the receipt.

The Prime Minister has made a landmark commitment that Pakistan would double its expenditure on education from 2% to 4% of its GDP by 2018, entailing an increase US\$ 4 billion.

Pakistan sees Bangladesh as a trusted partner in economic development and prosperity in our region. I take this opportunity to wish the people of Bangladesh continued progress and prosperity in the years ahead.

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WHEN THE WHEEL TURNS THE NATION MOVE
NBP aspires to the values that make NBP truly Nation's Bank
Let's Celebrate 23 March, National Day of Pakistan, A Day of Achievement and Commitment

Country Office: 80, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212
Phone: 9894861, Fax: 9894791, E-mail: controlling.office@nbp-bd.com
Dhaka Main Branch: 79, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000
Phone: 9560248, 9560249, 9561171, Fax: 9560247, E-mail: motijheel@nbp-bd.com
Gulshan Branch: 80, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212
Phone: 9897458, Fax: 9861028, E-mail: gulshan@nbp-bd.com
Chittagong Branch: Daar-E-Shahidi, 69, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong
Phone: 880-31-2520292, 880-31-2520272, Fax: 880-31-2520305
E-mail: chittagong@nbp-bd.com
Sylhet Branch: Metropolitan Market, Sobhanighat, Sylhet
Phone: 0821-2831412, 0821-2831413, Fax: 88-0821-2831414
E-mail: sylhet@nbp-bd.com



Pakistani Parliament becomes world's first to run on solar power

Pakistan's parliament became the world's first to run fully on solar power. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the solar power system, which provides 62MW to the parliament and a surplus 18MW to the national grid. The venture was funded by China as an act of friendship. It was officially launched during President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan last year.

Researcher from Quetta, Balochistan contributed to gravitational waves discovery

As the story of one of the world's most influential scientific discovery unfolds, it comes to the forefront that not one (Dr. Nergis Mavalvala), but two Pakistanis were part of the various research teams which contributed to the discovery of gravitational waves.

A young researcher from Quetta, Imran Khan, currently pursuing his PhD at Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI) in Italy, was one of the co-authors of the Physical Review Letter (PRL) paper, submitted to the LIGO Scientific Collaboration at the helm of this discovery.

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