

Pakistan independence day

Present-day ties have ancient roots

Noor Muhammad Jadmani
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of Pakistan's independence, I extend most cordial and warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to the government



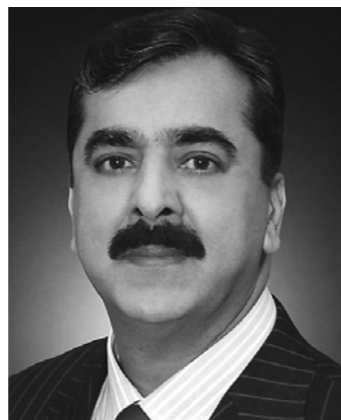
and people of Japan, on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, and on my own behalf.

On this occasion, I also congratulate all members of the

Pakistani community living in Japan.

The emergence of Pakistan on Aug. 14, 1947, as a sovereign state was the result of a long and arduous struggle by the Muslims of South Asia under the great leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Today, we pay homage to this great leader, his colleagues, and all freedom fighters and workers of the Pakistan Movement.

The people of Pakistan and its political leadership have collectively made great sacrifices for the restoration of democracy in the country. Former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

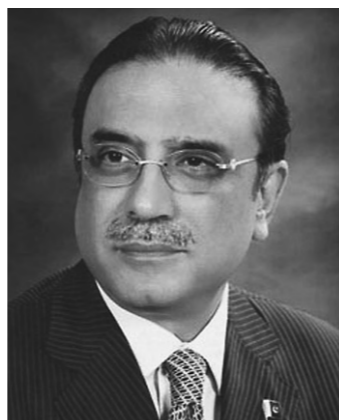


Prime Minister of Pakistan
Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani

laid down her life in the struggle against terrorism, and for the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Pakistan.

Pakistan today is a strong country with democratic dispensation. It has a developed political culture, effectively functioning state security institutions, independent judiciary, vibrant media, dynamic civil society and 170 million resolute people. The people of Pakistan are predominantly moderate. The overwhelming majority rejects militancy and extremism.

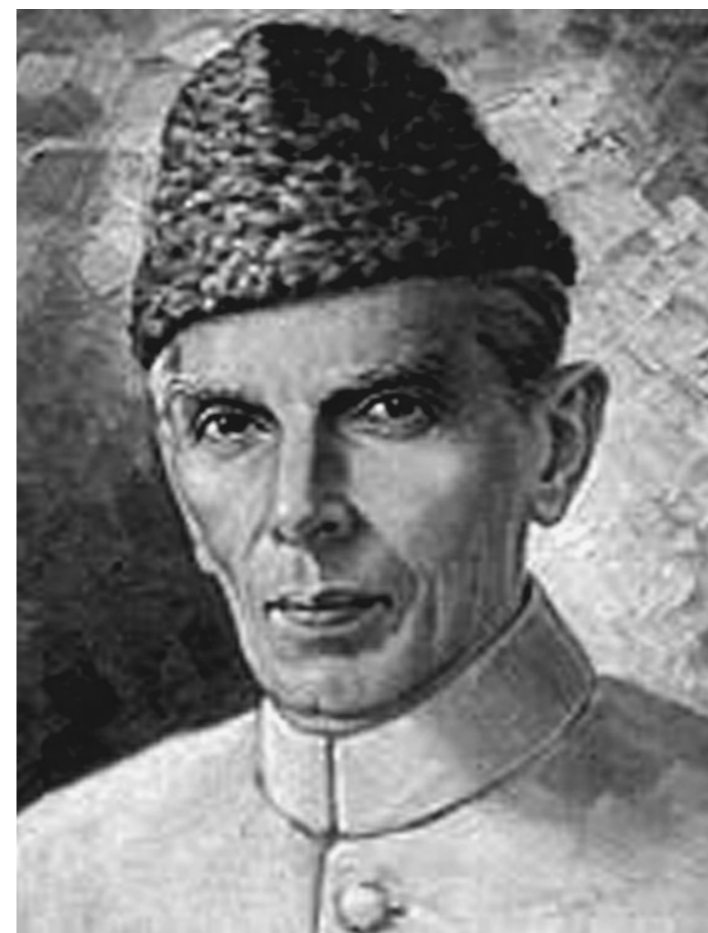
Pakistan and Japan share an ancient common heritage. The great Buddhist civilization be-



President of Pakistan Asif Ali
Zardari

gan its outward journey from Pakistan. Many renowned emissaries who went to China, and later to Japan and other countries carrying the teachings of the Buddha were graduates of Taxila University. The ancient heritages provide a historical underpinning to Pakistan-Japan ties, which have, over the years, blossomed into an important and substantial relationship.

Pakistan regards Japan as a good friend and strong development partner. We deeply value our relations with the people and government of this great country. Our countries enjoy deep-rooted cordial relations



Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

characterized by mutual understanding, a cooperative spirit, and identity of views on most international political and economic issues. We are grateful to the government of Japan for hosting the important meetings of Friends of Democratic Pakistan and the Donors' Conference in April, and also for the generous pledge of \$1 billion.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan in April 1952, bilateral relations have progressed steadily. This relationship is being expanded through institutional mechanisms such as annual high-level policy consultation, security dialogue, consultation on disarmament and nonproliferation,

counterterrorism cooperation and economic policy dialogue. Japan's Country Assistance Program for Pakistan (2005-2010) declares "construction and development of a sustainable society in Pakistan" as the medium- and long-term goal of Japanese ODA. Japan is one of the largest investors in Pakistan. The major sectors of Japanese investment are automobiles, finance and power.

I would like to end my message by expressing my sincere wishes for the continued prosperity of the people of Japan, and my ardent hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and Japan will continue to prosper, expand, and deepen in the years ahead.

Global peace, stability begins with Pakistan

Mitsuo Horiuchi
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, it is my great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of their Independence Day.

There is a widely shared awareness in Japan toward the important role that Pakistan plays in international efforts to counter terrorism in recent years. On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I would like to pay tribute to the Pakistani people for their courage and firm will to achieve peace and stability in the region, and beyond.

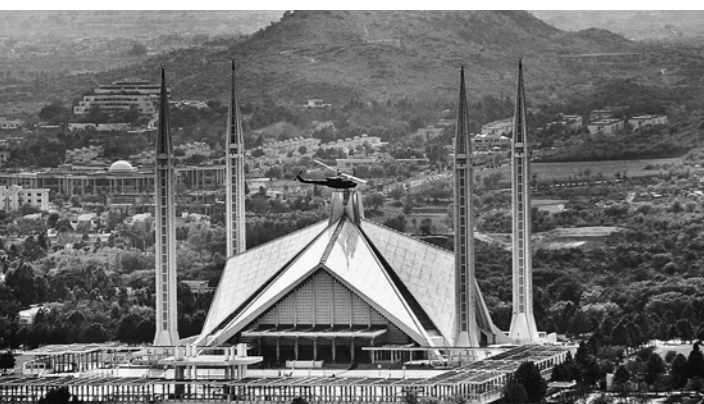
The stability and development of Pakistan is directly linked to peace and stability in Asia and the world. As a friend of Pakistan and a responsible country in international society, Japan held the Friends of Democratic Pakistan Ministerial Meeting and the Pakistan Donors' Conference in Tokyo on April 17 this year to support Pakistan as it faces difficult challenges.

As the host nation, we are pleased that participating countries and international organizations pledged over \$5 billion in response to President Asif Ali Zardari's commitments to counter terrorism and economic reform.

Japan remains confident that the people of Pakistan will continue to make concerted efforts to defeat terrorism and achieve economic reform. Japan is committed to provide its utmost support to those efforts. I am pleased to note that as a token of our support, Japan announced \$1 billion in assistance for Pakistan at the Donors' Conference.

Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, the two countries have built warm and amicable relations through people-to-people exchanges in various fields such as economic cooperation, business, culture, tourism and others. When President Zardari visited Japan in April, the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League held a meeting with him and thus further strengthened traditional ties of friendship.

As president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I am determined to continue my utmost efforts to achieve better mutual understanding and closer bilateral relations. Allow me to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for the continued prosperity of Pakistan.



Religious icon: Set against the Margalla Hills, Faisal Mosque dominates the Islamabad skyline. EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Congratulations

On the Independence Day of Pakistan

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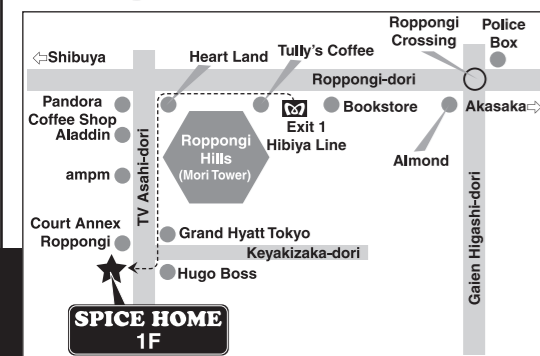
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Faithful harmony: Kalashi women dance in religious observance on the last day of the three-day annual Chelum Josht festival at Bumbarate.