

# Pakistan independence day

## Heritage underpins ties

Noor Muhammad Jadhani  
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO JAPAN

On the auspicious occasion of the 63rd anniversary of Pakistan's independence, I wish to extend most cordial and warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties, the 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. I also congratulate all members of the Pakistani community living in Japan on this happy occasion.

The emergence of Pakistan as a sovereign state on Aug. 14, 1947, was the result of a long unabated struggle of the Muslims of South Asia to create a homeland where they could lead their lives according to their aspirations of peace, prosperity, religious freedom and brotherhood — the ideals of Islam. Under the great leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, within a short span of seven years, the idea of Pakistan



President Asif Ali Zardari



Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani

presented by our national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal in 1940 was transformed into reality. Despite all the predictions at its birth that the newly independent state of Pakistan would soon collapse, Pakistan and its people have withstood the test of time. No other state in the world has been confronted with as many challenges as Pakistan has during its 63 years of history, yet its resilient, hardworking and dedicated people have risen up to all the challenges.

The people of Pakistan draw their ancestral roots from the ancient civilizations that inhabited the land of to-

day's Pakistan. The archaeological and cultural remains from Moenjodaro, Harrapa and Taxila testify to the acumen and wisdom of inhabitants of this land. The Indus Valley civilization that existed between the Indus and Oxus rivers is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. The great Buddhist civilization began 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 heritage provides a historical underpinning to



Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan

Pakistan-Japan ties, which have, over the years, blossomed into an important and substantial relationship.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere wishes for the continued prosperity and well-being of the people of Japan. It would be my utmost endeavor that the friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and Japan continue to prosper, expand and deepen in the years ahead. However, in the backdrop of unprecedented rains and floods in Pakistan that displaced millions of people, washing away their homes and farmland, this year's Independence Day supplement also highlights the plight of flood victims in Pakistan.

## Flood-affected require more help

Syed Ali Asad Gillani  
COUNSELOR, EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN,  
TOKYO

Against a natural calamity, we only learn about the fragility of our capacity. The only thing we can do is to manage its aftermaths by saving as many lives as we can, preventing those who were spared from the calamity from becoming victim to diseases and by rehabilitating their lives as early as possible. Early rehabilitation will neither bring back the lost ones nor undo the damage done, but it would enable those who survived to once again stand on their feet.

Pakistan has been hit by the heaviest rains and unprecedented floods in 80 years. It has led to a tragic loss of human lives and crops besides widespread loss of livestock and physical and communication infrastructure all over Pakistan. The north-south moving floodwaters have wiped out entire towns and villages, leading to the displacement of more than 4 million people.

The tragic loss of lives has already exceeded 1,500. Nearly 288,170 houses have been destroyed. The damage to houses, private property, bridges,

roads, hospitals, schools, irrigation system, power transmission and communication lines exceeds billions of dollars.

Millions have already been driven from their homes for refuge in temporary shelters, tents and other makeshift arrangements, but still thousands are stranded on high grounds surrounded by flood waters.

Vast swaths of standing crops have been destroyed. In Punjab Province alone, where people rely heavily on agriculture for their food supply, more than 560,000 hectares of farmland have been destroyed. As the floodwaters move further south toward the Arabian Sea, the loss of lives and property is expected to rise further.

The physical devastation caused by floods is many times larger in scale than the catastrophe Pakistan faced from the earthquake of October 2005. Then the affected area was restricted to 30,000 sq. km while in the recent floods the spread is too wide, covering almost 150,000 sq. km along the entire longitude of the country. Over 12 million people have been affected by the floods compared to 3.2 million in the 2005 earthquake.

In this hour of national emer-

gency, the federal and provincial governments of Pakistan have launched full-fledged rescue and relief operations in affected areas. The whole Pakistani nation has been mobilized to help in this cause. People from all walks of life are trying their utmost to bring relief to the flood-affected people in whatever capacity and form they can. The Pakistani community living abroad is also coming forward to help the flood-affected people. Ration packs, emergency food items, tents, plastic mats, blankets are being delivered to flood-affected population on a priority basis. However, the scale of catastrophe is much bigger than the efforts made.

Immediate needs in the affected areas include shelters, food, water and sanitation items and medicines — particularly to control the spread of gastroenteritis and skin diseases, cholera, malaria and snake bites.

The latest updates on the flood situation, damage, rescue operations and immediate needs are available at the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) website: <http://ndma.gov.pk/>

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has announced that up to \$10 million will be disbursed from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), set up in 2006 to allow the U.N. to dispatch funds to tackle disasters and crises as soon as they emerge, to help address needs in Pakistan following the floods. However, this response so far is not sufficient to enable

U.N. agencies and their partners to address the extent of the crisis.

An initial emergency response plan is being prepared to cover immediate relief needs — such as food, health care, clean water, shelter, agriculture and others — for the next 90 days. The U.N. has estimated that the initial recovery cost would be more than \$460 million, while the estimated rehabilitation and reconstruction in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Province might need more than \$2.2 billion to \$2.5 billion. The World Bank will be undertaking the Damage Needs Assessment as soon as water recedes at the end of the monsoons.

On Aug. 3, the government of Japan announced emergency relief goods worth ¥20 million and emergency grant aid of up to \$3 million for the flood-affected people. Similarly, some Japanese NPOs are also considering the possibility of extending assistance to the flood-affected people. The government and people of Pakistan appreciate the support offered by the Japanese government to bring relief to the flood-affected people. Any support, both in cash and kind, for the flood-affected people will be welcomed.

As the international community, especially the Japanese people, went all out to support Pakistan during the 2005 earthquake, we hope that they will once again come out and help the flood victims in Pakistan in whatever capacity and with whatever contributions they can. Your support can make a big difference to someone's life.

## Recent misfortunes do not blemish stable development of Pakistan

Seishiro Eto  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I send our most sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the 63rd anniversary of their country's independence.

I have been deeply grieved to hear about the recent disasters suffered by Pakistan: the loss of 152 lives in an airplane crash on July 28 and more than 15,000 lives lost and so many people left suffering as a result of the heavy rains and massive floods since the end of last month. I offer deepest condolences and most profound sympathy to all those who fell victim and hope for the speedy rehabilitation of the disaster-stricken areas.

I would also like to express my sympathy for the loss of many precious lives from a se-

ries of terrorist attacks. I pay respect to Pakistan for playing an important role in counterterrorism efforts though this has brought a heavy burden on the country; I hope that these efforts will be successful.

Pakistan's stable development is important for the peace and stability of not only the region but the entire world. Japan will continue to support and provide assistance to Pakistani government, to alleviate the damage caused by the recent floods. I trust that our country will continue supporting Pakistan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Pakistan in 1952, our countries have enjoyed a favorable

relationship in various fields, including economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and the business sector. In terms of tourism, both the Indus Valley civilization, typified by the archaeological ruins of Moenjodaro, and K2, the world's second-highest mountain, are widely known in Japan. It is my hope that bilateral exchanges at many levels will continue to be promoted in the future.

I became President of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League,

succeeding Mitsuo Horiuchi, after the general elections for the House of Representatives last year. I am determined to work hard to promote the further advancement of mutual understanding and friendship between our countries.

Again, expressing my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, I close with hearty good wishes for an end to the present misfortunes and a return to calm and prosperity.

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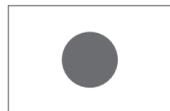
## Appeal for flood relief donations

To facilitate any cash contributions online, a bank account has been opened at Tokyo Mitsubishi-UFJ's Shimbashi Branch in Tokyo. Account details and transaction procedure are as below: 1) Kindly send your donations by "furikomi" (money transfer) to "toza" (current deposit) account no. 0000930 with the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi-UFJ Shimbashi Branch Tokyo (Account name: National Bank of Pakistan Tokyo). 2) Kindly fax the "furikomi" transaction receipt to 03-3502-0359 with your name, telephone number and address. 3) Kindly clearly write "DONATION" on your transaction order. 4) The National Bank of Pakistan will send a donation receipt to your address the next day.

Similarly, an account has been opened at the Japan Post (Account no. 00120-3-274876 at Minami-Azabu-Go Branch Tokyo) under the title "Prime Minister of Pakistan Flood Relief Fund 2010" for any contribution.

For any further information and coordination, Imtiaz Ahmad, minister and head of the Chancery at the Pakistan Embassy in Tokyo can be contacted by phone at 03-5421-3601 or by fax at 03-5421-3610.

# Congratulations on the Occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of Pakistan Independence Day



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دل دل پاکستان

## Wishing a great future for our country Happy Independence Day



Displaced Pakistan flood victims pray for help.

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