

Pakistan National Day Special

Bilateral relationship continues to grow

RAZA BASHIR TARAR
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day, let me express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots in Japan, our respectful and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

March 23 is an important landmark in the history of Pakistan. It was on this day in 1940 when the historic Lahore Resolution was passed, uniting the Muslims of the subcontinent for a greater objective. The Muslims of the subcontinent through their collective will expressed unwavering resolve to carve out a separate homeland for themselves where they could lead their lives in accordance with their own religion, traditions, values and culture. Today, we also pay homage to the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, "Poet of the East" Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all the other great leaders of the freedom movement who paved the way for the creation of Pakistan.

Friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan are historical and time-tested. Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Japan. We have always looked to Japan with a sense of respect and veneration as a very important country in Asia, whose economic success and model we wish to emulate.



Apricot trees bloom as spring comes to Chunda Valley. QAMMER WAZIR

I am pleased to note that the relations between Pakistan and Japan have gained enhanced momentum during the past few years. A number of visits, which are a clear manifestation of mutual desire to enhance already excellent relations, have taken place. Both sides have also signed a number of agreements that govern bilateral cooperation in a number of sectors. A number of institutional mechanisms are in place to consolidate and expand our relationship in various fields. Both friendly countries also cooperate at international forums on a wide range of issues.

The bedrock of our relationship has been economic, with Japan being a key develop-

ment partner, major investor and significant export destination for Pakistan. Pakistani-Japanese economic cooperation and engagement has been picking up in the past few years. Japan considers Pakistan one of the major destinations for its companies. In this regard, big Japanese corporations such as Marubeni, Mitsui, Sojitz, Morinaga and auto manufacturers like Toyota, Honda and Suzuki have significant investments in Pakistan. Pakistan's exports to Japan have been on an increasing trajectory for the past three years, and shown positive growth in the first two quarters of the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Here, I would like to highlight the major contribution of the 19,000-strong Pakistani



Upper Kachura Lake QAMMER WAZIR

diaspora in Japan. Our community in Japan is among the pioneers in the export of used automobiles, the carpet trade and halal food. They remain important contributors to the Japanese economy.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan for its high-level participation and pledge of \$77 million at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan held in Geneva on Jan. 9. This pledge was in addition to the \$38.9 million earmarked for Pakistan as part of Japan's supplementary budget to deliver life-saving aid to flood victims. A grant of \$7 million was also announced in September last year. Japan's pledge is evidence of our excellent bilateral ties and will go a long way toward alleviating the situation in flood-affected areas.

Looking forward, I am optimistic for 2023 and beyond. We will endeavor to carry forward the excellent momentum in our relations in the years ahead and forge new partnerships in multiple fields.

We are also confident that through our joint efforts, our fraternal ties and cooperative relations will acquire further depth in the years to come, to the mutual benefit of our peoples, regional peace and prosperity. *Zindabad* (long live) Pakistan-Japan relations.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



The Hussaini Hanging Bridge spans the Hunza River in Gilgit-Baltistan. MAHNOOR SAGHIR

Joint efforts in disaster prevention

SEISHIRO ETO
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the Pakistan Day.

Japan and Pakistan have been enjoying close friendly relations through exchanges in various fields, such as politics, economics and culture, since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952. Last year, which marked the 70th anniversary of our relations, we had active high-level exchanges, including a summit meeting and a foreign ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly and Association of Southeast Asian Nations-related foreign ministers' meetings, respectively. There

was also a visit of the parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs to Pakistan and a joint government-business dialogue, with many commemorative events held both in Japan and Pakistan. I feel that the bonds between our two countries have been further strengthened through these exchanges.

Last year, unprecedented flooding caused extensive damage in various parts of Pakistan and claimed many precious lives. I would like to reiterate my sincere sympathies for those affected. Our group held an emergency general meeting to discuss the situation of the flood damage in Pakistan and how Japan should support the country. As Japan is also a country prone to natural disasters, I hope that we can be of some help in Pakistan's speedy recovery, utilizing the knowledge and technology we have cultivated in disaster prevention and mitigation.

I would like to make utmost efforts to elevate bilateral relations to new heights.

I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for the continued prosperity of Pakistan and the further development of friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.

Working to broaden economic cooperation

AKIRA TERAKAWA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



Having been appointed as the new chairman of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee on March 1, succeeding former Chairman Teruo Asada, please allow me, on behalf of the JPBCC, to extend my sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Since the JPBCC's establishment in 1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Last year was the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. The JPBCC held the ninth Japan-Pakistan Private Sector Business Dialogue in Islamabad together with the Pakistan Japan Business Forum last September. We also attended a government business dialogue organized by the governments of Japan and Pakistan as representatives of the Japanese business community. We paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to report the results of the discussion. We

hope to further strengthen economic ties between Japan and Pakistan by bringing together the strengths of the public and private sectors.

Pakistan has a population of over 220 million people. Those under the age of 25 account for approximately 60% of the total, and there are many English-speakers, so we believe that Pakistan's potential is extremely high.

In addition, even though Pakistan suffered from massive flood damage in 2022, I understand that the people are now united under the strong leadership of the Sharif Cabinet and are working diligently on reconstruction efforts. As such,

I believe that Pakistan will be able to overcome the flood damage and achieve further economic development, thanks to its demographic dividend and such promising industrial sectors as automobiles, textiles and information technology. Consequently, I am convinced that more and more Japanese companies will choose to enter the Pakistani market in the near future.

Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan Day, as well as my sincere wishes for Pakistan's increasing development and prosperity going forward.



Phandar Lake, in the Ghtzar Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan, is an important source of fresh water. MAHNOOR SAGHIR

Congratulations

to the People of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the Anniversary of
Their National Day

Marubeni

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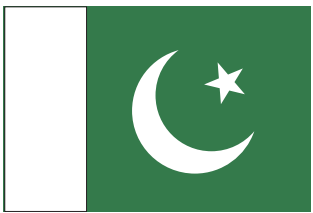
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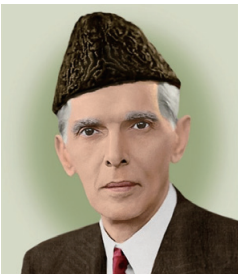


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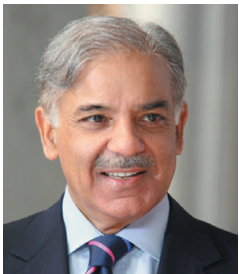
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23RD MARCH



The founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

**THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE
THE ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR NATIONAL DAY**

with renewed vigour and hope to build up a happy, prosperous and progressive future for our country and leave behind a rich legacy of achievements for our future generations to feel proud of.
NBP will continue to play its role in promoting the national effort for all-round development.

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