

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Steadfast friends through difficult times

ISMAT HASSAN SIAL
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES,
PAKISTANI EMBASSY



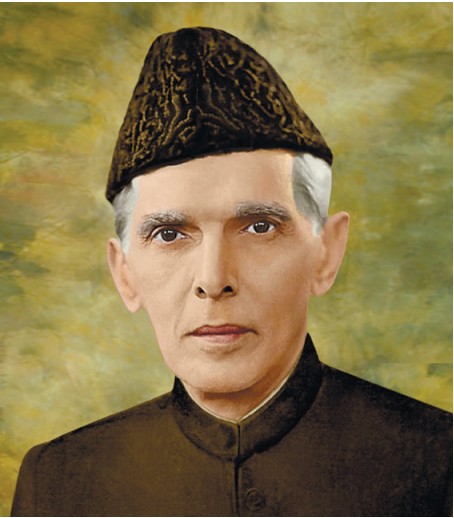
While celebrating the happy occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, I take this opportunity of expressing sincere greetings on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my compatri-

ots in Japan to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the government and people of Japan.

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan gained independence from its colonial past as well as from the shackles of physical and ideological restrictions that were binding an entire nation to a way of life that it did not ideologically agree to. As a result, an entire generation was invested with the effort to create and establish a safe place for the incoming generations. We remain thankful to our ancestors for their sacrifices and for their invaluable contributions toward strengthening a nascent Pakistan.

Pakistan since its birth has tried consistently to provide a safe place for its citizens, where individuals of all religions, castes, ideologies and ethnicities are welcome to a harmonious civil life. Through all crises and challenges, Pakistan has remained steadfast on its principles in relation to its foreign policy and guiding principles governing its citizens. Today's Pakistan shares the values of democracy, respect for rights and a love for peace with other like-minded countries, including Japan. Pakistan has overcome many crises and has always emerged stronger than before with its resilient population fighting all odds.

Pakistan and Japan have enjoyed historically genial bilateral relations. These relations have now successfully completed



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

70 years of mutual engagement and productivity. The strength of our bilateral relations has been tested many times. Over the course of these years, both nations have exhibited trust in one another and played constructive roles wherever needed.

The reaction of the Pakistani community following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in 2011 is a notable example. The Pakistani diaspora in Japan played a critical and a very important role. Our Pakistani compatriots created a network of support that the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan collaborated with to provide effective assistance to our brothers and sisters in need. The generous help of the people and government of Japan following the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan is another example of this mutual support.

Both countries have also enjoyed a robust level of trade-related activities driven by private enterprises and supported by both governments. There is a need to enhance this engagement to the mutual benefit of the Japanese and Pakistani peoples in new and emerging sectors, such as renewable energy, the information technology industry and in the develop-



President Dr. Arif Alvi

ment of human skills. Additionally, Pakistan has a vast skilled labor force that can provide invaluable services in Japan's robust and engaging market. Japanese technology and technical know-how can find a vast market in Pakistan where Japanese technical skills have earned a good name and a positive image.

COVID-19 has indeed tested the limits of globalization. It has also proven the need for global actions to fight global challenges, including pandemics. There is a need to overcome these challenges through continuous engagement and cooperation despite hurdles.

Despite these testing times, our bilateral engagement with Japan at the governmental level and with the civil society has continued for the past two years, though in-person interaction was relatively limited. However, the latest meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi on Aug. 4 in Cambodia was a welcome step in this direction after a hiatus of two years. We hope that this engagement will lead to further deepening of our bilateral understanding and a strengthening of our diplomatic relations.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

On this auspicious occasion of the 75th independence day of Pakistan and the 70th anniversary of establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, we reiterate our long-stated desire to further enhance our bilateral relations with Japan, to enhance our bilateral understanding and to maximize the benefits of this partnership for both the governments and peoples of Japan and Pakistan.

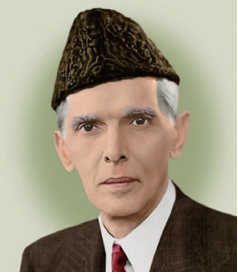


Left: Bahrain is a river resort in Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Right: Hikers tour the Shila Valley at an elevation of about 4,000 meters in Sermik, near the village of Mehdiabad in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan.

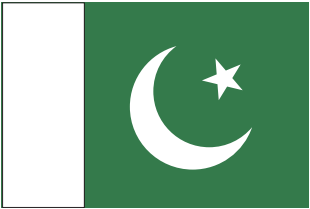


Above: Nanga Parbat in the western Himalayas is the world's ninth-tallest mountain. Left: The heart-shaped Shangrila Lake is in the Gilgit-Baltistan region.

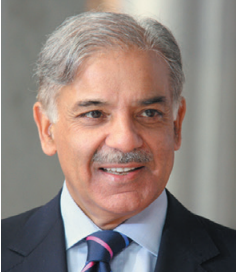




The founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



14th of August, 1947



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif


THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE
PAKISTAN
INDEPENDENCE 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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CONGRATULATIONS
on the Occasion of
Pakistan Independence Day

Heartiest felicitations to all our countrymen on this historic day. Let's pledge to pull together and put our country on the road to economic prosperity.



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Pakistan Independence Day Special



Lake Saiful Muluk, named after a legendary prince, shimmers in the Kaghan Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. It is one of the highest lakes in Pakistan.

GULRAIZ GHOURI

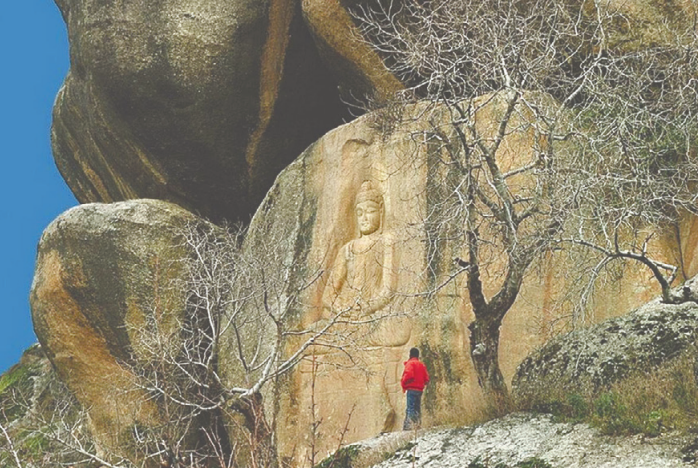
Mountaineers, IT reach new heights

FARRUKH RAFIQ
PRESS COUNSELLOR,
PAKISTANI EMBASSY

Pakistan is enjoying a bumper climbing season with around 1,400 foreign mountaineers bidding to scale its lofty peaks — including hundreds on the 8,611-meter K2, the world's second-highest mountain. Pakistan is home to five of the world's 14 mountains higher than 8,000 meters, and climbing them all is considered the ultimate achievement of any mountaineer. Pakistan is home to 108 peaks above 7,000 meters and 4,555 peaks above 6,000 meters. Fifty-seven expeditions are planned for 23 peaks this season — with 370 climbers

having a crack at K2, known as “the savage mountain.” Besides being far more technically difficult to climb than Mount Everest, weather conditions are notoriously fickle on K2, which has only been scaled by 425 people since 1954. With some of the world's highest peaks off-limits or difficult to access due to COVID-19-related border closures, many climbers have spent the past two years saving money and prepping for a return to the mountains. While K2 is more physically difficult to ascend, it is significantly cheaper than Everest. A K2 climbing permit — which often covers the other four eight-thousander peaks nearby — can be had for \$7,200 for a group of seven people.

The number of permits wasn't the only record set this year. Climbers this year include 90 women, with a record 20 who have summited K2 so far this summer. Among that group are Samina Baig, the first Pakistani woman to make it to the top, and Jenn Drummond, the American on a quest to become the first woman to climb all seven “second summits” — the second-highest mountains on every continent. On the information technology front, Pakistan is currently seeing a digital revolution. Pakistan is ranked the fourth-fastest growing freelance market with 47% growth in freelance earnings, along with a 70% surge in its IT exports over the past three years. According to a report by San Francisco-based organization Deel, Pakistani freelancers earn some of the fastest-growing salaries in the world. A survey conducted by Payoneer in 2019 showed that female Pakistani freelancers were earning \$22 an hour, 10% more than the \$20 an hour for men. To benefit from Pakistan's human resource potential, Japan and Pakistan have signed two agreements. The first batch of trainees from Pakistan are expected to arrive in Japan by the end of this year. Japanese IT companies have also started hiring professionals from Pakistan by establishing resource centers in collaboration with big universities like Pakistan's National University of Sciences & Technology and the University of Management and Technology.



A relief of Buddha carved into a rock in Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

GULRAIZ GHOURI

Great potential for mutual economic development

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee, please allow me to extend my wholehearted congratulations to the government and citizens of the

Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day. Since the JPBCC's establishment in

1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. The JPBCC heartily welcomes this year, as it is a special milestone: the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan. We hope to contribute toward the mutual relationship between our nations. Pakistan is a country with a population of over 220 million people. Those under the age of 25 account for approximately 60% of the total population, and there are many English-speaking human resources. Under the leadership of the Sharif Cabinet, economic development can be expected due to the demographic dividend and such promising industrial fields as automobiles,

textiles and information technology. With increasing business momentum in Pakistan, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate. I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistan market going forward. Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day. We look forward to further strengthening the friendship and partnerships between our two nations. This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations

to the People of

the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

on the Anniversary of

Their Independence

Marubeni

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The Khewra Salt Mine in Khewra, Punjab province, on the Indo-Gangetic Plain, is the second-largest in the world.

SYED SAGHIR SHAH



The breathtaking Chunda Valley in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan, is about an hour's drive from downtown Yadgar Chowk Skardu.

QAMMER WAZIR