

Pakistan National Day Special

Growing relations anchored by investment, collaboration

RAZA BASHIR TARAR
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



March 23 is a significant turning point in the history of Pakistan. In 1940, the passage of the landmark Lahore Resolution united the Muslims of the subcontinent in a common goal.

Muslims expressed their will to establish a homeland where they could live according to their own beliefs, customs, values and culture.

On this day, we also honor the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and all the other outstanding figures in the independence movement whose untiring efforts made it possible to establish Pakistan. We also commemorate the fact that the idea of a separate Muslim homeland given by the great poet and philosopher Allama Iqbal was put into concrete form on March 23, 1940.

Not long after its independence, Pakistan established diplomatic relations with Japan in 1952. As a highly significant Asian nation whose economic performance and model are worth emulating, we hold Japan in high esteem. It is heartening to see that in recent years the relationship between Japan and Pakistan has accelerated. Reciprocal visits reflect mutual goodwill, and memorandums of understanding and agreements that regulate bilateral cooperation in many fields have been signed by both countries. Furthermore, Japan is a major trading partner and investor for Pakistan.

Recently, there has also been an increase in the economic collaboration and interac-



tion between the countries. Automakers, including Toyota, Honda and Suzuki, as well as large Japanese firms like Mitsui, Sojitz, Morinaga and Marubeni have invested in Pakistan.

Deepening the potential for a strengthened relationship, Japan's workforce shortage and Pakistan's youth bulge have created a natural complementarity. Consistent efforts are being made by Pakistan to boost the export of workers to Japan.

The existing Pakistani community in Japan is well established and is making significant contributions to different walks of life and across multiple sectors in the Japanese economy. At the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, the Pakistan Pavilion will be following the theme "Universe in a Grain of Salt" to showcase the economic and cultural aspects of the country. I would urge all Pakistanis living in Japan, as well as our Japanese friends, to visit the Pakistan Pavilion at the expo.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the future looks even more promising regarding Pakistan-Japan relations. The government of Pakistan's tireless efforts have put the country on a path to solid economic recovery and development, as evidenced by a dramatic drop in inflation. Pakistan has set up the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which, under the leadership of the prime minister, is facilitating investments in various fields, including energy, agriculture, information technology, defense production and mineral development. I am confident that in the pursuit of our common objectives, we can count on the support of the government and people of Japan.

Zindabad (long live) Pakistan-Japan friendship.

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



Far left: The scenic Shyok River flows through the Ghanche district in Pakistan's Gilgit Baltistan region. Left: The Shigar Valley in Gilgit Baltistan is the gateway to the Karakoram mountain range.
QAMAR WAZIR

Promising trade and business opportunities

AKIRA TERAKAWA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to offer sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

The JPBC was established in November 1984 at the request of the Pakistan government. Since then, we have been diligently promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities between our countries. In August

2023, we organized the Pakistan Investment Seminar with Pakistan's Board of Investment and the Japan External Trade Organization. We welcomed BOI Federal Minister H.E. Salik Hussain Chaudhry and Pakistan-Japan Business Forum Chairman Murtaza Mandviwalla. Over 100 Japanese companies attended, demonstrating strong interest in Pakistan's potential. Through the upcoming meetings, we hope to further enhance economic ties between Japan and Pakistan by bringing together the strengths of both the public and private sectors.

Pakistan has a population of over 240 million people. Those under the age of 25 account for approximately 60%, and there are many English-speaking human resources. Therefore, we believe that the potential for Pakistan is extremely high.

As such, it is my belief that Pakistan will achieve further economic develop-

ment thanks to its demographic dividend and highly promising industries, such as the automobile, textile and information technology sectors. Consequently, I am convinced that more and more Japanese companies will choose to enter the Pakistani market soon.

The 2025 World Expo in Osaka is scheduled to begin in April. The expo will be a grand event with more than 160 countries and regions participating, including Pakistan. With the theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," we hope the expo will serve as a remarkable catalyst for creating a new future. We warmly welcome you all to visit Japan for this special occasion.

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



Faisal Mosque in Islamabad is Pakistan's national mosque.
NAUMAN ANWAR



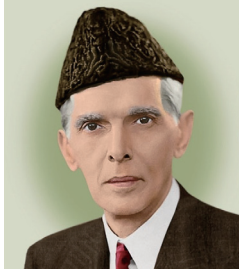
The Neelum River flows through the religiously significant village of Sharda in the Azad Kashmir region. MAHNOOR SAGHIR

Congratulations

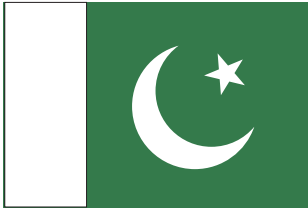
to the People of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the Anniversary of
Their National Day

Marubeni

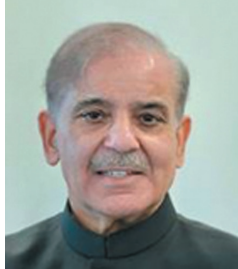
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The founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



MARCH 23



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

**ON THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE**

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PAKISTAN

with renewed vigor and hope to build 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

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



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Congratulations

Sojitz Corporation extends its sincere
congratulations to the people of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the occasion of the anniversary of
their National Day



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