

# Pakistan National Day Special

## Complementary bonds see socioeconomic potential

**IMTIAZ AHMAD**  
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On this auspicious occasion of the National Day of Pakistan, 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 the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and the friendly people of Japan.

Every year, we celebrate the national day of Pakistan to commemorate the historic day of March 23, 1940, when our founding

fathers clearly laid out the vision for a separate and independent state for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. That vision became a reality on Aug. 14, 1947, owing to the relentless efforts by our elders led by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

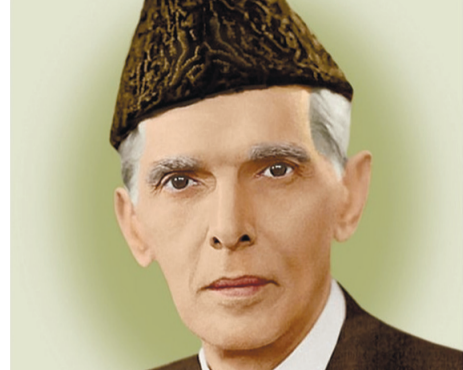
Pakistan and Japan are long-standing friends and share a special bond based on deep-rooted links that go far in history and time. The people of Pakistan hold the friendly people of Japan in high esteem and on this cherished day, we pledge to take Pakistan-Japan bilateral relationship to further heights in the new Japanese era of Reiwa.

Last year, the president of Pakistan joined a number of other heads of states in Tokyo to celebrate the enthronement of the new emperor. During his visit, the president also met Abe and both sides agreed

to enhance bilateral relations. In April, the foreign minister of Pakistan visited Japan and held very fruitful discussions with his Japanese counterpart. Such increased engagements are reflective of the desire the leadership of both countries to take this relationship to next level.

For Pakistan and Japan, the potential to grow mutually beneficial relations based on inherent complementarities is immense.

Japan, with its profound capacity and expertise for investment but with a graying population and a shrinking work force, is a natural partner for a Pakistan having more than 60 percent of its population under the age of 30 and having one of the fastest-growing middle class in the world. To materialize this possibility, last year Pakistan and Japan signed the Memorandum of



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

Cooperation on a Technical Intern Training Programme and Specified Skilled Workers, paving the way for bringing interns and skilled workers from Pakistan to Japan, thus contributing to the socioeconomic development of both countries.

The active and vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Japan, now numbering almost



**President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi**

16,000, is acting as a strong and effective bridge between our two countries and people. I have every confidence that they will continue to make important and useful contributions to Japanese society and its economy.

As we celebrate the 68th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations



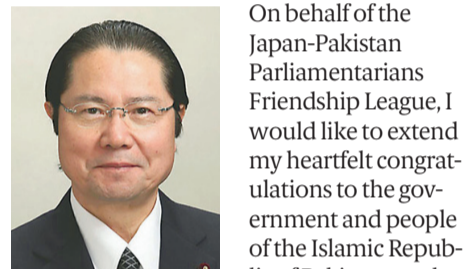
**Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan**

between Japan and Pakistan this year, we are keen on furthering our shared commitment to peace, security and prosperity to lay the foundation of an enduring partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Long Live Pakistan! Long Live Pakistan-Japan Friendship!

## Hopes for increasing bilateral relations

**SEISHIRO ETO**  
PRESIDENT, 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 people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Japan and Pakistan have been enjoying exchanges in various fields such as politics, economics, culture and academia since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952. Mutual visits of high-level dignitaries often

take place. Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Japan last April, and President Arif Alvi, last October. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Division Muhammad Hammad Azhar visited Japan in January this year.

The Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League had the honor of welcoming Qureshi during his visit to Japan. It was also a great honor for me to receive Pakistan's Hilal-i-Pakistan award from the minister. We also had a precious opportunity to hear Alvi's thoughts about Japan-Pakistan relations during his stay.

Pakistan has a population of over 200 million people; the majority of the population, under the age of 30, will shoulder the future of the country. I am pleased that Japan and Pakistan signed a memorandum of cooperation for sending and accepting human

resources from Pakistan under a new residence status called Specified Skilled Worker.

I also heard the safety situation in Pakistan has improved significantly recently. I hope these developments will prompt more Japanese companies to start operating in Pakistan and increase people-to-people exchanges. As the president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I would like to further strengthen bilateral relations using a long-term perspective. I would like 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.

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

## Business ties, markets expected to grow

**TERUO ASADA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Under the leadership of the Khan

Cabinet, investors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have risen substantially. With increasing business momentum in Pakistan and a population surpassing 200 million, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate.

I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistani market going forward. I also believe that more mutually beneficial human resource development will be facilitated through the memorandum of cooperation on specified skilled workers that was signed by both governments last December.

The JPBCC was established in 1984.

Since then, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities.

Last October, the JPBCC held a roundtable with Arif Alvi, president of Pakistan, where the attendees had thorough, valuable discussions. The JPBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business between both our countries through such mutual activities.

Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan Day. We look forward to the further strengthening of friendship and partnerships between our two nations.



K2 in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan is the second-tallest mountain in the world. SYED MEHDI BUKHARI

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
on the Occasion of  
the 80th Anniversary of  
their National Day

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the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
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the 80th Anniversary of  
their National Day

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23RD MARCH

THIS DAY  
WE CELEBRATE  
THE 80th 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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