

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Bond formed by long-standing ties

IMTIAZ AHMAD
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

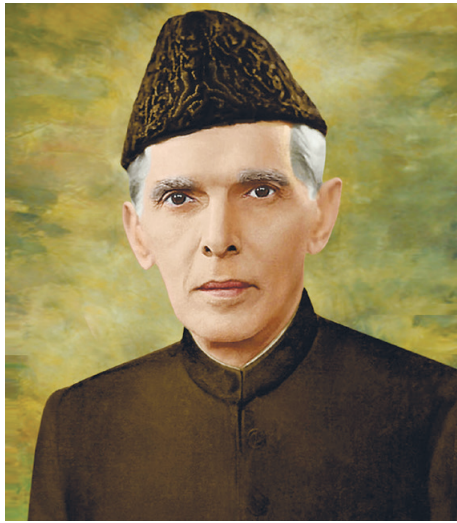


On this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, let me express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots in Japan, our respectful and

sincere greetings to their majesties the emperor and the empress, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and the government and the friendly people of Japan.

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan became an independent and sovereign nation-state owing to the relentless efforts by our elders, led by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Since its birth, Pakistan has always approached the countries of the world with a desire for lasting peace, friendship and mutual respect for sovereignty.

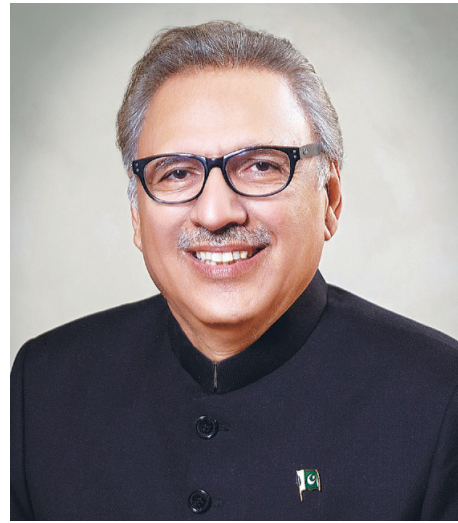
Pakistan and Japan are long-standing friends and share a special bond based



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

on deep-rooted linkages that go far in history and time. The people of Pakistan carry a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people. We have always stood with each other in times of need, calamity and natural disasters.

2021 marks 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake hit the Tohoku



President Arif Alvi

region. The Embassy of Pakistan arranged a photo exhibition and webinar on March 11 to observe the 10th anniversary and recall the services rendered by the Pakistani diaspora to help their communities in the aftermath of earthquake and tsunami.

On the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, we pledge to take the



Prime Minister Imran Khan

Pakistan-Japan bilateral relationship to further heights in the new Japanese era of Reiwa. Long live the Pakistan-Japan friendship.

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

Ready to rebound from virus

MUHAMMAD FARRUKH RAFIQ
PRESS COUNSELLOR, EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN, TOKYO

The Independence Day of Pakistan is indeed a great moment to share a few promising trends.

First, Pakistan was ranked third in The Economist's Global Normalcy Index of 50 countries last month. The index aims to determine which countries are returning to their pre-pandemic levels, by grading each via eight indicators: time not at home, retail, office use, public transport, road traffic, flights, cinema and sports attendance.

Pakistan was ranked third with 84.4 out of 100 points. While Hong Kong topped the list with a ranking of 96.3 and New Zealand came second with 87.8, Pakistan's quick return to normalcy is one of the reasons cited by Karachi Chamber of Commerce President Shariq Vohra for Pakistan's highest-ever exports for the month of July.

Second, in May the Japan International Cooperation Agency released a handout about a joint study that termed Pakistan the next powerhouse in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector because its tech exports climbed six times over the past decade.

Potentially a new partner for Japanese IT companies, Pakistan stood out because of the support structure provided by the government; its valuable pool of skilled and young human resources; and its achievement of growth led by an ecosystem equally owned by the public and private sectors.

Pakistan is a popular international outsourcing destination for its price competitiveness and large number of active freelancers. This study includes an IT skills survey that found Pakistani ICT engineers are highly skilled in programming, software development, data processing and analysis, infrastructure architecture and cloud engineering.

The report also includes feedback on Pakistani ICT engineers already working in Japan who consider their country an untapped market for Japanese IT companies, encouraging them to learn more about Pakistan and its collective potential in ICT.

Third, the summer season is usually associated with the arrival of Pakistani mangoes in Japan. People who love mangoes wait eagerly for the arrival of their favorite varieties. It is estimated that by the time this season ends in September, Japan will have consumed more Pakistani mangoes than ever.

On the investment side, Pakistan offers an open and deregulated market with 100% equity ownership and 100% repatriation of capital and dividends. From 2007 to 2017, leading multinational corporations such as Unilever PLC, GlaxoSmithKline PLC, Nestle SA, Colgate-Palmolive Co. and Telenor ASA have consistently made astronomically high profits in Pakistan compared with their global averages. Therefore, Japanese companies now consider Pakistan one of the most profitable international destinations, with growing interest in its energy, minerals, infrastructure, pharmaceutical, seafood and dairy sectors.

To leverage its geoeconomic location in the region, Pakistan is actively pursuing regional connectivity projects that provide Japanese companies great opportunities for investment and partnerships.



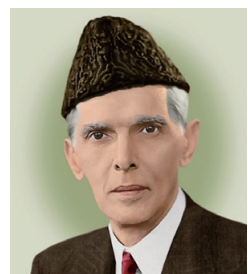
Pakistani mangoes dominate the world in terms of taste and demand. SYED SAGHIR SHAH



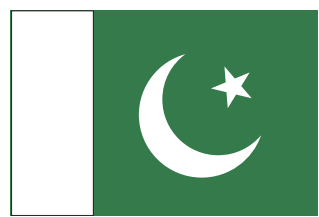
The clock tower in Faisalabad dates back more than 100 years. NAUMAN ANWAR



Left: The Shangrila Resort Hotel Skardu offers panoramic views of the Karakoram mountain range. Above: Kailash girls in the town of Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. MAHNOOR SAGHIR; FAKHR ALAM



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



14th of August, 1947



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Imran Khan

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 the Pakistan Independence Day

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



PAK JAPAN TEAM AFTER COMPLETION OF ORANGE LINE PROJECT

PAK JAPAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

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Pakistan Independence Day Special

Exchanges continue despite adversity

SEISHIRO ETO
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan

on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Friendship League.

As both Japan and Pakistan have been making all-out efforts to tackle the spread of COVID-19, an increasing number of people are getting vaccinated, which

makes me feel that we can now see a dim light at the end of the tunnel. I sincerely hope that both countries can continue to work together to overcome the adverse effects of COVID-19 as soon as possible. In addition to the assistance Japan extended to Pakistan last year, cold chain equipment for delivery of vaccines will be provided by the Japanese government via UNICEF, in addition to the provision of debt relief.

Next year we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of Japan-Pakistan diplomatic relations, which were established in 1952. Japan and Pakistan have forged friendly and cooperative relations not only between their governments but also through private-sector exchanges in different fields at various levels, including interactions with the business community

and academia. Although these interactions in the past year were largely restricted by the worldwide fight against the spread of COVID-19, our bilateral relations have been steadily strengthened. For example, in February, the Maritime Self-Defense Force participated in the Pakistan Navy's Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman-21, and an MSDF ship visited Karachi port on a counterpiracy mission again in July. Japan and Pakistan also held virtual intergovernmental consultations on economics and trade in March and on security in June.

The Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League is committed to further deepening this friendly bilateral relationship through promoting people-to-people exchanges in the days to come.

May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.

Awaiting greener pastures after pandemic

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



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

Under the leadership of the Khan Cabinet, investors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have risen substan-

convicted that, going forward, Pakistan will attract more Japanese companies to its market once the COVID-19 pandemic has been contained.

tially. With the 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

Since the JPBCC's establishment in 1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Our organization offers our deepest condolences and sympathy to all those in Pakistan who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. At this difficult time, the JPBCC hopes to reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening our nations' mutual relationship.

Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.



The Shigar Valley stretches about 170 km from Skardu to Askole and is the gateway to the Karakoram mountain range. QAMMER WAZIR



Kashikari (Multan Blue Pottery) is beloved for its craftsmanship and many hues of blue. MAHNOOR SAGHIR



Action from the Cholistan Desert Rally, Pakistan's biggest motor sports event. NAUMAN ANWAR



An iron smith at work in the Walled City of Lahore, the cultural and historic district of Lahore. NAUMAN ANWAR



The Karakoram range's "eight-thousanders" (mountains higher than 8,000 meters) start from Skardu. NAUMAN ANWAR



Farmers cut wheat in the countryside. NAUMAN ANWAR

Congratulations

to the People of Pakistan

on the Anniversary of

Their Independence

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