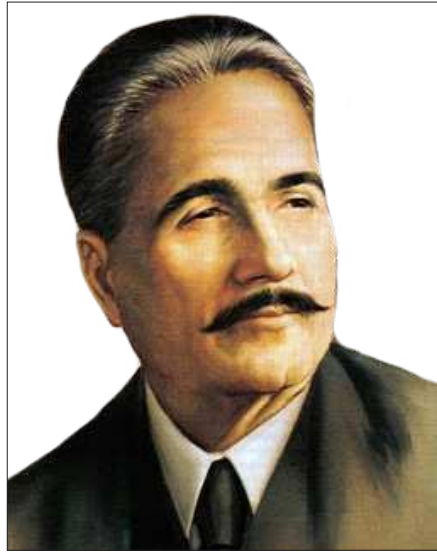
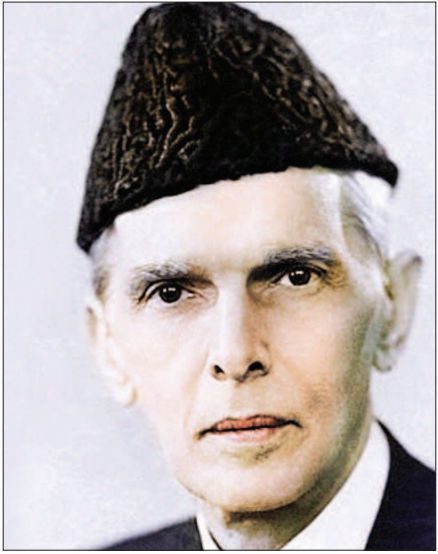


Special Supplement on Pakistan Independence Day

Independence Day of Pakistan



In the history of Muslims of the sub-continent, two dates are extremely important for their lasting impact on the course of political events in this part of the world. These are 23rd March 1940 and 14th August 1947. On 23rd March 1940 the Muslims of the sub-continent through a formal resolution expressed their firm resolve to achieve a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could fashion their lives in accordance with their own values, culture, mores and traditions. With the blessings of Allah and through the unprecedented struggle the Muslims of subcontinent achieved their lofty objective within a short span of seven years. The clarion call given by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on that date motivated and energized the Muslims of the sub-continent to work unitedly and relentlessly for the achievement of an independent homeland. On 14th August 1947 this struggle culminated in the shape of establishment of an independent homeland – Pakistan – which made the Muslims of the sub-continent the masters of their own destiny. The Pakistan movement which was taken to its full fruition under the leadership of the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah has its origin in the ideas of the poet/philosopher Allama Iqbal who believed that a separate nation for Muslims where they would be able to practice their faith without any hindrance was essential in the sub-continent. Besides Allama Iqbal the determined efforts and selfless services of renowned Muslims leaders and religious scholars like Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Shah Waliullah, Syed Ismail Shaheed and many other sincere Muslims paved the way for the creation of Pakistan. These were the visionaries who realizing the acuteness of the problem of diluting Muslim Identity, laid the foundation of Islamic renaissance and became a source of inspiration for almost all the social and religious reform movements of nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The luminaries stuck to the right path and upheld the banner of the universal faith of Islam and the dissemination of its universal teachings of truth, justice, peace and piety. The Independence Day of 14th August signifies remembering the contribution and sacrifices of the leaders and Muslims masses towards establishment of Pakistan. On this day the people of Pakistan thank Almighty Allah that He bestowed on them the blessing of independence. They also remember from the core of their heart, those hundreds of thousands of Shaheeds (martyrs) who sacrificed their lives for the achievement of a homeland for the Muslims of subcontinent. Today is the day when Pakistan for the first time appeared on the map of the world. The green-crescent flag of Pakistan was added to the flags of the world. This auspicious day reminds us of the pledge that in the light of the ideals of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the Thinker of Pakistan Allama Iqbal, we cleanse Pakistan of all types of prejudice, terrorism and hatred, and strive for the creation of society based on the principles of democracy and social justice. History of Pakistan is written with a struggle whose objective was to ensure the supremacy of peoples' power through a political process and to give shape of reality to that vision of the Father of the Nation which he had presented for the establishment of a democratic and welfare society. It is a day of solemn pledge by every citizen of this land to work for its development, and well-being. It is a day for every Pakistani to remember the sacrifices of past and devote all their energies to make Pakistan a leading country in the comity of nations. On this auspicious occasion, it is our proud privilege to greet all Pakistanis living in Iran and share our happiness with the brotherly Iranian people.

MESSAGE FROM H.E RAHIM HAYAT QURESHI, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Independence Day (August 14, 2020)

As we celebrate today the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan, I take this opportunity to convey my felicitations to all our Pakistanis living in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This day is a powerful reminder of the heroic struggle undertaken by the Muslims of the Sub-continent for a separate homeland where they could live their lives with freedom and dignity, in harmony with their religious and cultural values. Our forefathers underwent great trial and tribulation, with millions suffering the travails of dispossession and exile, and hundreds of thousands laying the ultimate sacrifice at the altar of freedom — so that our children may have a country to call their own, where they could build a prosperous and secure future for themselves. Envisioned by the great poet-philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal and founded by the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan was the culmination of a long and arduous constitutional struggle and was created to enable the Muslims of the South Asia to lead their lives according to the religious, social, political and cultural aspirations. Since our independence in 1947, Pakistan has embattled multiple challenges of enormous magnitude. With the grace of Almighty Allah, we have succeeded in overcoming these challenges. As envisioned by our forefather, a democratic and civilized society with rule of law, tolerance for different views of life and non-discrimination on any basis remain our guiding principles. Today, Pakistan is rapidly moving on a path to progress and development. Wide-ranging political, economic and social reforms, fighting terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations as well as working for building peace and stability in the region, are all manifestations of Pakistan's courageous, enlightened and dynamic policies. Pakistan follows peaceful coexistence with our neighbors and endeavor for mutual growth and collective prosperity. Pakistan and Iran share common perceptions on international and regional issues and closely cooperate on the world fora. It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan and Iran are working in tandem to further promote their deep-rooted historical ties, strengthen regional and international cooperation and safeguard the interests of the Muslim Ummah. A new phase in our bilateral relationships initiated with Prime Minister Imran Khan's two visits to Iran last year in April and October, 2019. The visits deepened mutual understanding and led to a joint commitment to priorities and pursue our economic goals. There has been multi-faceted interaction between the two governments on several levels since then. Pakistan deeply admires principled stance of Supreme Leader Seyed Ayatollah Khamenei on the issue Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the atrocious violations of Human Rights therein. Unfortunately, in the same month last year, Government of India laid Indian Military Siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. On 5th of August, 2019, the Indian government violated all the resolutions of UN Security Council and illegally annexed Jammu & Kashmir. We observed Youm-e-Istehsal on this 5th August when complete one year of illegal annexation has been passed. During this time of celebration, let us not forget the plight of our Kashmiri brethren who, despite the Covid-19 and persistent global condemnation by the UN, OIC and other human rights bodies, continue to suffer systematic persecution of Kashmiri Muslims. Despite all the stubbornness on India's part, with the blessings of Allah the day is not far when ILOK will soon realize its Right of Self Determination and the sun of independence from illegal Indian occupation will dawn upon them. As aptly said by Poet Sahir Ludhianvi:



ظلم پھر ظلم ہے بڑھتا ہے تو مٹ جاتا ہے۔
خون پھر خون ہے ٹپکے گا تو جم جائے گا۔

Finally, on this auspicious day, I pray to Almighty Allah to shower his blessings on the people of Pakistan and brotherly people of Iran. I am confident that our bonds of brotherhood would continue to grow in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries and the people as well as for the regional peace and security.

Ameen.

An Overview of Pakistan-Iran Trade & Economic Relations

By: Masood Ahmed, Trade and Investment Counsellor

Pakistan and Iran have strong relations tied with the strings of religion, culture and trade. The commonalities in these areas always remain the corner stone of this friendship. As neighbors, a common border stretching over 900 km and their geo-strategic location brings the two countries closer. Both have immense potential to work together for political stability, peace and economic growth in the region.

The hallmark of a close and sustainable bilateral relationship is based upon trade and economic ties between countries. Although the present commercial ties do not adequately reflect the depth of brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, it is encouraging to note that during recent years the two governments have taken several steps to improve cooperation in the arena of trade and economy.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Iran in April 2019, gave an impetus to bilateral ties as the focus of discussions was on increasing economic cooperation. Mr. Razzak Dawood, Adviser to PM on Commerce, who accompanied the Prime Minister held separate and substantive talks with Mr. Reza Rahmani, Iranian Minister of Trade, Industry & Mining. These discussions were carried forward in July this year when Minister Rehmani visited Islamabad to participate in the 4th Technical Negotiations Committee (TNC) on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and 8th Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meetings. Since it had been agreed to increase bilateral trade to reach the target of US\$ 5 billion, discussions were focused on the way forward in realizing this target. These included setting up a barter mechanism, putting in place some form of banking system and signing of the FTA. Iran offered to buy five hundred thousand metric tons of rice from Pakistan through barter. The work on developing a standardized system for barter trade is entering advanced stage. A meeting between chamber of Commerce and Industry of Zahedan and Quetta is scheduled for 8 to 13 August, 2020 in Quetta. It is expected that modalities of the barter trade mechanism will be finalized shortly. According to trade figures of 2019-20, bilateral trade between Pakistan and Iran in the year of 2019-20 was US\$ 1518 million. Iran export to Pakistan decreased almost 4%, whereas Pakistan's exports to Iran increased by 24%. The trade analysis of Pakistan exports for the current year suggests that it has increased from US 330 million to US \$ 410 million. However, the overall trade has decreased from US \$1577 million to US \$ 1518 million indicating a decrease of almost 4%. The decrease in Iran exports was from US \$ 1247 million to US\$ 1108 million. Even though the Iran export to Pakistan is

decreased, this illustrates that Iranian exports can freely enter Pakistan's liberal markets while Pakistani goods face high tariffs, stringent regulations and bans on imports by Iranian government. The negative impact of Covid-19 on bilateral trade cannot be ignored; it proved nothing short of a non-tariff barrier for both countries because it restricted, if not halted, bilateral trade of both countries for quite some time. Pakistan's major exports of Rice, Wheat and Kinnow (Oranges) and Mango are the most affected. The ban on rice by Iran from July 2019 to October 2019, payment problems, limited quota allocation by IVO for Pakistani meat exporters due to the pending MOU on Cooperation in Animal Health has adversely affected Pakistan's meat exports to Iran. However due to high demands in Iran, despite these restrictions, rice export of Pakistan to Iran has increased from US\$ 237 million to US\$ 270 million this year, an increase of 12%. Iran's major exports to Pakistan include bitumen, petroleum gases, petroleum oils, nuts juices, chocolates, tiles, carpets, dairy products, fruits, rubber, animal oil & fats, Iron and Steel, construction material including cement and chemicals. At the top of the list are Petroleum products and bitumen amounting to US\$ 310 million.

Despite hurdles, the potential for greater trade between the two countries exists. There is a strong political will on both sides to strengthen trade ties between the two countries. When a ship does not know the harbor it is heading for no wind is the right wind. Therefore, both the countries need to adopt a targeted approach especially in the implementation and follow up of the decisions taken in previous JEC and JTC. Further, besides conventional methods of trade promotion, both countries need to explore ICT based methods in post Covid-19 era where physical movement is expected to remain limited. Pakistan enjoys the unique privilege of being the first country to sign a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Iran which has been operational since 2006, whereby concession in import duties are granted on about 647 items by both sides on reciprocal basis. Under the PTA, Pakistan has granted tariff concessions to Iran on 338 tariff lines, while Iran has granted tariff concessions on 309 lines. Average tariff concessions are around 18 percent. Signing of an FTA will further enhance trade. Pakistan and Iran are also negotiating Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on Standards & Quality Controls and Sanitary & Phyto-sanitary measures. Besides, work on Electronic Data Exchange is also at advanced level. A lot of work is also needed to be done on rail network between the two countries. A railway network connects Quetta (Pakistan) to Zahedan (Iran). The three major partners of ECO i.e. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey had agreed to start both regular passenger and cargo trains from Islamabad to Istanbul



via Quetta, Zahedan, Tehran and Tabriz. Both sides had agreed to offer freight train services on a twice monthly basis, subject to availability of cargo. Pakistan had proposed concessionary fares between Zahedan and Quetta. There is a proposal from Iran to construct a line of standard gauge in the existing broad-gauge Railway track from Quetta to Taftan. This will pave the way for Iranian trains to move upto Quetta and back. In 2002, Pakistan started buying electricity from Iran for its areas along Pak-Iran border. In addition, NTDC of Pakistan and its counterpart Iranian organization TAVANIR signed an Agreement for supply of 104 MW of electricity from Iran for the border districts of Pakistan. Proposals for 100 MW of electricity for Gwadar and 1000 MW of electricity from Zahedan to Quetta are also under review. Iran and Pakistan are also developing two major ports in respective countries, Gwadar Port and Chabahar Port. Both ports are complementary to each other and would be beneficial to both countries. Both countries need to consider establishing connection between these two ports in the interest of trade and economic well-being. Strong trade and business ties between two countries will not only help these two countries but will also lead to greater stability and economic prosperity in the entire region.

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Pakistan



REAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



Malik Muhammad Ashraf

The emergence of Pakistan on the world map on 14th August 1947 on ideological basis was an unparalleled event of the 20th century made possible by the indomitable leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan is celebrating 74th anniversary of its independence. Celebrating Independence Day has a special significance for any nation. The occasion serves as an opportunity to introspect the course that the country has traversed since its birth, to reaffirm its pledge to pursue the vision bequeathed by its founding fathers with unruffled commitment and determination and above all to express its unqualified gratitude to them for the efforts and sacrifices that they rendered winning independence.

There is no denying the fact that since independence Pakistan had to wade through many crisis and challenges owing to external and internal developments. But the redeeming factor has been that it has emerged stronger after every setback due to the unity, resilience and determination of the nation to adhere to the objectives of independence and staying on course to consolidate its gains.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that having gone through periods of trials and tribulations, Pakistan is traversing a democratic path to fulfill the objectives of its independence and consolidating its gains which gives an added cause for rejoicing.

Nevertheless Pakistan is still faced with enormous challenges. The economy inherited by the government was in a bad shape and it took a number of measures to set it on the right course. Rather unfortunate that like all economies of the world Pakistan's economy has also been affected by the onset of the corona virus. Security of the region is in a perilous balance due to the illegal actions of the Indian government in IO&JK and its continued hostile posturing towards Pakistan.

However it is satisfying to note that the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan is dedicatedly engaged in fighting these challenges with unswerving commitment. A process of path correction and giving the country a

system of governance which conforms to the ideals and objectives of independence has been set rolling backed by wholehearted support of the nation.

The prudent and pragmatic economic policies, adoption of a strategy of 'smart lockdown,' in spite of fierce resistance by the opponents of the government, cash support given to the vulnerable segments of the society and steps taken in the health sector to check the spread of corona virus, have paid dividends. There are visible signs of improvement in the overall situation. The spread of corona virus has been contained. The rate of new infections and deaths has gone down drastically. While the world is still reeling under the adverse impact of covid-19 Pakistan been able to create a balance between protecting livelihoods and saving lives. The strategy pursued by Pakistan in dealing with the pandemic has been acknowledged and appreciated by the world community. The satisfaction derived from this success adds more enthusiasm and intensity to the independence celebrations.

While the people of Pakistan celebrate their independence day their hearts feel profoundly grieved by the sufferings of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) who are living under inhuman conditions due to the siege and complete lockdown in the valley and are also bearing the brunt of the brutalities of the Indian security forces in the form of extra-judicial killings.

Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan and an unfinished agenda of the partition. Pakistan has a great stake in the resolution of the question of accession of the state in conformity with the UNSC resolutions. India has committed a strategic blunder by annexing IIOJK to the Indian union in violation of the UN resolutions, bilateral agreements between the two countries and 4th Geneva Convention.

The government and people of Pakistan justifiably stand behind their Kashmiri brethren in their struggle for their right to self-determination. Pakistan has an abiding commitment to go to any extent to make sure that the Kashmiris are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has emerged as the most ardent supporter and ambassador of the people of Kashmir. He has not only espoused the cause of their right of self-determination with unprecedented intensity and sensitized the world

about the humanitarian crisis in IIOJK but has also warned it about the dangers posed to peace and security of the region by the BJP regime in India.

Beginning from his address to the UN General Assembly, followed by his interactions with world leaders and through the diplomatic offensive unleashed in the backdrop of Indian indiscretions in IIOJK, he continues to project the issue at all international forums. It was indeed a diplomatic triumph for Pakistan that the UNSC informally discussed the issue twice since 5th of August 2019, after lapse of fifty five years which effectively negated Indian narrative about the action taken in IIO&JK and the issue being its internal matter.

The situation in IIOJK and the continued Indian hostile posture towards Pakistan are fraught with grave dangers and call for immediate intervention by the international community and the UN. They must move beyond expressing muffled concerns about the situation and verbal endorsement of the UN resolutions. The only way to ensure peace in the region and ending the ordeal of the people of IO&JK is the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Pakistan is committed to resolution of all disputes with India including Kashmir through peaceful means. It proved its credentials as a peace loving nation having faith in peaceful resolution of the issue by showing remarkable restraint in the face of Indian indiscretion to send its planes to bomb imaginary terrorist camps at Balakot in February 2019. It also made a strong statement about her preparedness and capability to defend itself. The world community and powers that be must realize the gravity of the situation by removing the blinkers of their self-defined strategic and commercial interests to prevent the likely human tragedy.

Pakistan on its part will remain committed to extending all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to the cause of the people of Kashmir undeterred by the indifference shown by the international community. The new political map of Pakistan, including IIOJK, issued by the government rightly expresses that determination. For the people of Pakistan and Kashmir the real independence celebrations will be when the unfinished agenda of the partition is completed. They are looking up to the world community and the UN to give them the ultimate happiness.

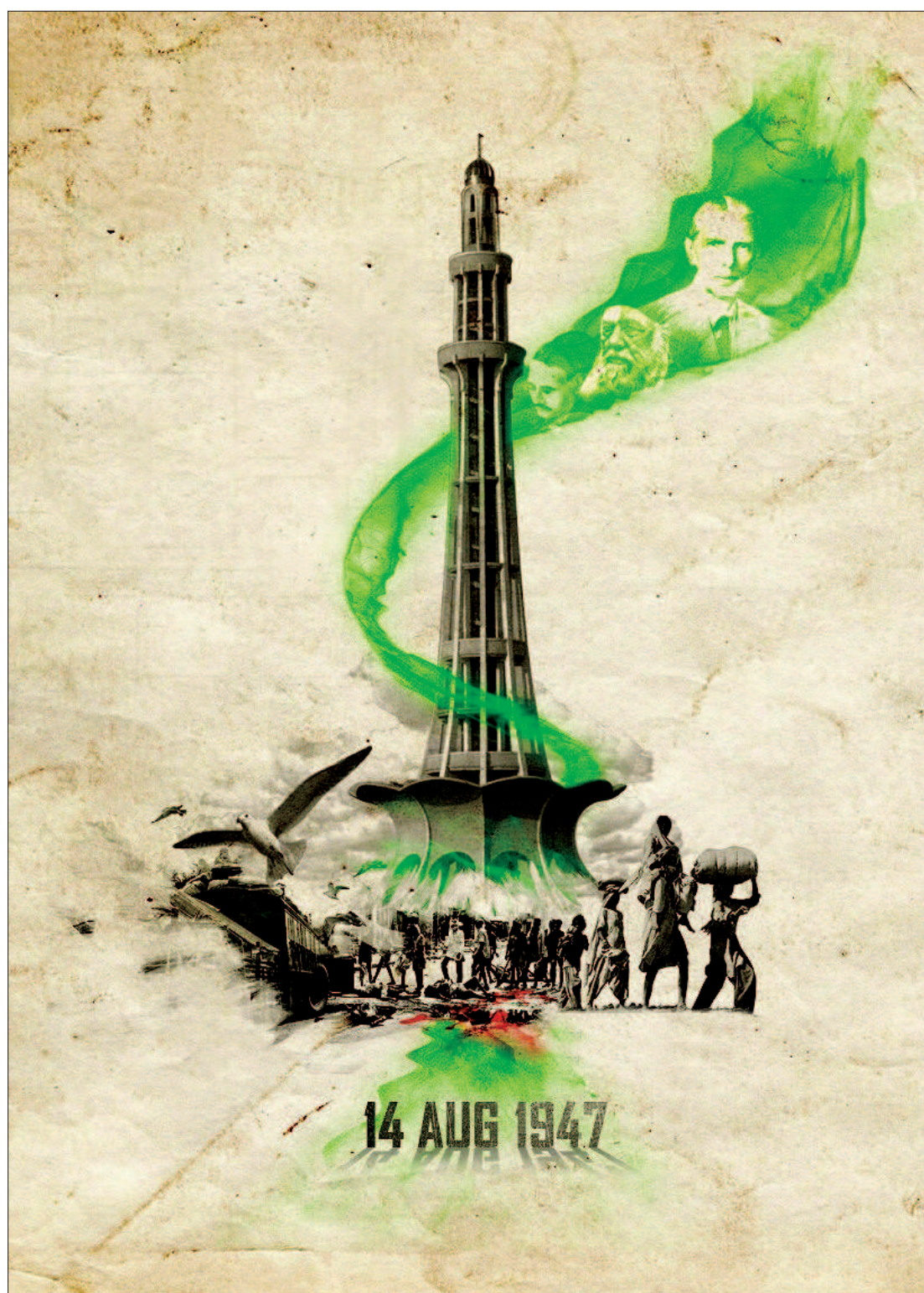
Untold Stories of Pakistan's Independence

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - The Partition of India was the division of British India in 1947 into two independent dominions, India and Pakistan. These are the citizens' untold stories of Pakistan's Independence; the joys and price of freedom. Admiral Rafiuddin Qadri (b. Rajkot, British India - 1934). In 2010, Admiral Qadri shared his memories about the 1947 partition of South Asia with the Citizens Archive of Pakistan's Oral History Project. He vividly recalled Quaid-e-Azam's powerful 1946 address at Ahmedabad University and the profound impact it left upon the audience of unruly boys, including him. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, (born Mahomedali Jinnahbhai; 25 December 1876 – 11 September 1948) was a lawyer, politician, and the founder of Pakistan. Jinnah was trained as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn in London. He served as the leader of the All India Muslim League from 1913 until Pakistan's independence on 14 August 1947, and then as Pakistan's first Governor-General until his death. He is revered in Pakistan as Quaid-i-Azam (Great Leader) and Baba-i-Qaum (Father of the Nation). While talking to the Citizens Archive of Pakistan's Oral History Project team in 2008, Zohra Fazal (b. Bombay, British India – 1925) spoke about the atmosphere at the time of independence and the impact it had on communal relations. Pakistan emerged in 1947 from a British India, which was partitioned into two Dominions, India and Pakistan. On 14 August 1947, Pakistan achieved independence one day prior to Indian independence. India was partitioned, and an East and West Pakistan were created from Muslim majority areas. The basis of Pakistan was found in the 'two nation theory', where it was suggested that the Muslims and Hindus in undivided India made up two 'nations' and hence, required separate homelands. Amin Naz (b. Kashmir, British India -1935) migrated to Pakistan soon after the Partition. He reminisced in his 2010 interview about his moving experience of setting foot on Pakistani soil for the first time. One of the greatest migrations in human history began in August 1947 when millions of Muslims made their way to East and West Pakistan, and millions of Hindus and Sikhs headed in the opposite direction. Nearly seven million refugees are estimated to have arrived in Pakistan in the years following the Partition. Many hundreds of thousands never made it at all; at the most-conservative estimate, 200,000 individuals lost their lives in the massacres accompanying migration. Agha Salman Baqir is a renowned Urdu writer, poet and critic from Pakistan. Mr. Baqir shared his father Agha Mohammad Baqir's role in the historic announcement made by All-India Radio, Lahore, at midnight on the 14 of August 1947, declaring



the "Dawn of Independence." The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation was originally known as the Pakistan Broadcasting Service at the time of its inception on 14 August 1947. It had the honour of publicly announcing Pakistan's independence from Britain on 13 August 1947 at 11:59 pm. Mustafa Ali Hamdani made the announcement from Lahore in Urdu and English, while Abdullah Jan Maghmoom made the announcement from Peshawar in Pashto. At independence in 1947, Pakistan possessed three radio stations at Lahore (1937), Dhaka (established in 1939), and Peshawar (1936). A major program of expansion saw new stations opened at Karachi and Rawalpindi in 1948, and a new broadcasting house at Karachi in 1950. This was followed by new stations at Hyderabad (1951), Quetta (1956), a second station at Rawalpindi (1960) and a Receiving Centre at Peshawar (1960). In 1970, training facilities were opened in Islamabad and a station opened at Multan. Born in 1928, New Delhi, Saeeda Siddiqui migrated to Pakistan via train amidst the chaos and fear of the bloodiest mass exodus in modern human history. She evocatively described the insatiable hunger she felt and the experience of eating her first meal after days of perilous travel without food. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, there was a large black coloured airship hangar at the site of Karachi Airport, constructed for the British HMA R101, at the time, the largest aircraft ever built. Only three hangars were ever built in the world to dock and hangar Britain's fleet of

passenger airships. However, the R101 never arrived in Karachi (then part of the British Raj) as it crashed and exploded just 8 hours into its maiden flight over Beauvais France, killing all but 6 of its 54 passengers and crew. This hangar was so huge that aircraft often used it as a visual marker while attempting VFR landings at Karachi. Over the years, the hangar became known as the landmark of Karachi, until it was demolished by order of then-President Ayub Khan in the 1960s. Dr. Attiya Inayatullah (b. Sialkot, British India – 1939) migrated to Pakistan from Delhi in 1947. She was happy to share her memories of the warm welcome that awaited her and other migrants arriving in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, in 1947. Rail transport in Pakistan began in 1855 during the British Raj, when several railway companies began to lay track and started to operate in present-day Pakistan. The system was originally a patchwork of local rail lines operated by small private companies, including the Scinde, Punjab and Delhi Railways and the Indus Steam Flotilla. In 1870, the four companies were amalgamated as the Scinde, Punjab & Delhi Railway. Several other rail lines were built shortly thereafter, including the Sind-Sagar and Trans-Baluchistan Railways and the Sind-Pishin, Indus Valley, Punjab Northern and Kandahar State Railways. These six companies and the Scinde, Punjab & Delhi Railway merged to form the North Western State Railway in 1880. In 1947, following Pakistan's independence, the North Western Railway became Pakistan Western Railway and the rail system was reorganized. Amanullah Khan is a former lawyer and Judge born in 1935 in Kota, Rajasthan. In an interview in 2015, Mr. Khan described of the long and arduous journey from Karachi to Hyderabad following his 1948 arrival in Pakistan at the port of Karachi. The Port of Karachi is one of South Asia's largest and busiest deep-water seaports, handling about 60% of Pakistan's cargo (25 million tons per annum) located in Karachi, Pakistan. It is located between the Karachi towns of Kiamari and Saddar, close to the main business district and several industrial areas. The geographic position of the port places it in close proximity to major shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. The administration of the port is carried out by the Karachi Port Trust, which was established in the nineteenth century. The modern port started its operations in 1854 during the British Raj, when a mole was constructed to connect the city to the harbor. At the time of independence in 1947, the Port capacity was about 1.5 million tons of dry cargo and 1.0 million tons of products per annum.





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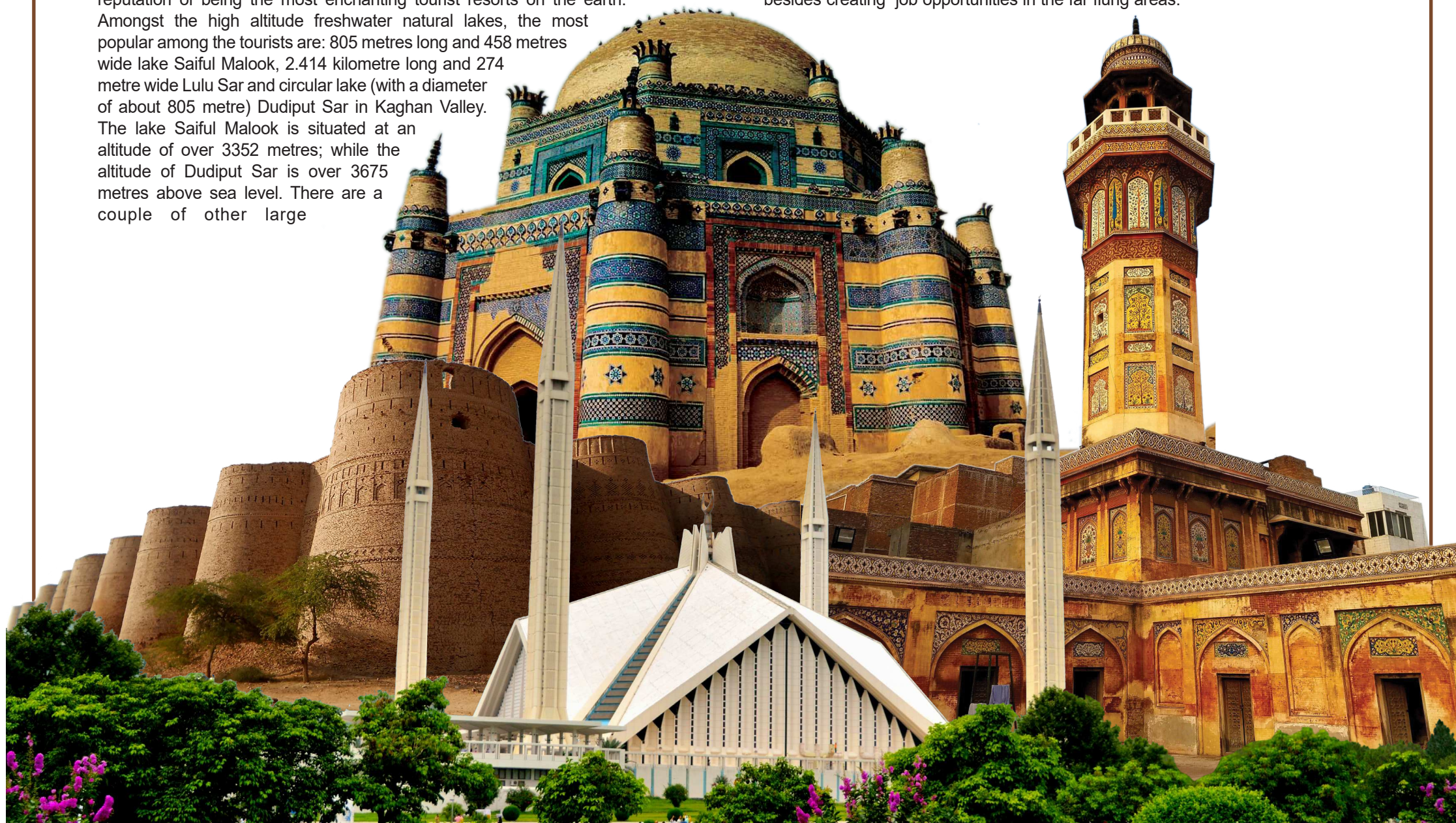
Pakistan has every variety of natural beauty found on earth – from sandy deserts of Sindh where the bustling city of Moenjodaro once stood in all its splendour, to the inspiring plains of Punjab, the rugged mountains of Balochistan, the soft sandy warm water beaches along its long coastal belt, and the breathtaking beauty of the Northern Areas, studded with tall peaks, land mass under glaciers and high altitude fresh water lakes. Three of the mighty mountain systems – the Hindukush, the Karakoram and the Himalayas – adorn Pakistan's forehead, a country having a land mass stretching over 796,095 sq. km. Forty of the world's 50 highest mountains are in Pakistan. It has seven of the 16 tallest peaks in Asia. The description – the highest the longest, the largest – and the relevant statistics are too enticing and baffling. In Baltistan, over 45 peaks touch or cross the 20,000 foot (6,096 metre) mark, while in Gilgit within a radius of 65 miles (104.6 kilometres), there are over two dozen peaks ranging in height between 18,000 feet (5486.4 metres) to 26,000 feet (7925 metres). The awe-inspiring beauty of these mountains provided inspiration to a Pakistani poet to observe: "In Pakistan's lofty mountain regions, reaching for the sky doesn't seem too ambitious". There are a total of 14 main peaks soaring above 8000 metres in the world. Out of these, five are located in Pakistan. It has become prestigious, rather a measure of attainment, for the mountaineers to scale these peaks. In fact, the north mountainous region of Pakistan, with an assemblage of 35 giant peaks over 24,000 ft. high (7,315 m), is regarded to be the climbers' paradise. Many summits here are even higher than 7,925 meter, including 8,611 meter world's second highest K-2 or Mt. Godwin Austin, which is only a few ropes short of the world's tallest peak, Mt. Everest. The passes in the region are rarely lower than the summit of Mt. Blanc and several are over 18,000 ft. (5,485 – m). The Karakoram Highway - the highest trade route in the world - passes through the region and connects Pakistan with China. Pakistan has more glaciers than any other land outside the Poles. At an altitude of 4,000 metres above sea level, the legendary Deosai plateau in the northern Pakistan is famous for its large fresh water Sheosar Lake and wild alpine flowers whose dozens of species break out in a riot of colours during spring. The abundance of glaciers, high altitude large fresh water lakes and green valleys combine at places to produce holiday resorts, including Gilgit, Hunza and Yasin in the west and the valleys of Chitral, Dir, Kaghan and Swat in the east. Glistening silver rivulets meander, though the valleys of Chitral, Dir, Kaghan and Swat, profusely dotting them with scenic spots, thick forests of pine and junipers and a vast variety of fauna and flora and earning the reputation of being the most enchanting tourist resorts on the earth. Amongst the high altitude freshwater natural lakes, the most popular among the tourists are: 805 metres long and 458 metres wide lake Saiful Malook, 2.414 kilometre long and 274 metre wide Lulu Sar and circular lake (with a diameter of about 805 metre) Dudiput Sar in Kaghan Valley. The lake Saiful Malook is situated at an altitude of over 3352 metres; while the altitude of Dudiput Sar is over 3675 metres above sea level. There are a couple of other large

IN NORTHERN PAKISTAN'S LOFTY MOUNTAIN REGIONS REACHING FOR THE SKY, ACCORDING TO A POET, DOESN'T SEEM TOO AMBITIOUS RICHLY ENDOWED BY THE NATURE TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF SURGE IN TOURISM

freshwater lakes in the high mountainous Northern Areas of Pakistan. Most significant ones include: Honeymoon Lake, Satpara Lake and Kachura Lake. Marmots live in colonies of four to six in grassy areas around the lakes. These little brown creatures can be seen basking their furry bodies in the sun or guarding their burrows, turn by

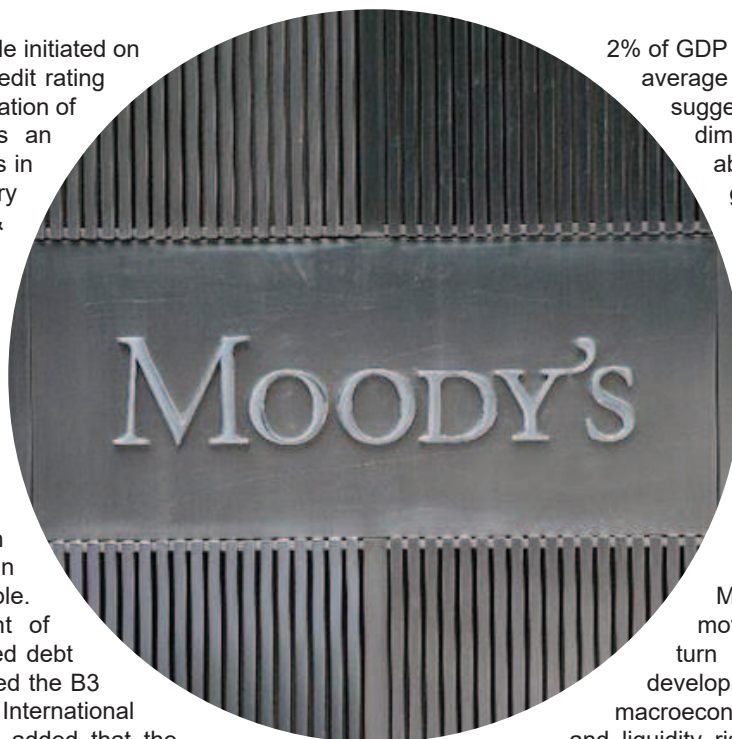
turn, with one at a time standing erect at its entrance. They scurry with a high-pitched squeak into their burrows if an intruder passes too close. The squeak is a call or alert signal to the inmates of the colony about the approaching danger so that they can shift to a safer point in the zig-zag burrow. Pakistan is also a citadel of Gandhara and some other well-known civilizations of the world. Inscribed upon the world heritage list, Julian and Sirkap remains, near Taxilla, have great attractions for visitors, particularly from Buddhists countries. The archaeological remains found in Taxilla, Peshawar, Charsadda, Takht Bhai, Swat, and rock-carving inscriptions along the ancient Silk Route have well recorded history of Gandhara civilization. According to some visitors from China, Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, and some other countries, the country's Buddhist religious places, especially Takht Bhai, have a great potential and if properly developed and facilities provided, these can become a source of great attraction for foreign visitors, in particular followers of Buddhism. Not only religious tourism, in fact, Pakistan's diverse natural endowments and culture has something to offer to every visitor who may opt to come here for adventure tourism, or leisure tourism, or exotic thrills. However, despite nature's extravagant bliss, Pakistan has not been able to make a significant inroad in the tourism sector, and exploit its immense potential. Motivated by a desire to show to the world Pakistan's natural beauty and rich historical background dating back to many thousand years, Islamabad has now geared up its efforts to utilize the country's great tourism potential

for religious, cultural and archaeological tourists. In a bid to create a suitable environment for the promotion of tourism, Islamabad is also collaborating with the private sector. It is engaged in strengthening road infrastructure, improving tourist resorts and building up restaurants, motels and hotels at various tourist spots. Tourism films and promotional material, including brochures and documentaries, is also being prepared for rejuvenating the tourism trade. The visa policy has been relaxed and now tourists from many countries can get visa, on arrival, at Pakistani airports. Once considered a haven for tourists because of rich landscape and cultural heritage, tourism in Pakistan suffered after 9/11. However it has gradually picked-up again. The authorities believe that the tourist-centric measures, initiated by it recently, would energize Pakistan's tourism sector and raise its revenues from this industry, besides creating job opportunities in the far flung areas.



Moody's Upgradation of Pakistan Outlook Affirms Sound Financial Policies

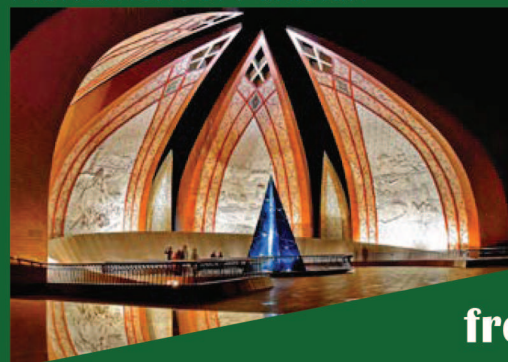
ISLAMABAD (APP) - At the conclusion of the review for downgrade initiated on 14 May 2020, Moody's on Saturday confirmed Pakistan's B3 credit rating with a stable outlook, which the Finance Ministry termed as affirmation of the government's sound fiscal and financial policies. "This is an affirmation of the government's sound fiscal and financial policies in these times of unprecedented hardship and uncertainty," the ministry said in a statement. Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Asad Umar termed the development as testimony of the V-shaped recovery. "In the middle of a global pandemic it's a testimony to the V-shaped recovery Pakistan has seen with balanced approach to safeguarding national health & livelihoods, delivering success on both counts," he tweeted. Federal Minister of Industries and Production, Hammad Azhar also termed the development an encouraging sign. "Moody's confirmation of Pakistan's B3 rating with stable outlook during pandemic was an encouraging sign," he said in a tweet. The federal minister said that the country's rating was downgraded to B3 negative in June 2018 based on data/policies of Pakistan Muslim League (N) government. In December 2019, he added, after economic stabilisation by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government (PTI), rating was upgraded to B3 Stable. Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) confirmed the government of Pakistan's B3 local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings with a stable outlook. Concurrently, Moody's has also confirmed the B3 foreign currency senior unsecured ratings for The Third Pakistan International Sukuk Co Ltd, according to press statement received here which added that the associated payment obligations are, in Moody's view, direct obligations of the government of Pakistan. "The review for downgrade reflected Moody's assessment that the country's participation in the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) raised the risk that private sector creditors would incur losses. In the last few weeks, Moody's has considered the evidence of implementation of DSSI for a range of rated sovereigns, and statements by G20 officials," the statement added. While Moody's continues to believe that the ongoing implementation of DSSI poses risks to private creditors, the decision to conclude the review and confirm the rating reflects Moody's assessment that, at this stage, for Pakistan, those risks are adequately reflected in the current B3 rating. It said that it remained unclear what influence is being applied to Pakistan and to other participating sovereigns to treat private creditors in a comparable manner to official sector creditors. It projected the current account deficit to be around



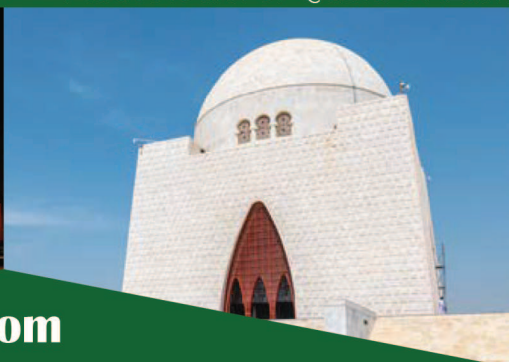
2% of GDP in fiscal 2021, after 1.1% in fiscal 2020, substantially narrower than the average of around 5.5% over fiscal 2018-19. However, a number of elements suggest that the probability of broad-ranging private sector involvement has diminished. These include the apparent absence of progress in discussions about how private sector involvement (PSI) would be effected in DSSI in general; indications by the G20 that PSI would require the support of the borrowing government; the government of Pakistan's continued assertion that PSI is not contemplated; and evidence of some debt payments being made to private sector creditors under a DSSI regime. The risks that remain relate to the possibility that, in particular cases DSSI is implemented with private sector creditors also being drawn in to provide debt service relief and incurring losses in doing so. Should the probability of default and losses to private sector creditors increase as implementation of DSSI for Pakistan becomes clearer, Moody's would reflect any related changes in risks to private creditors in further rating announcements. The stable outlook reflects Moody's view that the pressures Pakistan faces in the wake of the coronavirus shock and prospects for its credit metrics in general are likely to remain consistent with the current rating level. In particular, while Moody's sees downside risks to Pakistan's economy because of movement and activity restrictions related to the pandemic, which would in turn intensify the government's fiscal challenges, strong support from development partners including for external financing, coupled with effective macroeconomic policies started ahead of the crisis, contain external vulnerability and liquidity risks. Pakistan's Ba3 local currency bond and deposit ceilings remain unchanged. The B2 foreign currency bond ceiling and the Caa1 foreign currency deposit ceiling are also unchanged. The short-term foreign currency bond and deposit ceilings remain unchanged at Not-Prime. These ceilings act as a cap on the ratings that can be assigned to the obligations of other entities domiciled in the country, the statement added. A positive change in the country's rating could continue if ongoing fiscal reforms were to expand the government's revenue base, raise debt affordability, and lower its debt burden beyond Moody's current expectations. However, a change in the rating is also on the cards if downward pressure on the rating would stem from renewed deterioration in Pakistan's external position, including through a significant widening of the current account deficit and erosion of foreign exchange reserve buffers, which would threaten the government's external repayment capacity and heighten liquidity risks.

Happy Independence Day! to the Nation of Pakistan.

Monument of Pakistan



Mausoleum of Quaid e Azam



from Pakistan-Iran Business & Friendship Council

Himalayas (K2 Mountain)



Minar-e-Pakistan



Promoting economic trade and tourism between Pakistan and Iran for better integration and exploration of opportunities in both countries.

Harboring and facilitating the inter-state integration of business and culture through organizing and executing corporate networking events, social events and services in collaboration with public and private organizations.

Rohtas Fort-Kabuli Gate



This Council is envisioned for the ease of business for individual companies and businessmen, but also for the increase and better utilization of opportunities both countries have to offer; thereby benefiting both countries overall in the process.

Pakistan Address

Office # 5, 2nd Floor, Afzal Building,
Stadium Road, KDA Scheme-1,
Karachi, Pakistan

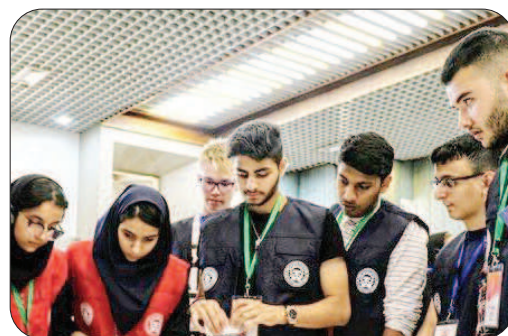
Iran Address

Suite # 202, 2nd Floor, Arsis Building,
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Pakistan Embassy International School and College, Tehran

Pakistan Embassy International School and College, Tehran (PEISCT) is a non-profit English medium institution established in 1964 to cater to the educational needs of foreign students living in Tehran. Over the years, it has evolved into a high quality educational institution providing academic excellence to children in a multicultural co-educational environment. The school currently has on its roll 37 nationalities. It offers curricula from pre-nursery through A' level in science groups. PEISCT is the only institute in Tehran which is affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad and University of Cambridge Assessment and International Education, UK. The subjects offered include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English, Business Studies, Accounting and Information Technology. The school's curricula are modeled in line with international standards meeting the criteria of both University of Cambridge, UK and Federal Board of Education, Pakistan. It also offers music and expressive arts as separate subjects. Besides, co-curricular activities, outdoor trips and sports competitions are an integral part of the school activity calendar to shape the new generation as well- rounded human beings. All these facilities ensure that the school is an ideal place to learn and students are motivated and prepared to the independent learners. Our mission at PEISCT is to impart quality education to culturally diverse students of different nationalities so that they are transformed and prepared for higher learning to become professionally useful and responsible global citizens. PEISCT has hired the services of experienced and qualified faculty and there is a proper mechanism of monitoring students' academic performance and progress. Parent teacher meetings are held regularly and teachers' professional development, through in-house trainings, is one of the salient features. Alumnae of the school are placed in top universities of UK, US, Canada, Australia, UAE, Malaysia, Iran and Pakistan and they become successful professionals in their areas of study. Career counselling is offered to senior students and necessary guidance regarding university selection according to the area of study is also provided to facilitate students pursue their careers. The school is housed in a 3-storey centrally located building with facilities that support students to acquire excellence in all areas. The school is equipped with modern educational aids, Computer lab, multi-media, audio- visual and internet facilities, Well-equipped labs for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and other subjects, Music room equipped with instruments and professional teacher, Sports facilities such as table tennis, badminton, basketball etc. available at the campus where a ground has been arranged to provide periodical access to outdoor games. The new academic session commences in August. Annual exams are conducted in May (KG to VIII), while Cambridge and Federal Board Exams are held in June and March respectively. This school closes for summer break for two months in June and July.





Special Supplement on Pakistan Independence Day

PM Unveils Political Map of Pakistan



Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday August 4, 2020 unveiled a political map of Pakistan at a ceremony here, saying the whole political leadership of the country, Federal Cabinet and the Kashmiri leadership fully endorsed it.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the new map clearly showed the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as a disputed territory whose fate should be resolved only through implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, guaranteeing the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Terming it a historic day in the country's history, he said the only resolution to the IIOJK issue should be sought out in accordance with the UNSC resolutions, sentiments of the Pakistani nation and the Kashmiri people.

"Once again, we clearly tell the world that the only resolution to the IIOJK issue is political as there is no other way," he said, denouncing the Indian government's illegal action of August 5 last year which clearly negated the UNSC resolutions and the international laws.

The members of the Federal Cabinet were present during the ceremony televised live by Pakistan Television Corporation. The prime minister said the new map reflected the sentiments of Pakistani nation, the principled stance of Kashmiris for their just right to self-determination and clear negation of the illegal annexation by the Indian government.

The prime minister regretted that the UNSC resolutions, which had clearly assured the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination, had not been implemented so far. He also reassured the nation and the Kashmiri people that his government would continue highlighting the issue forcefully at all global fora.

The IIOJK issue would be resolved soon and the map was a step towards that destination, he added. The prime minister said nurturing of ideas always led to the achievement of goals and cited his cricket career, which led the Pakistan team to win the World Cup, helped him construct the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital and led the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to power. Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the whole nation, the Kashmiri people and especially the prime minister deserved felicitation because for the first time a political map of the country clearly showing its borders was approved by the Federal Cabinet with complete backing of all the political parties. Previously such a map was limited to closed doors only, but for the first time, it was openly brought before the world, he added. The map reflected the true sentiments of the Pakistani nation and rejection of Indian government's August 5 last year illegal steps, he said, adding the Indian government mocked its own people by presenting a false map of the country after illegal annexation of the internationally recognized disputed territory of IIOJK.

The foreign minister said all the political leadership, government of Pakistan and the Kashmiri leadership outrightly rejected those illegal moves as the IIOJK had been a disputed territory and required resolution in accordance with the desires of the Pakistani nation, the Kashmiri people and the UNSC resolutions. Qureshi maintained that the map had clearly removed any confusion about the international borders. The red dotted line in the map clearly indicated that it required resolution, he added. The foreign minister said Siachen belonged to Pakistan as a part of it was illegally occupied by India, whereas the country's map clearly defined all its borders.

He further said that Sir Creek was also a part of Pakistan where India tried to occupy the area with machinations.

The foreign minister said in the new map, the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas were now merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, with clear borders with Afghanistan. He said the Pakistani nation fully backed the Kashmiris' struggle for just resolution of the dispute in accordance with their desire.

50 Interesting Facts About Pakistan to Know

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - With these fifty facts about Pakistan, let us learn about its history, culture, geography, noted people, food, inventions, mountains, mosques, family customs and hospitality, and much more. Pakistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is the 6th most populous country in the world. It has an area of 796,095 sq km. It is a country in South Asia and has 4 provinces (Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh). Islamabad is the country's capital and Karachi is its largest city. Both Urdu and English are its official languages. Urdu is also its national language. The Pakistani rupee (PKR) is its official currency. The citizen of Pakistan is called a Pakistani (singular) or Pakistanis (plural). Its four bordering countries are India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China.

Some interesting facts about Pakistan's noted personalities, trade, infrastructure, irrigation, independence, fertile desert, talent and more...

1. Sialkot, located in Pakistan, is the world's largest producer of handsewn footballs. Local factories in the region produce 40-60 million footballs a year, which is roughly 50-70% of the world's total production. The football manufacturing industry now consists of more than 200 factories.
2. Pakistan is the world's first Islamic country to attain nuclear power.
3. Pakistan has the highest paved international road – The Karakoram Highway (KKH).
4. Pakistan has the largest canal-based irrigation system in the world.
5. Pakistan has the world's largest ambulance network. Pakistan's Edhi Foundation, which is also listed in the Guinness Book of World Records, operates the network.
6. The highest batting partnership formed by two players playing in their first Test matches in the sport of Cricket is 249 runs by Khalid Ibadulla (b. 20 December 1935) and Abdul Kadir (b. 1944, d. 2002) for Pakistan against Australia in Karachi, Pakistan, in the match played 24-29 October 1964. Wasim Akram, a former Pakistani fast bowler is the first to take 400 wickets in both Tests and ODIs (second being Muttiah Muralitharan).
7. Pakistan's estimated population was 212.2m in 2018, making it the world's sixth-most-populous country, behind Brazil and ahead of Nigeria.
8. The name Pakistan means 'land of the pure' in Persian and Urdu.
9. Just two people have won the Nobel Prize from Pakistan. Malala Yousafzai for Peace in 2014 and Abdus Salam for Physics in 1979. Malaya Yousafzai – defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012, but survived and went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.
10. Pakistan boasts the world's highest ATM (automated teller machine). The ATM is operated by the National Bank of Pakistan and it is installed at a height of 16,007 feet above sea level, at the Pak-China border, Khunjerab Pass.
11. Karachi, the largest city of Pakistan, is its financial hub as well as home to almost 17 million people. It also has a major seaport. Karachi was the first capital city of Pakistan post-independence and remained so until the capital was shifted to Rawalpindi in 1958.
12. India and Pakistan got their independence at midnight of 14–15 August 1947.
13. The national flag of Pakistan. Green with a vertical white band (symbolizing the role of religious minorities) on the hoist side; a large white crescent and star are centered in the green field; the crescent, star, and color green are traditional symbols of Islam.
14. Sugarcane juice is the national drink of Pakistan. In Pakistan, it is also known as "roh."
15. Pakistan levies 5% advance tax on annual expenses made related to education, however, only when the total expense is above Rs 200,000 during a year.
16. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was founded on 23 October 1946 as Orient Airways. The airline was nationalized on January 10th, 1955. The airline has a world record for flying the fastest between London and Karachi. The airline achieved this feat in 1962 when they completed the flight in 6 hours, 43 minutes, 55 seconds, a record which remains unbroken to this day.
17. K-2 (Chagori) is the highest mountain peak in Pakistan and the second highest in the world.
18. Pakistan also has one of the oldest civilizations in history, Mehrgarh, dating back to 6000 B.C. Mehrgarh is now seen as a precursor to the Indus Valley Civilization. It is one of the earliest sites with evidence of farming and herding in South Asia.
19. They also have a rare species of 'Blind Dolphin' found in the water of Indus River. It is the second most endangered freshwater dolphin species in the world, the first being the 'functionally extinct' Yangtze River dolphin.
20. Pakistan also made history with the youngest civil judge in the world. Mohammed Ilyas passed the exam when he was 20 years and 9 months old and thus became the youngest civil judge in the world.
21. The 'Khewra Salt Mine' in Pakistan is the second largest and oldest salt mine in the world.
22. Pakistan has the only fertile desert in the world – the Tharparkar desert – located in Sindh province.

23. Pakistan has the eleventh-largest armed force in the world. It has 617,000 people in its army. UN peacekeeping missions are supported largely by the Pakistani army.

24. According to a survey, Pakistan has one of the world's top national anthem tunes. The duration of Pakistan's National Anthem is 80 seconds.

25. Pakistanis are the fourth-most intelligent people in the world, according to poll results gathered from 125 countries by the Institute of European Business Administration.

26. The world's seventh-largest collection of scientists and engineers is from Pakistan.

27. The world's longest glacial system outside the polar regions – the Biafo Glacier – is in Pakistan.

28. The largest earth-filled dam in the world (and fifth largest by structural volume) is the 'Tarbela Dam' on the Indus river in Pakistan. The dam was built in 1968 and 1976. The dam is 143.26 meters high and 2,743.2 meters long.

29. Out of the total land area in Pakistan, 25% is under agricultural cultivation. Pakistan irrigates three times more land area than Russia.

30. The once world's largest man-made forest is in Pakistan – the Changa Manga forest (12,423 acres in area). It is named after two brother dacoits, the Changa Manga forest was originally planted in 1866 by British foresters.

31. Pakistan is also blessed with Jahangir Khan, a former World No. 1 professional squash player. Between 1981 and 1986, he won 555 matches consecutively (the longest winning streak by any athlete in top-level professional sports as recorded by Guinness World Records).

32. Islamabad, Pakistan is ranked the second most beautiful capital in the world.

33. For the passenger trains in Pakistan, the railway uses, 5 ft 6 in wide gauge, the size of a broad track gauge which is also commonly used in India, west of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Chile. Elsewhere it is known as "Indian gauge". It is the widest gauge in regular passenger use anywhere in the world.

34. Pakistan has some of the best-trained air force pilots in the world.

35. The Shah Faisal Mosque in Pakistan can accommodate 100,000 worshippers at a time. It was the largest mosque in the world from 1986 until 1993.

36. MM Alam, late Air Commodore from Pakistan, is known to have shot five planes in less than a minute during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

37. Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, has a population of 1.1m (2017). Islamabad officially became the capital of Pakistan on 14 August 1967, exactly 20 years after the country's independence.

38. Pakistan is so far the only nation in the world to get established on the basis of 'Religion'.

39. Pakistan is the only Muslim country after Turkey to open Combat Jobs for women.

40. Shandur Pass located in Chitral District and Ghizer (Gherz) District, Balawaristan, North Pakistan is home to the world's highest Polo ground at 3,700 meters. Since 1936, traditional polo festival is being held on Shandur Top.

41. Pakistan is also home to the world's second-largest Muslim population, behind Indonesia. Note that India is home to the world's third-largest Muslim population.

42. An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the Kashmir region in Pakistan on 8 October 2005. The earthquake caused displacement of approximately 3 million people.

43. The majority of Pakistan's population is Muslim, amounting to 96.4%, while the rest includes Hindus and Christians.

44. Pakistan generated a whopping \$1 billion in freelancing in the year 2017. Freelancing is the way of providing technical expertise via the internet. Pakistan ranks on the 4th spot behind India, Bangladesh, and the United States.

45. The borders of Pakistan were drawn two days after on 17th August 1947, after the separation of India and Pakistan.

46. Gwadar port is the largest deep sea port in the world, located on the southwestern Arabian Sea along the coastline of Balochistan, Pakistan. The port has an area of 64,000 square meters and has a depth of more than 14 meters.

47. In 1965, Pakistan had a second war with India over Kashmir. The seventeen-day war caused thousands of casualties on both sides, and also witnessed the largest tank battle since World War II.

48. Pakistan is also home to the largest single dome mosque in the world Masjid e Tooba. The mosque is located in Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan, and is locally known as the Gol Masjid. The dome of the mosque is 212 ft in diameter and is 51.48 ft high. It is balanced on a low surrounding wall with no central pillars. It was built in 1969.

49. Benazir Bhutto became the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan, and of any Muslim nation.

Benazir Bhutto – born on June 21, 1953, in Karachi, Pakistan, the child of former premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. She was killed by a suicide bomber in 2007.

50. Pakistan is also home to a lake which is one of a kind – Ansoo Lake (Tear Lake). The shape of the lake resembles that of a tear. The lake also looks like a human eye with an eyebrow, which becomes prominent during the summer days when the ice melts. The lake has a central island which resembles the iris.