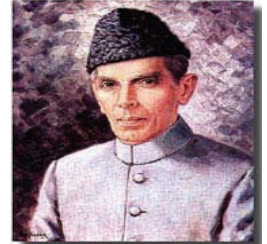


Flag of Pakistan

“With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve”

Quaid-e- Azam



Quaid-e-Azam
Mohammad Ali Jinnah
Founder of Pakistan

MESSAGE FROM PSNT PRESIDENT

Assalaamu Alaikum, there comes a time when you have to make difficult choices and last fall in 2008 was exactly that, for those of us who decided to standby the constitution of the Pakistan Society of North Texas.

We believed then and remain steadfast in this belief today that this society belongs to all those who love Pakistan. We strongly believe; it is the “General Body” who has the power to approve any amendments made to the constitution of the PSNT. It was a difficult choice; because to some our actions may appear confrontational. Nevertheless we followed our conviction and embarked on a journey to bring about positive changes in the affairs of the society and restore its constitution to its original form as approved by the Gen-



Dr. Irfan Toor, President

eral Body. It gives me great pleasure to report that the constitution has been restored and we are working diligently to make good on our promise to improve things. The first opportunity to experience this change will be the Pakistan Day celebration on the 20th of March, 2009.

It will once again be a day for all of us to get together and celebrate our motherland in a festive and affordable manner; especially under the financial challenge that we have been forced into. There will be food and entertainment representing Pakistan. The theme will be “Eis perchum ke saaye taley hum aik hain, hum aik hain.”

In this spirit I ask you to participate in big numbers; come and present all your regional colors and display your provincial pride. We want to demonstrate that our cultural diversity does not take away from our national identity. Indeed the colors of our cultural rainbow are intertwined and inseparable. Let us declare this with a bang and show that we are proud of our heritage even as we assimilate in our new homeland.

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PAKISTAN DAY SPECIAL ISSUE

As we all know 23rd March is a very important day in Muslims’ struggle for freedom. The Muslim of undivided India put up a clear demand, through a resolution for a separate state of their own, which came to be know as Pakistan.

PSNT is privileged to publish a special Pakistan Day issue to commemorate this historic event. March 23rd has an added importance because on this day Pakistan was blessed with first constitution in 1956, making it the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

PSNT is celebrating March 23rd with a host of festivities and colorful programs that include musical concert, Mela, and get together of the community at Richardson Civic Center on Friday, March 20, 2009. The Pakistani community is warmly welcome to this grand function in a spirit of joy and solidarity.



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FROM THE EDITOR



Saeed Qureshi

This is the first Newsletter brought out by the newly elected body of the PSNT for the years 2008-2009. The purpose of this newsletter is to establish regular communication with the Pakistani Community and to keep it posted of PSNT events and activities.

It is our hope that the newsletter would serve the purpose of creating a better understanding and rapport between the PSNT and the Pakistani community. The readers will find useful information in the newsletter that would help them in their day to day matters and issues.

We shall, in the time to come, strive to improve the newsletter and to make it more interesting, useful and productive. The suggestions and the opinion of the valued readers and community members to make the Newsletter more presentable and useful are welcome.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MARCH 23

by Faraz Saeed

The Pakistan Resolution also known as the Lahore Resolution, commemorated in Pakistan on March 23 every year was the first major step towards an unequivocal demand for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent of India. Although it was a formal political resolve or statement demanding for greater autonomy in the Muslim majority areas in British India, yet it became a stepping stone for a stepped up struggle on the part of the Muslim League for an independent state for Muslims.

Barely 7 years after the passage of the historic resolution, Pakistan emerged on the world map. The name Pakistan, originally coined by one of the Muslim stalwart Chaudhry Rahmat Ali in early 1933 was not specifically mentioned in the Pakistan Resolution.

The Pakistan Resolution was adopted by the All India Muslim League at its three-day general session held at Minto Park (now Iqbal Park), Lahore between 22 -24 March, 1940. The Resolution was moved by A.K. Fazlul Huq, the Chief Minister of undivided Bengal and was seconded by Choudhury Khaliq-uz-Zaman who explained his views on the causes which led to the demand of a separate Muslim state. It was in this epoch making session that Quaid-e-Azam, the President of the all India Muslim League, lambasted the Congress and the nationalist Muslims, and espoused the Two-Nation Theory. He also explained the underlying factors that led to the demand for a separate Muslim homeland in British India. The relevant

portion of the Resolution states:

"No constitutional plan would be workable or acceptable to the Muslims unless geographical contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary. That the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in majority as in the North-Western and Eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute independent states in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign."

Earlier the poet philosopher Allama Iqbal, the close associate of the Founder of Pakistan and a prominent Muslim League leader had in his famous presidential address at the 25th Session of the All-India Muslim League at Allahabad on 29 December 1930, for the first time, gave a specific proposal for the formation of a separate Muslim state in India. In that session he said:

"I would like to see the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single State. Self-government within the British Empire, or without the British Empire, the formation of a consolidated North-West Indian Muslim State appears to me to be the final destiny of the Muslims, at least of North-West India."

Yet as mentioned above, it was Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, a Muslim student living in London who actually conceived the word 'Pakistan'.

Cont. on page 4

PSNT Calendar 2009

March 2009
Pakistan Day

April 2009
Senior Citizen Picnic
Annual GB Meeting
Visa Camp

May 2009
Volunteer Training
Urdu Adab Program

June 2009
CPR Training
Robert Rules Training

July 2009
Health Fair

August 2009
Establish Nomination
Committee
Independence Day

September 2009
Urdu Adab Program

October 2009
Deadline for Independent Slate
Establish Election Commission

November 2009
PSNT Election for 2010

January 2010
Handover to new PSNT EC

**Minar-e-Pakistan**

This monument was built at the historic place in Lahore where Pakistan Resolution was passed by All India Muslim League on March 23, 1940.

Places to Visit in Pakistan**THE ENCHANTING VALLEY OF SWAT**

The lush-green valley of Swat, with its rushing torrents, icy-cold lakes, fruit-laden orchards and flower-decked slopes is ideal for holiday-makers intent on relaxation. It has a rich historical past, too.

This is "Udayana" (the "Garden") of the ancient Hindu epics; "the land of enthralling beauty" where Alexander of Macedonia fought and won some of his major battles before crossing over to the plains of Pakistan. This is "the valley of the hanging chains" described by the famous Chinese pilgrim-chroniclers, Huain Tsang and Fa-Hian in the fifth and sixth centuries.

Swat was once the cradle of Buddhism of all its schools- Little Vehicle, Great Vehicle and the Esoteric sects where once 1,400 monasteries flourished. It was the home of the famous Gandhara School of Sculpture which was an expression of Graeco-Roman form in the local Buddhist tradition. Swat was also the historical land where the Muslim conquerors, Mahmud of Ghazni, Babur and Akbar fought their battles preparatory to the conquest of the South Asia. The ruins of great Buddhist stupas, monasteries and statues are found all over Swat.



The valley of Swat sprawls over 10,360 sq. kms at an average elevation of 975 metres. The maximum temperature in July is 38 C and minimum (during January) is 1 C. The normal temperature is maximum 21 C and minimum 7 C. The tourist season is year-round. Swat Valley is divided into 3 main areas, Saidu Sharif, Mingora and Kalam.

Contd. from page 1...President Message

We have formed several committees to run the affairs of the society in the coming months.

A petition committee was formed to petition changes in the constitution and it has already filed signed petitions for several constitutional amendments. I have subsequently formed a "review committee" to present its recommendations within 60 days.

Once the review committee completes its work we will call a General Body meeting to seek your approval for any amendments to PSNT constitution.

Other committees include: Media Committee, Events Committee, Finance Committee, Adab Committee, Social Services Committee, and Membership Committee.

Yet others like the scholarship committee and membership committee are in the works and will be announced soon. If you are interested in working with us please contact us, we need volunteers.

While we are upbeat and committed to bringing everyone together, we cannot compromise our principles. The affairs of the society must be managed in an honorable and transparent manner. It is in this area that much work is still

needed. Any attempt to hide records from the society smells of financial embezzlement and the entire makeup of PSNT is put at risk.

A rumor has been spread that the new EC is after money. Let me assure you that this is hardly the case and we are not "after money". However, the society has a constitution and it provides no room for arbitrary "Board of Trustees" to be formed without the consent of the General Body. We believe Society funds cannot be taken away from the society leadership without explicit authorization of the General Body. We are making preparations to call a vote on this issue and will let the General Body decide whether an independent body is needed to manage the funds of the society. It may be a good idea but it is also your right to choose. In the mean time agreements reached on how to manage the funds in interim should be honored. Sadly that is not the case today. My friends come join your society and celebrate your heritage so we can be proud members of our adopted homeland. Our pledge to you is that we will work to clean up the workings of this society and return the power to its rightful owners. That is you its General Body.

Allam Iqbal

Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal (November 9, 1877 – April 21, 1938) is known as a poet, philosopher and politician. His poetry in Urdu, Arabic and Persian is considered to be among the greatest of the modern era. His vision of an independent state for the Muslims of British India was presented in his Allahabad address in 1930 became basis for the creation of Pakistan. He is Pakistan's National poet.

Chaudhary Rahmat Ali

He is credited with creating the name "Pakistan" for a separate Muslim homeland on the Indian subcontinent. There are several accounts as to how he conceived the name Pakistan. According to a friend (Abdul Kareem Jabbar) the name came up when Rehmat Ali was walking along the banks of the Thames in 1932 with his friends Pir Ahsan-ud-Din and Khawja Abdul Rahim. According to Rehmat Ali's secretary Miss Frost, he came up with the idea of the name 'Pakistan' while riding on the top of a London bus.

Source: Internet

A Day of Reflection March 23

By Dr. Zubair Fattani, PhD

March 23 commemorates the passage of what was originally the 'Lahore Resolution' and later became better known as the 'Pakistan Resolution'. If there is a single most important founding document of Pakistan, it has to be this Resolution passed at the annual session of the All India Muslim League at its 1940 meeting (22-24 March) at Minto Park (now called Iqbal Park), Lahore. In 1941, this Lahore (Pakistan) Resolution became part of the Muslim League constitution and in 1946 it became the basis of the demand for Pakistan.

Most Pakistanis know what the resolution says; or, at least we think we do; in most cases rightly so. But because we are so very sure that we know what it says, we usually do not take the time to actually read it. Maybe we should. And there cannot be a better day to do so than today. It is, like many of the most important documents in history, a fairly short text. I partially reproduce it here for what I believe are the two most important paragraphs of the document.

"That adequate, effective and mandatory

safeguards should be specifically provided in the constitution for minorities in these units in the regions for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultations with them and in other parts of (British) India where the Mussalmans (Muslims) are in a majority adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards shall be specifically provided in constitution for them and other minorities for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them.

This session further authorizes the Working Committee to frame a scheme of constitution in accordance with these basic principles, providing for the assumption finally by the respective regions of all powers such as defense, external affairs, communications, customs and such other matters as may be necessary."

This is a day of celebration for all Pakistanis. A time to think about what we, as Pakistanis, are doing for the betterment of our people and our country. A time for unity among family and friends. A day to remember sacrifices made by our ancestors. A day of reflection.

Writing in the PSNT Newsletter

We welcome our readers, particularly the youth from Pakistani-American community, to write in the PSNT Newsletter. Besides projecting Pakistan in a befitting manner, our aim is to promote good will and understanding within the Pakistani community.

The submissions should not be more than half a page. In view of the limited space, the editor reserves the right to shorten or edit the articles. Nevertheless, the titles and names of the writers of those items not carried will be gratefully published. For more information, please email to info@psntonline.com.

Cont. The Significance of March 23.

It referred to "the five Northern units of India, Viz: Punjab, (Afghanistan Province), Kashmir, Sind and Baluchistan. By the end of 1933, 'Pakistan' became a common word among the Indian Muslims. The letter 'l' was later added to ease pronouncement (as in Afghan-i-stan). Choudhary Rahmat Ali mentioned the word Pakistan for the first time, in his pamphlet titled "Now or Never; Are We to Live or Perish Forever?"

To commemorate the 23 March 1940, a 60 meters tall monument named "Minar-e-Pakistan" has been built at the same site in Iqbal Park Lahore, where this landmark Resolution was passed.

23 March is a national holiday in Pakistan. It is celebrated as a Republic Day to commemorate Lahore Resolution as well as to mark the day in 1956 when the country had its first constitution and became the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

