



Message from President Asif Ali Zardari

To the Independence Day Mela, organized by Pakistani community in Dallas, Texas USA
August 8, 2010

I am pleased to learn that the Pakistani community in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex has arranged a fun Mela to celebrate the 63rd Independence Day. I wish to compliment the organizers and welcome all the visitors to the fun Mela.

The holding of such events is most welcome as it not only provides an opportunity to the members of Pakistani community to celebrate their country's independence but also introduces the country to the non-nationals visiting the Mela in an atmosphere of recreation and fun.

I hope the organizers have also taken care to project true image of the country along with providing entertainment to the visitors. The Pakistani Diaspora in the US is our unofficial ambassadors and it is reassuring that thoughtful individuals have been taking worthwhile initiatives to project the image of their homeland in the country where they live and work.

I hope that the event will also help project the true image of Pakistan; that it is a country that was envisaged by its Founding Fathers to be a homeland for the Muslims of South Asia where democracy, Constitutionalism and respect of human rights would reign supreme. It was envisaged to be a country where there would be no discrimination on the basis of creed, gender or sect and where minorities would enjoy equal rights as citizens of the state and fully participate in the mainstream of national life. That it is a country whose people abhor militancy and extremism and is determined to root out this menace from its soil.

Let it not be forgotten that countless lives were sacrificed for the achievement of the dream that was Pakistan. The country's first directly elected Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto sacrificed his life for democracy. The Muslim World's first Woman Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto laid down her life fighting militancy and extremism. There is great hope in the future and the Pakistani community in Dallas is justified in celebrating this hope.

Once again I compliment the Pakistani Association of Texas and Pakistani Entertainment Group for organizing this event and wish them all success. I also wish fun and good time to all those visiting the Mela.

Asif Ali Zardari

President of Pakistan