



Pakistan at the Crossroads of Peace

A Nation’s Quiet Diplomacy in a World at War



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari at Al Gudaibiya Palace during his official visit to Bahrain on January 14, 2026



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to Bahrain on November 26, 2025.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose after signing a joint defense agreement in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, on August 7, 2026.

Pakistan’s National Day offers an opportunity to reflect not only on the country’s history and resilience, but also on its growing diplomatic role at a time of heightened tensions across the Middle East. In recent months, Islamabad has emerged as a notable voice for dialogue, drawing on its relationships with Tehran, Washington, Riyadh and Beijing to support efforts aimed at reducing regional tensions.

When the United States and Israel launched military operations against Iran in February 2026, the region was plunged into its most serious crisis in decades. The Strait of Hormuz closed, oil markets convulsed, and the spectre of a wider regional war loomed over every

capital. It was in this environment that Pakistan, drawing on its unique relationships with Tehran, Washington and Riyadh, stepped forward as an unlikely but credible peacemaker.

Geneva and the Swiss Connection

A significant milestone in Pakistan’s diplomatic effort was its participation in high-level talks held in Geneva, Switzerland. Pakistani envoys worked alongside Omani and Swiss facilitators to establish preliminary frameworks for a ceasefire and the eventual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

At the same time, Pakistan’s close ties with Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, allowed it to reassure Arab

partners that any negotiated settlement would address their core security concerns. It was a delicate balance, and Pakistani diplomats walked it with considerable skill.

A Royal Endorsement

Pakistan’s role did not go unnoticed at the highest levels of Gulf leadership. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, expressed appreciation for Pakistan’s constructive diplomatic mediation efforts during the crucial time.

For Islamabad, the royal endorsement carried significant diplomatic weight, reinforcing Pakistan’s standing as a credible actor in Middle Eastern affairs at a mo-

ment when its own economy and security challenges might have called for a more inward focus.

Beyond Mediation:

The Saudi-Turkiye Defence Pact

Pakistan’s diplomatic activity unfolded against a backdrop of sweeping shifts in the region’s security architecture. In a landmark development, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed a mutual defence pact in Mecca, pledging that an attack on one would be treated as an attack on both. Pakistan, which maintains deep strategic and military ties with both Riyadh and Ankara, welcomed the agreement as a step toward greater collective security in the Muslim world.

Pakistan’s National Day has historically been an occasion to reflect on resilience — a nation



US Vice President JD Vance, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani during negotiations in B rgerstock, Switzerland.

forged through partition, tested by conflict and sustained by an unshakeable sense of national identity. This year, the day car-

ries an additional dimension: the recognition of Pakistan’s greatest contribution to the current global moment.

Educating Generations, Inspiring Futures

Pakistan School Bahrain extended its warm greetings to the Pakistani community in the Kingdom of Bahrain on Independence Day, honouring the sacrifices of the nation’s heroes and reaffirming the values of unity, faith, discipline and patriotism.

The school also highlighted its long educational journey in Bahrain, which began in 1968 with a small primary school in a rented building in Manama’s Fareej Fadhel area. The institution later expanded to the secondary level following affiliation with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad.

In 1984, the school’s new campus in Isa Town was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The campus was subsequently expanded with the construction of the Jinnah Block and Sir Syed Block in 1994-95. Today, Pakistan School operates through its Manama Primary Wing and main Isa Town campus.

The school said it has continued to strengthen its academic, extracurricular and sports programmes, while investing in infrastructure, modern facilities and professional development for teachers.

Its students have recorded



Mr. Sami ur Rehman, Chairman, Board of Management, Pakistan School, Bahrain

strong results in Federal Board examinations, with 1,308 students securing A and A+ grades, including 512 Bahraini students. The school has also awarded scholarships to high-achieving students, some of whom later secured prestigious scholarships at the University of Bahrain.

In 2025, students achieved a 96.15% overall result in the SSC First Annual Examination and 93.20% in the HSSC Annual Examination. In 2026, the school achieved a 100% pass rate in the SSC-II Federal Board Annual Examination.

Students have also excelled in international academic competitions, including TIMSS, PIRLS and the World Scholar’s Cup. Between 2018 and 2025, Pakistan School students won 870 Gold and 623 Silver medals at the



Mr. Attiq ur Rehman, Principal & Secretary, Board of Management, Pakistan School, Bahrain

World Scholar’s Cup, along with numerous trophies.

At the 2026 Bahrain Round, students secured 127 Gold and 112 Silver medals, as well as trophies in the Team Challenge and Scholar’s Challenge categories. The school also secured first position in Media & Literature, Art & Music, and Social Studies, with most participating teams qualifying for the Global Round.

Beyond academics, Pakistan School continues to participate in Bahrain’s national, cultural and social events, strengthening ties with the Kingdom.

The school said its mission remains focused on nurturing confident, capable and responsible students equipped to contribute positively to their communities and lead in the future.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to
The Government and people of Pakistan and the Pakistani community in Bahrain on the auspicious occasion of
Independence Day of Pakistan
from the Board of Management, Principal, Staff & Students of
Pakistan School, Bahrain

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