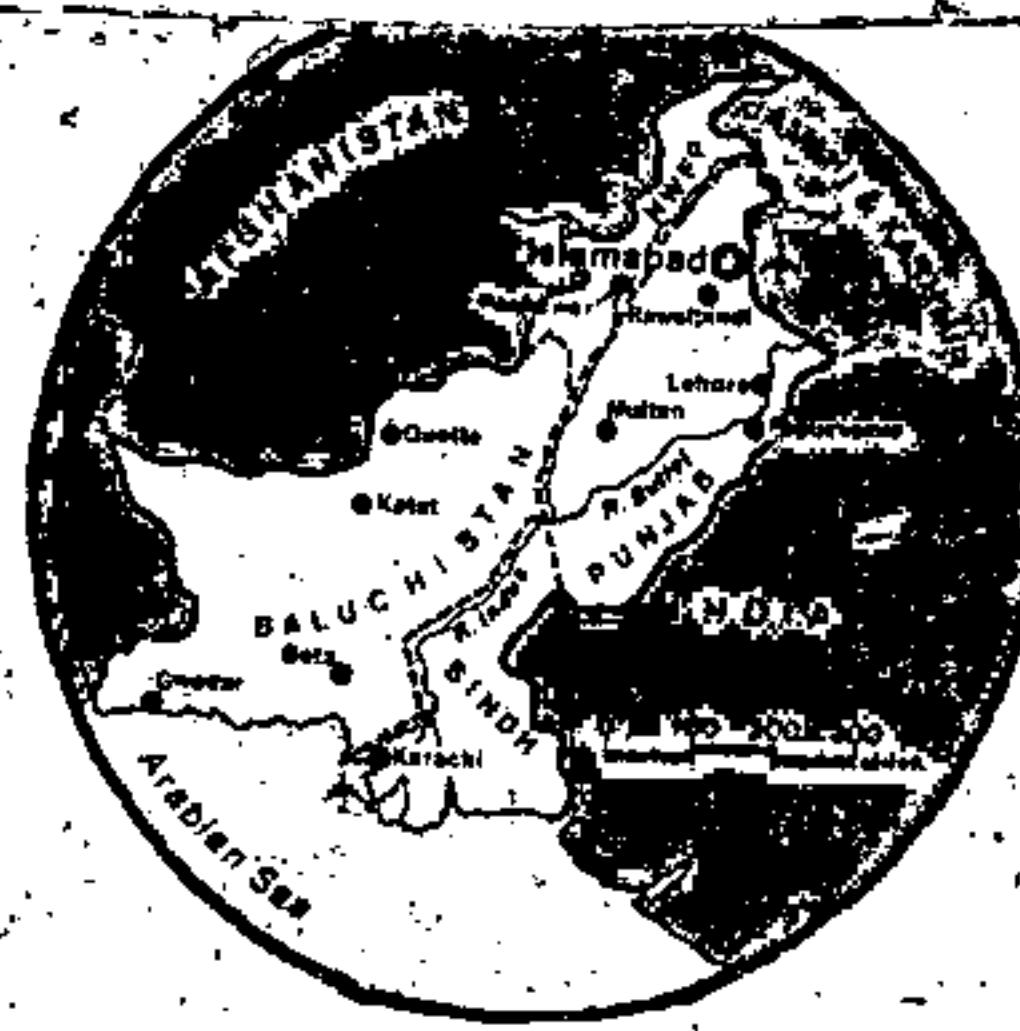


Pakistan



Pakistan shares an old history

By A Staff Reporter

The third largest Muslim country in the world, Pakistan, shares the five thousand years' history of the sub-continent.

Occupying an area of three lakh seven thousand 374 square miles in west part of south Asia, Pakistan has a population of over 90 million with density of 262 per square mile.

With the healthy culmination of Fifth Five-Year Plan period in June 1983, Pakistan launched 36.83 billion U.S. dollars Sixth Five-Year Plan in July last year. During the last Plan period, the gross domestic product of the country eased past the target of Rs. 933.5 billion to reach Rs. 940.5 billion, reflecting an annual growth rate of 6.2 per cent. The gross national product target of Rs. 1,099 trillion was surpassed to reach Rs. 1,114 trillion, an annual growth of 6.7 per cent.

Consumption, both private and government, rose by 6.7 per cent during the Fifth Plan period, while fixed investment was Rs. 154.5 billion against target of Rs. 204 billion, a 3.9 per cent growth instead of the

10.5 per cent planned in the public sector.

During the current Sixth Plan, agriculture will receive a major impetus in order to help acquire a long-term self-sufficiency in food, boost its farm exports and produce necessary raw materials; transports and communications will get second largest investment to ease the present inadequacies. These will be followed by industry, social services and minerals.

Overall, the economy of Pakistan is moving forward despite various problems.

According to observers, excluding tensions that occasionally develop in Pakistan-India relations, President Ziaul Huq's policies achieved notable success in furthering three key objectives — maintaining reasonably affable relations with Pakistan's immediate neighbours, promoting even closer ties with the Gulf states and acquiring access to sophisticated Western military technology.

In its relations with India,

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Pakistan achieved a measure of stabilisation by signing an agreement to create joint commission to promote co-operation in trade, industry, education, health, culture, consular affairs, information and technology.

Despite couple of unresolved issues, the relation between Bangladesh and Pakistan is good and gradually strengthening further. Its relations with four other SARC countries, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka are also excellent.

In the domestic political front President Ziaul Huq is gradually moving towards withdrawal of Martial Law. He has already taken a number of measures to this direction.