



High Commission of Pakistan Colombo

News Letter



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THE IDEALS OF OUR FOUNDER

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"We must work our destiny in our own way and present to the world an economic system based on true Islamic concept of equality of manhood and social justice. We will thereby be fulfilling our mission as Muslims and giving to humanity the message of peace which alone can save it and secure the welfare, happiness and prosperity of mankind"

President Asif Ali Zardari on his maiden Visit to Sri Lanka to Strengthening the Ties of Eternal Friendship 27 November 2010



President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Colombo at the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart President Mahinda Rajapaksa. This was the first official visit of President Zardari to Colombo after assuming office over two years ago and the first by any head of state after the election for the second term of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The President's four day visit was focused on discussion on a host of bilateral, regional and international issues with President Mahinda besides

meeting Sri Lankan businessmen and entrepreneurs at a Business Forum. The visit was aimed at further strengthening the bilateral ties between the peoples of the two countries which date back to the days of Buddhist civilization and have been marked by a shared interest in regional peace and stability and fight against militancy.

"This issue includes events that have taken place during January 1 - 30 June 2011, however it also includes some important events that occurred from November 2010."



Senate Chairman



Chairman, BOI

Pakistani VIPs attend Sri Lankan President's 2nd term's Inauguration 19 November 2010

In a special gesture of friendship and solidarity from the Government of Pakistan towards the Government of Sri Lanka, the Chairman Senate Mr. Farooq Hamid Naek represented the Government of Pakistan along with Mr. Saleem Mandaviwalla, Chairman BOI in the swearing in ceremony of President Mahinda Rajapaksa who assumed the charged for the 2nd term of office in Colombo on 19th November, 2010.

Arrival of PNS Zulfiqar 10 December 2010

Pakistan Navy ship Pns Zulfiqar (F-22P Frigate) reached Colombo to participate in the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lanka Navy. Pakistan's Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir also arrived in Colombo to participate in the celebrations.



Visit of Naval Chief 13 December 2010



Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Noman Bashir is seen shaking hands with the President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Presidential Colour awarding ceremony organized paralleled to the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Sri Lankan Navy.

Allama Iqbal Day Celebrations 17 December 2010

Pakistan High Commission in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association (SLPFA) celebrated Allama Iqbal Day at the BCIS Auditorium, BMICH Colombo on 17th December 2010 under the distinguished patronage of Hon. Rauf Hakim, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Mohan Peris was the Guest of honour who delivered the keynote address. This function was graced by Government Ministers leading professionals and Businessmen.



Visit of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) - 20 January 2011



Pakistani Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani undertook a three day visit to Sri Lanka. The visit of Pakistan's Army Chief was highly significant as it was the first visit of Pakistan's Army Chief to Sri Lanka following the defeat of LTTE in 2009. During the 3 decade long war against LTTE, Pakistan played a crucial and decisive role by assisting the Sri Lankan Government and the armed forces.

Participating in the National Exhibition Deyata Kirula at Buttala 4 - 9 February 2011



The 'Deyata Kirula- 2011' Development Exhibition was held at Buttala area in Monaragala district concurrently with the 63rd Independence Day celebrations. This year Deyata Kirula (Crowning the Nation) exhibition held under the theme of Aascharyaye Kirula (Crown of Wonder) from 04 to 10 February. Pakistan High Commission pavilion received huge number of visitors from all walks of life. Visitors ranging from Students to STF personnel, from farmers to housewives, from Research workers to staff from the Fine Arts College experienced what is Pakistan is about.

School Foundation Laying Ceremony - 9 February 2011



Minister of Economic Development Hon. Basil Rajapaksha and the High Commissioner of Pakistan HE Seema Ilahi Baloch participated in the Foundation laying ceremony of a 3 storied state of the art school building funded by Pakistan at a cost of SL Rupees 14 Million. The foundation stone of the project was laid on 9 February 2011 by the High Commissioner of Pakistan, Seema Ilahi Baloch and Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister for Economic Development.

The work for the construction of school project is continuing with swift progress and the project is expected to be completed by the end of the current year. All efforts are being made by the concerned Sri Lankan Authorities with the assistance of Pakistan High Commission in Sri Lanka to ensure the quality of construction and its rapid completion.

Flood relief on behalf of the people of Pakistan

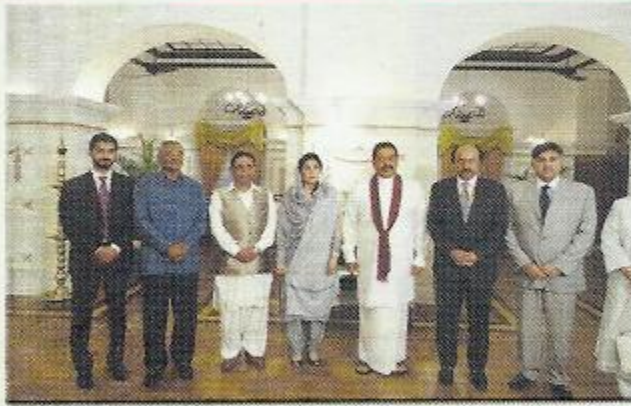


The Government of Pakistan donated relief goods worth SL Rs. 11.2 million to the flood victims of the recent floods in Sri Lanka. Ministers Basil Rajapaksha received the consignment containing from the H.E Seema Ilahi Baloch, High Commissioner of Pakistan on 27th January 2011.

Pakistan High Commission Collected flood relief goods worth over of SL Rs. 11.2 million for the victims of the devastating floods in Sri Lanka. The relief goods were handed over by Her Excellency Seema Ilahi Baloch to Law and Justice Minister Rauf Hakeem on 11th February-2011.



Visit of Parliamentary Delegation 13 February 2011



Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Dr. Fehmida Mirza and the Pakistani parliamentarians visited Sri Lanka to take part in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's proceedings

Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association Celebrated Sri Lanka's 63rd Independence Day -13 February 2011

Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association (SLPFA) together with the High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo celebrated Sri Lanka's 63rd year of Independence for the first time at the Women International Club on 13th February. The Chief Guest of the event were Attorney General Mohan Peris and Mrs. Peris. Cultural events were performed by the Sri Lankan Army Cultural Troupe.



Hosting Proud Sons and Daughters of Pakistan



The High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo hosted the visiting Pakistani National Cricket Team on 16th February and Women Team on 25th April respectively along with their team officials, who were in Sri Lanka to take part in the 2011 edition of the ICC World Cup and Quadrangular Tournaments respectively.

PIA Re Launches Karachi - Colombo - Karachi Flights to Sri Lanka 19 February 2011



Pakistan's flag carrier Pakistan International Air Lines re-launched its bilateral flights between Karachi and Colombo on 19th February 2011. The date of the inaugural flight was very special for PIA, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as it was the date when the first match of the 10th ICC World Cup was played in Colombo.

Pakistan Week 2011 Colombo 'Colors of Culture' - 20 - 26 February 2011



The Pakistan High Commission organized Pakistan Week Colombo 2011 from 20 - 26 February 2011. This week long festive celebration brought together the culmination of various aspects of the vibrant culture of Pakistan. The festival featured Mystical Sufi Music performance culinary tastes of Pakistani food, trade stalls, fashion show and ghazal singing performance and much more to enthrall the Sri Lankan audience. Pakistan Week Colombo "Colours of a Culture" was formally inaugurated by the first Lady of Sri Lanka Madame Shiranthi Rajapaksha on the evening of 20th February 2011 at the Galadari Hotel. The High Commissioner of Pakistan H.E. Seema Ilahi Baloch, Managing Director of Pakistan International Airline Capt. Nadeem Khan Yousufzai and several high profile personalities attended the inaugural ceremony.



Qawwali Evening

The festivity set off with the Mystical Sufi Musical performance-“Qawwali”, which is a traditional form of Islamic song that traces back to 8th Century Persia. Ghulam Fareed Ayaz and Abu Muhammad, two well known, internationally acclaimed Qawaali singers were the core limelight of “Colours of Culture” on the 20th and the 21st of February as they performed recitals for a large number of guests.

Pakistani food festival

“Pakistani food festival” was another highlight of Pakistan Week Colombo 2011. With authentic ingredients sourced directly from Lahore, the festival presented a richer, fuller mouth feel of exotic flavours prepared directly by master Chefs of Avari Hotel Pakistan, flown in especially for the festival. The delicacies gave the guests an array of popular, delectable dishes to the guests for the full week.



Fashion Show

The grand finale of “Colours of a Culture” begins with a fashion show by Talat Hafeez Khan a renowned Pakistani fashion designer. She is well known to blend the traditional with the more chick and extravagant modern day Pakistan in her clothing. “Tania’s Collection” that was showcased on the 25th of February, saw a clear fusion of modernity and tradition brought together in creating that perfect attire for the unpretentious side of every woman.

Trade Bazaar

The Trade stalls at Pakistan week, Colombo 2011, contained the traditional Pakistani handicrafts, dresses, Jewellery and many other traditional items. First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa along with large number of Sri Lankan public took keen interest in the traditional Pakistani products and appreciated the craftsmanship and skills which were reflective in the displayed Pakistani products.



Inspector General Training & Evaluation, Pakistan Army visited Sri Lanka 6-11 Mar. 2011

A high level Pakistan Army Delegation visited Sri Lanka from 6-11 March 2011. The delegation was headed by Lieutenant General Muzammil Hussain, Inspector General Training & Evaluation, Pakistan Army. The Pakistan Army delegation comprised of senior officers from operation, training and other important fields, who interacted with their counterparts in Sri Lankan Army to share each other's professional experience.



World Cup 2011 (March 2011)



When Pakistan played against Australia and Sri Lanka in Colombo Premadasa International Stadium in their league round match in the ICC world Cup 2011, Pakistani supporters from their mother land as well as from the local community of The High Commission staff with their families came in full force to witness the exciting matches where their super stars did not fail them as they won both their matches. Their Sri Lankan fans also turned out in thousands to support them.

Celebrating National Day 23 March 2011



The Pakistan High Commissioner along with Pakistani community members in Sri Lanka celebrated Pakistan's 72 National Day. The highlight of the day was flag hoisting ceremony on the premises of the High Commission in Colombo. The High Commissioner of Pakistan HE Seema Illahi Baloch hoisted the Pakistani National Flag in an impressive ceremony. Pakistan High Commission in Colombo also hosted a dinner reception on the Pakistan National Day at Colombo Hilton Hotel. Prominent Dignitaries of the local scene participated in the event.

Hon Minister of Prison Reforms H.E. Dew Gunasekara was the Chief Guest at the event.

Pakistan High Commissioner's Visit to Matale District 20 April 2011



Pakistan High Commissioner Her Excellency Seema Ilahi Baloch visited Matale District on the request of Sri Lankan Deputy Minister Hon Rohana Abeygunawardene. During the visit the High Commissioner donated books to the library of the Amina Maha Vidyalaya, a leading Muslim School in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner also visited the Municipal Council Matale where she participated in a tree planting ceremony at the premises of the Matale Municipal Council and had a cordial discussion with the mayor and the members of the council.

Lord Buddha's Sacred Relics brought to Sri Lanka from Pakistan - 04 June 2011



Exposition of the Bone Relics of the Lord Buddha brought to Sri Lanka from Gandara in Pakistan was inaugurated on June 4, 2011 at Maligakanda Vidyodaya Maha Pirivena by His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa. "The relics site in Sri Lanka from June 4th to 19th date during which millions of devotees paid homage to the sacred relics".

Jinnah Scholarship Awards 2011 - 17 June 2011



Under the auspices of High Commissioner HE Seema Ilahi Baloch award ceremony of Jinnah Scholarship 2011 was held at Colombo Ananda College Auditorium in which Minister of Justice Hon. Rauff Hakim participated as chief guest. This year 107 Sri Lankan Student received scholarship.



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