



News Letter

High Commission of Pakistan

Sri Lanka

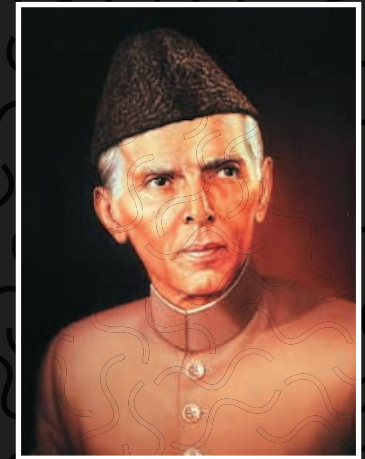
Political and Economic Relations

Federal Commerce Minister Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan in Sri Lanka

The Federal Commerce Minister of Pakistan Khurram Dastgir Khan arrived in Sri Lanka on a three-day official visit on November 09, 2015 to boost bilateral investment and trade between the two friendly countries. He was accompanied by a high powered business delegation consisting of cement, pharmaceutical, food and beverage, sugar, shipping, construction and manufacturing sector companies. During the visit, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan called on Sri Lankan President Hon. Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe, various ministers and high profile personalities. The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka also hosted a Dinner-reception in honour of the visiting Federal Commerce Minister in Colombo on November 11, 2015.



Issues by the Information Section, High Commission of Pakistan Colombo – Sri Lanka
July – December 2015



Our object should be peace within, and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial friendly relations with our immediate neighbours and with the world at large.

*Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali
Jinnah
August, 1947*

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Pakistan played substantial role in consolidating integrity of Sri Lanka: President Maithripala



Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif visited Sri Lanka, on the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart Lieutenant General A W J C De Silva. This was his first visit to Sri Lanka. During the visit, General Raheel Sharif called on Sri Lankan President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena on June

09, 2015. During his meeting with COAS, President Maithripala thanked the people and armed forces of Pakistan for their unwavering support in their fight against terrorism, and partnering in regional and bilateral security. Pakistan had played a substantial role in helping consolidate the integrity of Sri Lanka, he said. President Maithripala Sirisena termed General Raheel Sharif's visit very significant for further strengthening already existing strong relationship between both the militaries. President of Sri Lanka appreciated Pakistan army's momentous achievements in ongoing Operation Zarb-e-Azb and sacrifices for regional peace and stability. COAS expressed his appreciation for Sri Lankan Government, people and security forces in fighting menace of terrorism and progress made thereafter.

Pak Envoy Hosts Pak and Lankan Cricket Teams on Eid Dinner

The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka hosted a colorful reception for the National teams and managements of Pakistan and Sri Lanka Cricket, on July 19, 2015 in Colombo. While welcoming the cricketers, the High Commissioner Major General (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain said that the current series has been a memorable one for



both sides; "for Pakistan it was significant due to our first test series victory on Sri Lankan soil after a gap of nine years and for Sri Lanka it was the last series of its two cricketing legends and excellent brand Ambassadors of Sri Lankan cricket, Mahela Jayawardena and Kumar Sangakara". He appreciated the heroics performances by Pakistan's old guard led by the experienced Younis Khan and Misbah ul Haq, as well as equally outstanding performances from the youngsters Azhar Ali, Yasir Shah, Shoaib Malik, Ahmed Shehzad, Muhammad Hafeez, Shan Masood, Rahat Ali and Sarfraz Ahmad.

Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka Final T20 Match



Sri Lankan President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena and Pakistan's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka HE Maj Gen (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain watched Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka Final T20 Match, which is considered to be one of the most exciting matches in recent times at R.

Premadasa Stadium Colombo on August 03, 2015.

Pak Lanka relationship serves as a beacon for other countries of South Asia: Pak Envoy (Independence Day of Pakistan)



The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Maj Gen (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain said that the brotherly and time tested relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, having depth, breadth and diversity, serves as a beacon for other countries of South Asia. The High Commissioner said this while delivering his message on the occasion of the 69th Independence Day of Pakistan in Colombo on August 14, 2015. The High Commissioner also hoisted the national flag of Pakistan and cut Independence Day Cake with Children during the ceremony attended by a large number of participants from various walks of life including members of the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association, Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Council, prominent Sri Lankan personalities, Pakistani community and wide section of media.

Pakistan upgrades Jinnah Computer Center at Jinnah Memorial Hall Kandy



The Government of Pakistan has upgraded the Jinnah Computer Center at Jinnah Memorial Hall Kandy by donating 10 computers and related equipment through its High Commission in Colombo. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed

Shakeel Hussain handed over the computers to the management of Jinnah Computer Centre in a ceremony on August 31, 2015. The members of Kandy Muslim Traders Association, Muslim League, management of the Jinnah Memorial Hall, students of Jinnah Computer Centre their parents and a large segment of media were present on the occasion.

Pak- Lanka important partners in enhancing regional economic integration: HE Shakeel Hussain



The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka are important partners not only in promoting bilateral trade

and economic interactions but also enhancing regional economic integration through SAARC and SAFTA. HE Shakeel Hussain said this while addressing the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum organized by the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka in collaboration with Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Council of Karachi, in Colombo on September 01, 2015. A 20-member business delegation from Pakistan led by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry visited Sri Lanka to participate in Sri Lanka-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum and to meet Lankan business community with the aim to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between the two brotherly countries.

50th Defense Day of Pakistan Celebrated in Colombo



The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka celebrated the 50th Defense Day of Pakistan in Colombo on September 06, 2015, to commemorate the 1965 war events and sacrifices rendered by valiant Pakistan's

armed forces. The event attracted large gathering including Sri Lankan Government Ministers, Chief of Defense Staff, Commanders of Armed Forces of Sri Lanka, High Commissioners, Ambassadors, senior officers of three segments of Armed Forces of Sri Lanka, government officials, Pakistani community and important personalities of the society.

Pakistan Gifts IT Lab to Lankan College



The Government of Pakistan has donated a fully equipped IT Lab comprising 15 computers and related equipment to Hameed Al Husseinie College in Colombo on September 16, 2015, through its High Commission in Sri Lanka. The new IT Lab will be used to impart diploma certificates in various IT fields to the students as well as old students of the college for increasing their skills and improving prospects for better

employment opportunities. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, H.E Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain inaugurated the Muhammad Ali Jinnah Computer Center along with President and Exco members of Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association, representatives of the old boys Association of the college as well as College administration.

Pakistani Cadets in Sri Lanka



A group of 04 officers and 15 cadets of Pakistan's Cadet Corps, visited to Sri Lanka to participate in Herman Loos & De Zoysa Annual Championship. The delegation called on High Commissioner of Pakistan Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain at the High Commission of Pakistan on September 22, 2015. While, briefing the delegation, the High Commissioner highlighted that Pakistan and Sri Lanka continue to enjoy extremely cordial relations in all spheres, since establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. These deep rooted relations draws strength from centuries old civilizational link through our shared rich heritage, which is preserved by the people and government of Pakistan with due reverence, he added.

Pakistan Pavilion at Colombo Plan International Bazaar



The High Commission of Pakistan set up Pakistan Pavilion at Colombo Plan International Bazaar on 12th October 2015. The stall had been placed at a very prominent location and was visited by a large number of people from different walks of life. A number of products and publications representing

Pakistan's cultural and historic heritage were displayed which highly appreciated by the visitors.

First Ever Urdu Language Center in Sri Lanka Inaugurated



The first ever Urdu Language Training Center in Sri Lanka was inaugurated today at an impressive ceremony in Colombo on October 30, 2015. The Minister for National Dialogue Honourable Mr. Mano Ganesan was the chief

guest at the inauguration ceremony. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain, State Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation, Mr. A.H.M. Fowzie, Sri Lankan Government Ministers, Ambassadors, senior

government officials, Think Tank representatives and parents/friends of the students also attended the event. The Urdu Center has been named after Baba-e-Urdu Maulvi Abdul Haq in view of his vision and extraordinary contribution towards development of the modern Urdu language. The Center is providing free of cost Urdu language education to the students as the entire expenditure of the training will be borne by the Government of Pakistan.

Team Pakistan Picks 3 Gold & 1 Silver at Major Regional Technology Awards in Colombo



The Team Pakistan displayed stunning technological performance at the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) 2015 and won 3 Gold and 1 Silver at the award ceremony held in Colombo, on November 23, 2015. The Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITES – P@SHA delegation comprised of 50 members with 22 technology products, competed for the prestigious APICTA Awards against 197 products from 17 countries of the region. The Pakistan Software Houses Association (PASHA) was founded in 1992. Today its membership includes more than 450 of the country's largest software houses, product development centers, BPO companies, Animation & New Media studios and consulting & system integration companies.

Pakistan HC hosts Women's 'A' side for brunch



High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain hosted the visiting Pakistan Women's 'A' team for a brunch at his official residence on November 23, 2015.

The Pakistan Women's 'A' team was in Sri Lanka to play 2 One Day and three Twenty20s against Sri Lanka Women's 'A' team at the R. Premadasa Stadium. The players of the Pakistani squad, team management, coaches as well as Senior Officers of the Pakistan High Commission attended the reception.

Efforts of Pakistan for preservation of Buddhist heritage appreciable: Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thero



The President of the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka, Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thero, called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs (SAPM), Syed Tariq

Fatemi on November 27, 2015. The President of the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka, Ven. Bangala Upatissa was on a visit to Pakistan along with a delegation, to attend the International Interfaith Conference IIC on the Quest for Peaceful Interfaith Co-Existing, which was held on November 24-25, 2015.

Reception on board Pakistan Naval Ship Shamsheer in Colombo



A colorful reception was arranged on December 04, 2015 on board Pakistan Navy ship SHAMSHEER which was in Sri Lanka on a visit reflective of strong multifaceted relationship and engagement between the two friendly countries. The reception was attended by large gathering of guests which included Sri Lankan Ministers, Diplomats, Senior Officers of

Armed forces, Top Government officials, business and media personalities, members of Pakistani community as well as officers of the High Commission of Pakistan.

Legendary Japanese Wrestler Inoki meets Pak Envoy in Colombo



The legendary Japanese wrestler Muhammad Hussain Inoki (best known by the ring name Antonio Inoki) paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed

Shakeel Hussain at the High Commission of Pakistan on December 23, 2015. Mr. Hussain Inoki is visiting Sri Lanka on the invitation of world's oldest Buddhist Missionary Society, Mahabodhi Society Sri Lanka, which was founded in 1891 by Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala.

News from Pakistan

Pakistan is focusing on ICT Development: President Mamnoon Hussain



President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain, while addressing at the 2nd World Internet Conference in China on December 16, 2015, said that Pakistan will focus on the development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Representing Pakistan at this prestigious event along with over 2000 participants from 120 regions around the world, the President delivered his views about Pakistan's pursuit of a vision of accelerated digitization; therefore, transforming the country and taking it nearer to its goal of a knowledge-based economy. Furthermore, he said that in his view the information technology is reshaping the identity, geo-politics, security dynamics of the 21st century and the whole range of other paradigms. He also acknowledged the potential of information and communications technology for socio-economic growth and said that the Government of Pakistan considers it the ICT industry as a key enabler in achieving sufficiency, transparency, good governance as well as in the empowerment of the people of this country.

UNGA address: Nawaz proposes agenda to diffuse tensions with India



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, while addressing the UN General Assembly's 70th session in New York, proposed a four point agenda to diffuse tension between Pakistan and India. "Cooperation, not confrontation, should define our relationship with India," said

Nawaz Sharif. Yet today ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary are intensifying, causing civilian deaths including women and children, he added. "I want to use the opportunity today to propose a new peace initiative with India, starting with measures that are the simplest to implement." Nawaz Sharif suggested that Pakistan and India should formalise and respect the 2003 understanding for a complete ceasefire on the Line of Control in Kashmir. For this purpose, he called for UNMOGIP's expansion to monitor the observance of the ceasefire. Secondly, the premier urged both the countries to reaffirm their resolve that they will not resort to the use of force under any circumstances. He pointed out that this is a central element of the UN Charter. Nawaz also proposed that steps should be taken to demilitarise Kashmir. "Pakistan and India should agree to an unconditional mutual withdrawal from Siachen Glacier – the world's highest battleground," he said.

Heart of Asia' Ministerial Conference in Pakistan



A two-day ministerial meeting of the "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process" was held in Islamabad on December 12, 2016. High-ranking delegations from 14 Participating States, 17 Supporting Countries and 12 International and Regional Organizations participated in the conference. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani formally inaugurated the conference. The Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process was established in 2011 at the initiative of Afghanistan and Turkey. The main objective of the Process is to foster efforts for regional cooperation and connectivity with a view to promoting long-term peace and stability as well as progress and development in Afghanistan, and the region.

Pakistan successfully test-fires Shaheen-III missile



Pakistan conducted a successful test launch of the medium-range Shaheen-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile. The missile is capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads to a range of 2,750 km. The test flight was aimed at

validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system. The impact point of the flight test was in the Arabian Sea, validating all the desired parameters.

Pakistani truck art takes over streets of Milan



Known best for its vespas, Milan's streets and locals were acquainted with a Pakistani truck art inspired vehicle, used as part of Italian fashion house Dolce and Gabbana's new beauty campaign. The three-wheeled vehicle — or the rickshaw as

we know it — at first glance has a strong resemblance to the art we see on our Pakistani trucks and rickshaws, with the use of bright colours and scenic images. The project DGBeautyOnTheGo is set to take over Milan throughout the summer until August and is aimed at promoting the brand's new cosmetics collection. Truck art has gained popularity across the globe in recent times with designers and high-end fashion houses drawing inspiration from the art which is a prominent part of Pakistan's cultural heritage.

Pakistani photo wins First Place in Wiki Loves Earth Contest 2015



The Wiki Loves Earth contest, organised by the Wikimedia Foundation, has chosen Zaeem Siddiq's photo from Lower Kachura Lake, a popular tourist destination in Central Karakoram National Park, Skardu, Pakistan as the best international picture for the year 2015. The global 2015 edition has seen more than 8,500 contestants participating from 26 countries, with over 100,000 photo submissions throughout the month of May. From Pakistan alone, over 1500 contestants chipped in from across the country to submit more than 11,000 photographs; making it the country with the fourth largest number of submissions and second largest in the number of participants.

World's largest Solar Park in Pakistan



Some 400,000 solar panels, spread over 200 hectares of flat desert, glare defiantly at the sun at what is known as the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Power Park (QASP) in Cholistan Desert, Punjab, named after Pakistan's founding father, Mohammad Ali

Jinnah. The 100MW photovoltaic cells (PV) solar farm was built in just three months and started selling electricity to the national grid in August. This is the first energy project under the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of China's 'new silk road', linking the port at Gwadar in southern Pakistan with Kashgar in China's western region of Xinjiang.

Interesting Destinations of Pakistan

Lakes of Pakistan

Rush Lake



Rush Lake is the highest lake in Pakistan, situated near Rush Pari Peak at 5,098 m. It is the 25th highest alpine lake in the world, located about 15 km north of Miar Peak and Spantik (Golden Peak), which are in the Nagar valley. The lake can be reached via Nagar and Hopar and via the Hopar Glacier (Bualtar Glacier) and Miar Glacier. The trek to Lake provides breathtaking views of Spantik, Malubiting, Miar Peak, spectacular Peak of Phuparash and Ultar Sar.

Banjosa Lake



Banjosa is an artificial lake and a famous tourist attraction near the city of Rawalakot in District Bagh in Azad Kashmir. Located at an altitude of 6,499 ft above sea level, the lake is surrounded by densely pine

forest and lush green mountains, that makes it very charming and romantic. It is accessible by a 20 kilometers metallic road from Rawalakot.

Satpara Lake



The Satpara Lake is a natural lake near Skardu, which spread over an area of 2.5 km. The lake fed by the Satpara Stream. It is one of the largest fresh water lakes in Pakistan. It supplies water to the whole Skardu Valley. The beautiful Satpara Lake is located at an altitude of 8,650 feet.

Dudipatsar Lake



Also known as “Dudipat Lake” is located in the extreme north of the Kaghan Valley, in the Mansehra District. Amongst the most beautiful lakes of Pakistan, Dudipatsar is a lake encircled by snow clad peaks in Lulusar-Dudipatsar National Park. The name “Dudipatsar” has been given to the lake because of the white color of snow at surrounding peaks. The word “dudi” means white, “pat” means mountains and “sar” means lake. The water of the lake reflects like a mirror during the summer.

Sheosar Lake

Also called Shausar Lake a lake situated in Deosai National Park, in Gilgit-Baltistan. Deosai Plains is no doubt one of the marvelous places on earth. Also, it is the second highest plateau on earth after the Tibetan plateau. The plateau is called by many as a “Bed of



Flowers” because of its beautifully colorful flowers of all sorts. The lake with an approximate length of 2.3 kilometers, width 1.8 kilometers, and average depth 40 meters, is at an elevation of 13,589 ft in the Karakoram.

Shangrila Lake



The Shangrila Lake spot second amongst the most beautiful lakes of Pakistan. The lake is also known as “Lower Kachura Lake” and is located at a drive of about 20 minutes from Skardu town. The lake is a part of the Shangrila resort and is a popular tourist destination. Shangrila was named after a book titled Lost Horizon by James Hilton. Shangri-la is a Tibetan word meaning “Heaven on earth”.

Pakistani people and culture

The customs, culture and traditions of the people of a country are representative of the history, faith, language and environment of that country. Likewise, the cultural patterns of Pakistan, speak of our rich cultural heritage and traditions. Pakistan is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society. The rich cultural outlook of Pakistan seeks to draw influence from the cultures of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Increasing globalization has increased the influence of Western culture in Pakistan, especially among the affluent, who have easy access to Western products, television, media, and food. Many Western food chains have established themselves in Pakistan, and are found in the major cities.

Pakistani culture varies widely from Gilgit Baltistan, Punjab and Sindh to, Khyber Paktunkhuwa, Baluchistan and AJK. There are differences in culture among the different ethnic groups in matters such as dress, food, and religion. Islam has played a pivotal role in shaping cultural life and has provided a pattern for molding lives according to the prescribed ways. Though, the majority of people of Pakistan are Muslims, yet some local and foreign customs and traditions found a way in our daily lives and have now become a part of Pakistani culture.





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Kachura Lake, Skardu
Pakistani Photo Which Won First Place in Wiki Loves Earth Contest 2015



Pakistan High Commission Colombo
EP Wing Pakistan Colombo



Sri Lanka Pakistan Sumituru
Pak Mediocracy



EPW Pakistan Colombo