



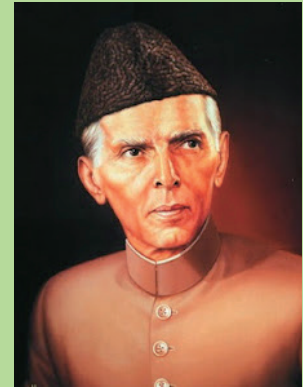
News Letter High Commission of Pakistan Sri Lanka



*Issued by the Press Wing,
High Commission of Pakistan
Colombo – Sri Lanka
(July – December 2019)*

Volume – 19
Issue - 2

“There are two powers in the world;
one is the sword and the other is the
pen. There is a great competition and
rivalry between the two. There is a
third power stronger than both, that
of the women.”



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Pakistan celebrated Independence Day in solidarity with Kashmiris



The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka held a colourful flag-hoisting ceremony to mark the 73rd Independence Day, at the High Commission's premises, on 14th August 2019. Joined by the Pakistani community and dignitaries from different walks of life, the High Commissioner Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat hoisted the national flag to celebrate the day. The High Commissioner highlighted that the Government of Pakistan has decided to observe this year's Independence Day, as Kashmir Solidarity Day to express Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support and solidarity with Kashmiris in their just and fair freedom struggle from Indian occupation. He further stated that the actions taken by India in a bid to change the internationally recognized disputed status of Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir were in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. He added that any attempt to change the demographic structure of Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir would constitute violation of the international law. He underlined that Pakistan has always urged resolution of seven-decade old dispute through peaceful means and in accordance with the long-standing UNSC Resolutions. On Sri Lanka-Pakistan relations, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Sri Lanka, which are based on mutual respect, understanding and close cooperation. He further said that Pakistan has always extended unconditional support to Sri Lanka at all fora and would continue to do so, especially with regard to Sri Lanka's national security and territorial integrity.

High Commissioner met with Opposition Leader



The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, met with Opposition Leader, Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa on 10th August 2019, and briefed him about the latest situation in Jammu & Kashmir. The High Commissioner apprised the Opposition Leader that unilateral actions taken by India, to scrap the special status of Jammu & Kashmir by revoking the Article 370, were gross violation of international law. He emphasized that Pakistan is strongly opposed to any move that would seek to alter the demographic structure of Jammu & Kashmir as it is an internationally recognized disputed territory. He further stated that these illegal steps have the potential to escalate the situation in the area, with grave implications for peace and security in the region. He also stressed that ultimate resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is to be determined through a plebiscite by the United Nations, in accordance with numerous resolutions of the Security Council. The High Commissioner underscored the importance of cooperation among SAARC countries to promote peace & harmony in South Asia.

Pakistan awarded Scholarships to Sri Lankan students



In order to promote mutual understanding, collaboration and exchanges in diverse areas between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan has awarded fully funded scholarships to 15 Sri Lankan students to study in Pakistani institutions in the fields of Computer & Software Engineering, Mechanical & Civil Engineering, Business Administration, Management Sciences, International Relations and Biochemistry, under Allama Iqbal Higher Education Scholarship Programme. High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (Retd), Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat met the successful students on 28th August, 2019. While congratulating the students, the High Commissioner said that these scholarships are offered with the objective to support Sri Lankan students to continue their higher studies

and bilateral cooperation between the educational institutions of Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He urged the students to attain maximum benefits from their study in Pakistan, besides learning of Pakistani culture and language. He also expressed the hope that the students would act as goodwill ambassadors of Sri Lanka while studying in Pakistan.

Pakistan celebrated Defence Day in solidarity with Kashmiris



In connection with the celebration of 54th Defence Day of Pakistan, the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, held a reception on 5th September, 2019 at a local hotel in Colombo, to mark the day. Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary, Gen. (Retd.) Shantha Kottegoda was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Chief Guest, Defence Secretary, Gen. (Retd) Shantha Kottegoda, in his remarks, said that Pakistan has been a true friend of Sri Lanka. He recalled that Pakistan has rendered unconditional support to Sri Lanka for elimination of most ruthless terrorist outfit of the world. The Government and people of Sri Lanka will never forget the moral and material support of Pakistan, he underscored. He added that Pakistan and Sri Lankan armed forces have maintained close cooperation, especially in providing training to large number of military personnel of Sri Lanka. In his remarks, High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat said that Pakistan believes in supporting and promoting regional and international peace and stability by resolving all disputes and conflicts. He added that Kashmir dispute is an internationally recognized issue and needs to be resolved in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people. He urged the international community and the United Nations to fulfill their 'Responsibility to Protect' innocent Kashmiris from crimes against humanity being committed by occupying military forces in State of Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Shahid Hashmat reiterated Pakistan's resolve to extend all possible political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris until they attain their inalienable right of self-determination. On Sri Lanka-Pakistan relations, the High Commissioner underscored that the relations between the two countries are time-tested and, over the period of time, have gained strength in all spheres and domains. He also mentioned about 1000 scholarships offered by Pakistan Higher Education Commission to Sri Lankan students and COMSATS' offer to establish a high-tech university in Sri Lanka. The event was attended by a large gathering including Government functionaries, Commanders of Sri Lankan armed forces, High Commissioners/Ambassadors, Pakistani community and important personalities from different walks of life.

20 Sri Lankan bureaucrats visited Pakistan



The High Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan organized training of 20 high-ranking Sri Lankan bureaucrats in Pakistan from September 15 to 27, 2019 at Pakistan's National School of Public Policy (NSPP). The delegation members paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (Retd), Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat on September 9, 2019. During the meeting, the High Commissioner said that the visit will give an excellent opportunity to Sri Lankan officers to gain knowledge about Pakistan's civil service structure. The High Commissioner further said that the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) is a premier institution for the training management of civil servants in Pakistan. The delegation members, apart from visiting the government institutions in Pakistan, visited Lahore and Taxila Museums, and different educational institutions. The delegation also met high ranking government functionaries during their stay in Pakistan.

SL Eye Donation Society delegation called on High Commissioner



A three-member delegation of 'Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society', led by its President, Mr. Piyadasa Hewa Wellalage called on the High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat on 19th September, 2019 and discussed matters related to donation of corneas to Pakistan. Mr. Wellalage apprised the High Commissioner that the 'Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society' delegation is visiting Pakistan next month to celebrate a landmark event in connection with donation of 25000 corneas to Pakistan. Both sides mutually agreed that the process of donation of corneas to Pakistan will be further streamlined and in future all cornea donations will be sent to Pakistan in close coordination with the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner appreciated the generous support and noble cause undertaken by the Society to help out the needy people in Pakistan. He extended warm gratitude to the Society for the charity work and said that gesture of such nature will further strengthen the existing strong and brotherly ties between the two countries.

Kashmir Black Day observed in Sri Lanka



The High Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Kashmir Study Forum, Sri Lanka organized a seminar to mark the 'Kashmir Black Day' on October 27, 2019 at BMICH, Colombo. The seminar was addressed by the Chairman, Kashmir Study Forum, Mr. Jamal ud Din as well as senior analyst Mr. Latheef Farook with the view to highlight Indian atrocities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. A documentary, highlighting the atrocities of Indian forces and their inhumane treatment of the innocent Kashmiris was

also screened on the occasion. The Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, while welcoming the guests, paid homage to the people of Jammu & Kashmir for their just struggle against the decades long Indian illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir and reiterated Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support for the people of Kashmir in their right to self-determination. He further highlighted that since 05 August 2019, the scale and impunity of the Indian Government's human rights violations have increased several-folds. Through the deployment of additional troops and an unprecedented media and communication black out, that has continued for almost three months, Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K) has been turned into the largest prison on the planet. Referring to the United Nations Security Council's special session on the Kashmir issue, he said that the international community is no more a silent spectator to the Indian atrocities. Explaining the purpose of the seminar, he said that it was to draw attention towards the miseries of the Kashmiri people and to stress the urgency of resolving the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of Kashmiri people under the auspices of UNSC resolutions. Senior Analyst, Mr. Latheef Farook, speaking on the occasion, said Kashmir is a source of long-standing dispute between Pakistan and India, which originated when the people of Jammu and Kashmir were denied the right of self-determination in 1947. He underscored that when India and Pakistan became independent on August 1947, it was generally assumed that Kashmir, as a contiguous state with a predominantly Muslim population, would accede to Pakistan. Its ruler, the Maharaja, however, on 27 October 1947 acceded to India through an improper and illegal Instrument of Accession. On the same day, India airlifted its forces to Srinagar and occupied the valley. Chairman Kashmir Study Forum, Sri Lanka Mr Jamal ud Din, in his concluding remarks decried the human rights violations committed by the Indian armed forces in occupied Kashmir for the past seven decades. He said that the world community was under moral obligation to ensure a United Nations sponsored plebiscite in Kashmir according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people. He recalled that the Kashmir issue was first brought to the UN by India; however, India has been reluctant to implement UNSC resolutions for the past 72 years. Comprehensive discussion was held during the seminar, urging the Indian Government to immediately lift the curfew and communication blackout as well as rescinding of its illegal and unilateral actions in the occupied territory since August 05, 2019 after abrogation of Article 370 and 35A.

Prime Minister Imran Khan telephoned newly elected Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa



Prime Minister Imran Khan telephoned the newly-elected President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to felicitate him on his election as the 7th President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister said that the election reflected the trust reposed by the Sri Lankan people in the leadership and vision of President Rajapaksa. The Prime Minister hoped that the country and its people would achieve greater success and prosperity under President Gotabaya's stewardship. The excellent Pakistan-Sri Lanka bilateral relations were also discussed. The two leaders reciprocated each other's desire to further fortify bilateral cooperation in diverse areas. The Prime Minister extended a cordial invitation to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience. President Rajapaksa accepted the invitation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan telephoned Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa



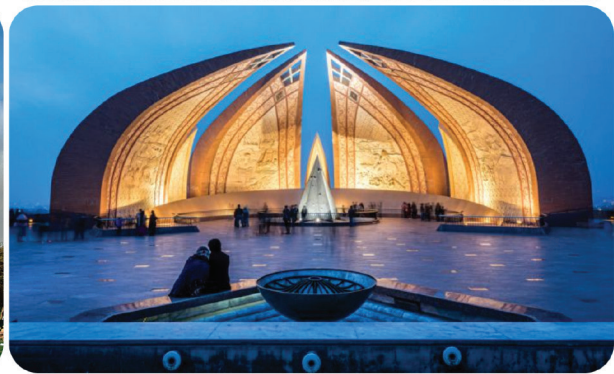
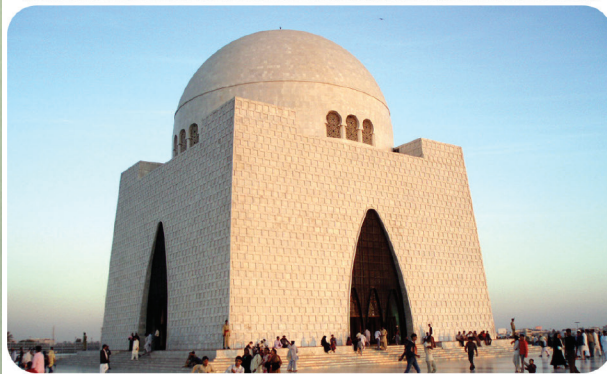
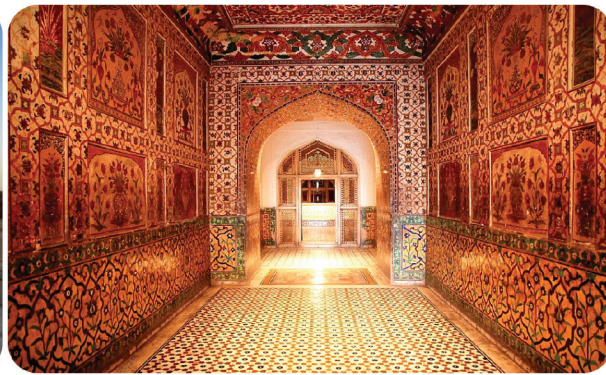
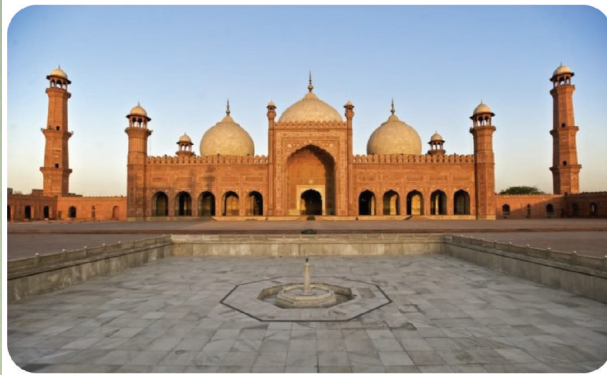
Prime Minister Imran Khan telephoned His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa to felicitate him on his appointment as the Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister lauded the progress made by Sri Lanka during Mr. Rajapaksa's two terms as the President. Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed the desire to work closely with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister to further strengthen Pakistan-Sri Lanka bilateral relations in all dimensions. The Prime Minister also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to visit Pakistan. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his felicitations and said that he looked forward to working together to further strengthen Sri Lanka-Pakistan relations.

Foreign Minister's visit to Colombo and meeting with Sri Lankan Leadership



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on 2 December 2019. During the meetings, the Foreign Minister highlighted the importance that Pakistan attaches to its relations with Sri Lanka, which are rooted in history and characterized by friendship and cordiality. The Foreign Minister underscored that the relations between the two countries are time-tested and have gained strength in all spheres and domains with the passage of time. He expressed the confidence that under the current leadership of Sri Lanka, the abiding ties between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will reach new heights. The Foreign Minister, while highlighting Pakistan's efforts towards economic diplomacy, said that there existed immense potential and vast opportunities to enhance bilateral trade and investments, which would be further beneficial for the two countries and peoples. The Foreign Minister added that it was a matter of immense pleasure that after the visit of Sri Lankan cricket team to Pakistan, the international cricket was returning to the country. The people of Pakistan were now looking forward to the upcoming tour of Sri Lankan team to play two test matches in Rawalpindi and Karachi. The Foreign Minister formally handed over the invitation letters from President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan to the President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to visit Pakistan at the date and time convenient to them. The Sri Lankan leadership expressed warm gratitude to the leadership and people of Pakistan for extending felicitations and best wishes to the new Government of Sri Lanka and emphasized that they looked forward to further cementing the already strong and brotherly ties between the two countries.

Architecture of Pakistan



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