



News Letter

High Commission of Pakistan

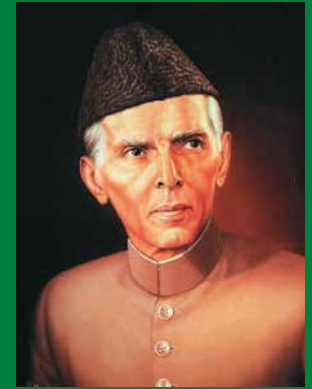
Sri Lanka



Issued by the Press Wing,
High Commission of Pakistan
Colombo – Sri Lanka
(January – June 2018)

Volume – 18
Issue - 01

We are starting in the days where there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with the fundamental principle; that we are all citizens and equal citizens, of one state.



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

3rd Edition of Pakistan Single Country Exhibition - 2018



The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in association with the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, organized the 3rd edition of colourful Pakistan Single Country Exhibition-2018 from January 12 to 14, 2018 at BMICH, Colombo. It was opened by the Sri Lankan President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, along with Pakistan's Minister for Commerce Mohammad Pervaiz Malik and the High Commissioner of Pakistan Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat. The opening ceremony was crowded with huge number of people from different walks of life including ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats and representatives from Pakistan and Sri Lanka trade sectors. The Exhibition was one of the largest export promotion events of Pakistan outside the country. The exhibition featured leading Pakistani companies and manufacturers of Engineering Products, Auto Parts, Agro Products, Textile & Clothing, Designer Wear, Handicraft & Traditional Textiles, Pharmaceuticals, Cutlery, Furniture, Carpets, Marble and Services. The High Commission of Pakistan, for the first time during the exhibition, established a special stall on spectacular Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan where DVDs, books and pamphlets were distributed among the people free of charge.

Pakistan Food Festival in Sri Lanka



The colorful Pakistan Food Festival was held at Galadari Hotel on 10th January 2018 for the third consecutive year after huge success in 2016 & 2017. The Food Festival was formally opened by the Minister for Tourism Hon. John Amaratunga along with the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat. The five-day Food Festival (January 10 to 14, 2018) showcased a wide range of authentic Pakistani cuisine. Pakistan's celebrity chef Asad Latif was the center stage of this spectacular food festivity.



Pak Envoy called on Sri Lankan President

The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat called on the Sri Lankan President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena at the President's Secretariat on 4th January 2018. The President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena expressed his gratitude towards the leadership and the Government of Pakistan for timely provision of fertilizer to Sri Lanka, to curb the shortage, as had been requested by the President. The High Commissioner apprised the President about various ongoing development projects in Sri Lanka initiated by the Government of Pakistan through its High Commission including financial assistance under \$200 million credit line.

Army Chief of Pakistan visited Sri Lanka



Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, General Qamar Javed Bajwa NI (M), visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of Commander of Sri Lankan Army from 15 to 17 January 2018. During his stay in Sri Lanka, General Bajwa held discussions on matters of professional interests with his counterpart, Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake. He also called on top political hierarchy, including President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe, in order to discuss and dilate upon issues of regional security and matters pertaining to mutual interest. Army Chief also held meetings with Sri Lankan Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Ravindra C. Wijegunaratne, Commander of Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Sirimevan Ranasinghe, Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Kapila Jayampathy, during the stay in Sri Lanka.

‘Significance of Resolution of Kashmir Dispute for Regional Peace and Harmony in South Asia’



The High Commission of Pakistan organized a seminar on ‘Significance of Resolution of Kashmir Dispute for Regional Peace and Harmony in South Asia’ at a local hotel on 5th February 2018 with the resolve that the long lasting peace in the region can only prevail through just and fair resolution of Kashmir dispute in consonance with UNSC resolutions. It also highlighted the significance of recognizing the basic right of self-determination, enshrined in the UN Charter and universally acknowledged. The Kashmiris were promised their right of self-determination by the international community but the resolution of this longstanding dispute is nowhere and Kashmiris are still facing perverse aggression. The panelists, who addressed the seminar, were Chairman Kashmir Study Forum Sri Lanka, Mr.

Jamalud Deen, Analyst & Philanthropist from Pakistan, Air Commodore Shabbir Ahmad Khan and renowned Sri Lankan journalist & Editor International Desk of Wijeya Newspapers, Mr. Ameen Izzadeen. Major General (R) Udaya Annesly Perera moderated the seminar proceedings. The well-attended seminar held a very interesting and fruitful discussion that followed with many questions being directed at the panelists.

Pakistan's Aitchison College Soccer Team called on the High Commissioner



A 15-member soccer team from Pakistan's prestigious Aitchison College, Lahore, paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat on 12th February 2018 at the High Commission. The soccer team of the Aitchison College was in Sri Lanka to play a three-match series against British International School, Gateway College and Elizabeth Moir School. The team won the matches against British International School and Elizabeth Moir School by 4-0 & 4-0 respectively whereas the match against Gateway College ended with a draw by 2-2.

Flag Hoisting ceremony to mark 78th National Day of Pakistan



The High Commission of Pakistan and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka celebrated the 78th National Day of Pakistan with traditional fervour and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, vibrant, progressive and democratic welfare state. The Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in a colourful ceremony, held at the Pakistan High Commission on 23rd March 2018. During the ceremony, the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out to the audience. The ceremony was attended by a large number of participants from various walks of life including members of the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship, Trade and Investment Association, Sri Lanka-Pakistan Business Council and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena visited Pakistan to attend 78th National Day celebrations



His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, visited Pakistan to attend Pakistan's 78th National Day celebrations from 22nd – 24th March 2018 on the invitation extended by the President of Pakistan H.E. Mamnoon Hussain. He was the Guest of Honour at the Pakistan National Day parade on 23rd March 2018. This is the first time a Sri Lankan leader received such an invitation to be the Guest of Honour on the National day of Pakistan, which is a reflective of strong bilateral friendship between the two countries. During the visit, Sri Lankan President held meetings with the President of Pakistan, H.E. Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in which the entire spectrum of bilateral relations was discussed in detail. During the meetings, it was agreed by the both sides to further diversify and enhance relations, especially in the realm of trade and people to people contacts. The Sri Lankan President presented 20 corneas (10 corneas each) to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, who appreciated the generous donation for the people of Pakistan. Three MoUs were also signed during the visit, to further strengthen bilateral cooperation for capacity building of Diplomats, Public Policy research and training of civil servants.

Pakistan awarded Sitara-e-Basalat to Pak Navy Captain involved in flood relief activities in Sri Lanka



On May 29, 2017, Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiqar was directed to sail immediately to take part in flood relief operations under the command of Captain Javed Sheikh in Sri Lanka. He organized teams to conduct relief operation and established a Flood Relief Coordination Centre as well. Operating in this centre, 87 sailors of Pakistan Navy worked continuously for 4,000 hours for providing successful relief operations. As a result, 870 Sri Lankan flood victims were provided medical facilities at Medical Camps of Pakistan Navy, 950 people were provided flood relief items and 97 polluted water wells were cleaned for provision of clean drinking water. On account of Captain Javed Sheikh's professional expertise and devotion towards his duty, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had conferred him with the "Sitrat-e-Basalat" on the occasion of 78th National Day of Pakistan.

Pakistan Day Reception Held at Colombo



The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka organized a reception in connection with the celebrations of 78th National Day of Pakistan at Galadari hotel, Colombo on 29th March 2018. Minister for Primary Industry, Hon. Daya Gamage was the chief guest at the occasion. The Pakistan Women Cricket team was also present on the occasion. During the occasion, the High Commissioner, on behalf of the President of Pakistan H.E. Mamnoon Hussain, presented Pakistan's prestigious civil award "Sitara-i-Khidmat" to Dr. A.J.A. Lakkumar Fernando for his meritorious services rendered to Pakistan in eradication of Dengue fever. Dr. Fernando is a renowned Sri Lankan Paediatrician and clinical head of the Centre for Clinical Management of Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (CCMDDHF), Negombo Sri Lanka. During the ceremony, a cake commemorating the Pakistan's National Day was also cut by the chief guest Hon. Daya Gamage, Speaker Parliament Hon. Karu Jayasuriya and High Commissioner of Pakistan along with other ministers.

Pakistan Women Cricket Team visited Pakistan High Commission



Pakistani Women Cricket team led by Captain Bisma Maroof, visited the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka on 27th March 2018. Pakistani Cricket team was in Sri Lanka to play qualifier round of ICC Women's Championship against their Sri Lankan counterparts, comprised of three one day international matches. Apart from the ODIs, both teams also played a bilateral series of three T20 matches. Pakistani team had won the ICC Women Qualifier Round and the bilateral series against their Sri Lankan counterparts.

Pakistan's National Defence University delegation visited Sri Lanka



A 21-member delegation from the National Defence University (NDU) of Pakistan, led by Major General Fiaz Hussain Shah, visited Sri Lanka on a foreign study tour from April 15 to 19, 2018. The delegation, comprising senior officers from Pakistan's Armed Forces, Civil Services and Officers from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and China, who are undergoing National Security and War Course, visited the High Commission of Pakistan for an interactive session on 16th April 2018. The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat briefed the delegates about the bilateral relations between Pakistan-Sri Lanka. During their foreign study visit, the delegates held number of meetings with prominent personalities from Sri Lankan Armed Forces and civil institutions including Chief of Defense Staff, Commanders of Sri Lankan Army, Air Force and Navy. The delegates also visited Galle and Trincomalee.

Sri Lankan Army Chief visited Pakistan



The Commander of Sri Lanka Army Lt. General Mahesh Senanayake, visited Pakistan on a goodwill visit on the invitation of Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, General Qamar Javed Bajwa NI (M) from April 22 to 28, 2018. During his stay in Pakistan, Lt. General Mahesh Senanayake held meetings with Prime Minister of Pakistan Hon. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the matters relating to Pak-Sri Lanka bilateral defence relations and mutual cooperation. Lt. Gen. Mahesh Senanayake thanked the Government of Pakistan for warm welcome and hailed the efforts made by Pakistan in the war against terrorism and ensuring regional peace.

Pakistan's Jinnah Scholarships for Sri Lankan students



The Government of Pakistan through its High Commission in Sri Lanka had awarded scholarships to 182 meritorious Sri Lankan students of A' levels under prestigious Jinnah Scholarship programme. The award ceremony was held at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on April 23, 2018 with the presence of a large gathering including Vice Chancellor University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Vice Chancellor University of Moratuwa, Prof. K.K.C.A. Perera, Ven. Bhante Olande Ananda, Rev. Fr. Quintus Fernando and parents of the successful students. Chairman University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka, Prof. Mohan De Silva, was the chief guest on the occasion. The Government of Pakistan has been awarding the Jinnah Scholarships since 2006. During the past 13 years approximately 1500 scholarships have been awarded. Main attractions of the Fort are:

Pakistan reaches out to uplift Sri Lankan youth through scholarships



In order to enhance younger generation's capacity building for better educational opportunities, the Government of Pakistan through its High Commission awarded scholarships to 308 Sri Lankan students under the prestigious Jinnah Scholarships Scheme at a local hotel in Kandy on June 19, 2018. Vice Chancellor, University of Paradenyia, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Mayor of Kandy, Mr. Kesara Senanayake was the Guest of Honour. The Government of Pakistan is awarding these scholarships under Jinnah Scholarship Scheme since 2006 and since then 1800 students have been awarded.

Sri Lanka National Chamber hosts Pak Envoy at 'Meet the High Commissioner' programme



The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, met the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka on April 25, 2018 and spoke about 'Bilateral Trade between Sri Lanka and Pakistan'. The High Commissioner, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka are linked by strong bonds of culture and history. He underscored that Sri Lanka was the first country to sign Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Pakistan in 2005, which shows importance of economic relationship between the two countries. He highlighted that Pakistan has very large domestic market with nearly 210 Million population and the overall volume of Pakistan economy is 400 Billion USD. During the meeting, a question-answer session was also held and various issues such as bilateral trade, business visa, etc. came under discussion.

Extraordinary meeting of Executive Committee of the SL-Pak Friendship, Trade & Investment Association



An Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship, Trade and Investment Association (SLPFTIA) was held on April 26, 2018. The Meeting was attended by the outgoing Executive Committee of SLPFTIA and the past Presidents/Secretary Generals of the Association. The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat chaired the meeting. The High Commissioner thanked the honourable members of the outgoing management, in particular the President of the Association and other office bearers, whose term had expired. As the current Executive Committee had completed its tenure, it was decided to establish an Interim Committee to run the affairs of the Association leading to next Annual General Meeting thereafter. It was also decided that the Interim Committee would comprise the former Presidents of the Association i.e. General (R) Srilal Weerasooriya, Dr. Lakshman Weerasena, Mrs. Faleela Jurangpathy and Dr. A.A. Mohammad Haroon.

Lord Buddha's Sacred Relics from Pakistan arrived in Sri Lanka



In order to present the richest Buddhist historical legacy to the Sri Lankan people, Pakistan had sent the most sacred relics of the Lord Buddha to Sri Lanka on April 28, 2018 for exposition in connection with the Annual Buddha Rashmi National Vesak Festival. Sri Lankan Minister for Buddha Sasana, Hon. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, along

with Parliamentarians, High Commissioner of Pakistan Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat as well as Senior Monks, high ranking government officials, religious scholars, received the Holy Relics at Bandaranaike International Airport amidst hordes of devotees. The Sacred Relics included two Holy Relics of Lord Buddha, which is part of collection from Taxila (Takshila) excavation in Pakistan, kept in the Taxila Museum.

Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha exhibited across Sri Lanka



The exposition of the most sacred relics was commenced at Gangaramaya Temple and the Temple Trees on 29th April 2018. Thereafter, it was exhibited at famous temples across the country until May 16, 2018. The Relics were in Colombo for a 4-day exposition from 29th April to 02nd May. After that, the Relics were taken to Wellampitiya, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Kurunegalla, Anuradhapura and Kandy. Thereafter, the Relics were brought back to Colombo on 13th May, 2018. During the three-week long exposition in Sri Lanka, millions of devotees paid their respects and homage to these Sacred Relics, discovered near the Dharmarajika stupa, the earliest and largest Buddhist complex at Taxila, Pakistan which was built in the 3rd century BC in order to house the Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha by the famous Mauryan king Asoka who was also known as Dharmaraja for his services to Buddhism. The most sacred relics of Lord Buddha were taken back to Pakistan on May 17, 2018.

Pakistan High Commission hosted Eid Milan Reception



The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, hosted an Eid Milan reception on 17th June 2018 at Galadari Hotel. It was attended by Sri Lankan and Pakistani diaspora along with members and High Commission officials.

Pakistan's Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee visited Sri Lanka



Pakistan's Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Zubair Mahmood Hayat NI (M) visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of Sri Lankan Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral R.C. Wijegunaratne from June 27 to 30, 2018. During his four-day visit, General Zubair paid courtesy calls on Sri Lankan President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, Chief of Defence Staff, Defence Secretary, Commanders of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force. During these meetings with Sri Lankan political and military hierarchy, he discussed matters of mutual understanding and cooperation. General Hayat also handed over Six Stallions to the Commander of the Air Force during the visit.

PAKISTAN SINGLE COUNTRY EXHIBITION - 2018



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