



News Letter High Commission of Pakistan

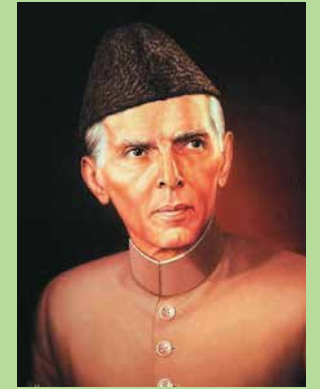
Sri Lanka



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

Volume – 19
Issue - 01

My message to you all is of hope, courage and confidence. Let us mobilize all our resources in a systematic and organized way and tackle the grave issues that confront us with the grim determination and discipline worthy of a great nation



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

International Seminar “Buddhist & Gandhara Civilization: The Cultural Nexus Between Pakistan and Sri Lanka”



The High Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka, organized an International Seminar “Buddhist & Gandhara Civilization: The Cultural Nexus between Pakistan and Sri Lanka” on March 11, 2019. Renowned scholars from China, Germany, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were the keynote speakers at the Seminar. The scholars included Prof. Dr. Li Xiguang, Director, Tsinghua University International Center for Communication, China, Prof. Dr. Hugh van Skyhawk, University of Mainz, Germany,

Brig. (R) Agha Ahmad Gul, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Pakistan, Dr. Safdar Ali Shah, Director General, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Ghani-ur-Rehman, Director, Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Pakistan and Ven. Senior Prof. Dr. Gallele Sumanasiri Thero, Vice Chancellor, Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka. The Seminar attracted a large number of guests from different walks of life including senior Buddhist Monks, Diplomats, Government functionaries, Vice Chancellors of local universities, students and media representatives.

International Seminar on Prospects of Peace, Progress and Prosperity in South Asia



The High Commission of Pakistan organized a seminar titled 'Prospects of Peace, Progress and Prosperity in South Asia' at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo on 5th February 2019. Various aspects of progress, development and resolution of conflicts in South Asian region were discussed during the Seminar. Eminent scholars, Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, President, Centre for Global and Security Studies, Pakistan; Mr. Ameen Izzadeen, senior journalist and Editor, International Desk, Wijeya Newspapers, and High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Maj. Gen. (R), Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, addressed the seminar. The seminar was largely attended by the people from different walks of life including Diplomats, Vice Chancellors, senior officers from Sri Lankan armed forces, members of Pakistani community, students of different universities, participants from think tanks and officials of the High Commission.

Resolution of Regional Disputes through Peaceful means is essential for stability & progress in South Asia – Pak Envoy



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat spoke on 'Regional Security in South Asia: Pakistan Perspective' at the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka as a Guest Speaker for an in-house discussion recently. Dr. Shahid Hashmat highlighted that over half a century after their independence, most nations of South Asia remain mired in a vicious cycle of poverty, deprivation and underdevelopment, which provided a fertile ground for intolerance and extremism. Such situation in turn has promoted conflicts and violence. On Pakistan's perspective, the High Commissioner asserted that Pakistan sees national security and regional security to be an indispensable component of peace and stability within and outside its borders. One of the core regional challenges is the Kashmir Dispute, which is the most central regional conflict in the region. He said that the Government of Pakistan is committed to resolve all bilateral and regional disputes through peaceful means and negotiations with India including the Kashmir dispute.

Visit of Sri Lankan Civil Servants to Pakistan



A 12-member delegation of Sri Lankan Government officers visited Pakistan from January 14 to 21, 2019, to gain comprehensive knowledge about Pakistan's Civil Services structure and policy formulation process. The visit was organized by the High Commission of Pakistan in collaboration with National School of Public Policy, Pakistan. The delegation members visited government institutions, Lahore and Taxila Museums, different educational institutions and Wahgah Border to observe the flag hoisting ceremony. The delegation also met high ranking government dignitaries during their stay at Pakistan.

Pakistan HC called on Higher Education Minister



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (Retd.) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, called on Minister for City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education, Hon. Rauff Hakeem, at the ministry premises on February 18, 2019. The High Commissioner

informed the Minister about Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme under which numerous scholarships will be provided to Sri Lankan students in various fields. He apprised the Minister about prospects of establishing the Taxila Gandhara Civilization Study Centre at the University of Colombo. Minister for City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education, Hon. Rauff Hakeem lauded the efforts of the High Commission and the Government of Pakistan for providing enormous opportunities to Sri Lankan youth for capacity building.

Pakistan's Blind Cricket Team visited PHC



Pakistan's Blind Cricket Team, which was in Sri Lanka to play bilateral cricket series comprising three ODIs and three T20 matches with Sri Lankan counterpart, visited the High Commission of Pakistan on February 26, 2019. Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Janbaz Khan congratulated the team members for winning all the ODI matches against Sri Lanka. Pakistan Blind Cricket team has reached in the final of all the five editions of Blind Cricket World Cup (One-day International) (1998, 2002, 2006, 2014 & 2018) and won the two World Cups consecutively in 2002 and 2006. The team also stood Runners-up in all the 2 editions of Twenty-20 World Cup Cricket of the Blind (2012, 2017).

Flag-Hoisting Ceremony to mark 79th National Day of Pakistan



The High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka celebrated the 79th National Day of Pakistan with traditional fervour and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, vibrant, progressive, democratic and welfare state. High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat unfurled the Pakistani flag to the tune of Pakistan's national anthem in a ceremony held at the Pakistan High Commission this morning. Special messages by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were readout, in which both the leaders highlighted the importance of the day and paid tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other leaders of the Pakistan Movement.

Reception to celebrate Pakistan's 79th National Day



In connection with the celebrations of 79th National Day, the High Commission of Pakistan, Colombo hosted a reception at a local Hotel, on March 25, 2019. Minister for City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education, Hon. Rauff Hakeem was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of guests, including Speaker Parliament Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Opposition Leader Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, several Ministers,

Members of Parliament, Diplomats, senior civil & military officials and people from different walks of life attended the reception. On the occasion, a Pakistan's National Day cake was jointly cut by the High Commissioner, Chief Guest and the Opposition Leader.

Pakistan High Commissioner met with Opposition Leader



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat paid a courtesy call on Opposition Leader of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa on March 6, 2019. The High Commissioner briefed him on the latest security situation in the region. He underscored Pakistan's

desire for peace and stability in the region and resolution of all issues through negotiations and dialogue. Highlighting various steps taken by Pakistan to de-escalate the situation, the High Commissioner underlined Pakistan's resolve to protect its territory against any external aggression.

Pakistan High Commissioner briefed the President of Sri Lanka on the latest security situation in South Asia



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat called upon Sri Lankan President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena on March 08, 2019. The High Commissioner underscored repeated sincere and honest efforts of Prime Minister H.E. Imran

Khan in de-escalating the recent tension across the Line of Control between India and Pakistan. He emphasized the fact that the entire spectrum of Pakistani leadership advocates and endorses the international community's support for sustainable dialogue for peaceful resolution of all disputes and conflicts between Islamabad and New Delhi, including the Kashmir issue. The President expressed his confidence that under the astute political stewardship of H.E. Imran Khan, Pakistan will not allow the conflict to escalate further and also appreciated Pakistan's positive action of releasing the Indian Pilot, expecting that such gestures will help to diffuse tension and would promote peace in the region.

High Commissioner of Pakistan briefed Speaker Parliament on latest security situation in the region



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat paid a courtesy call on Speaker, Hon. Karu Jayasuriya on March 7, 2019. The High Commissioner apprised the Speaker on the prevailing situation in the region. He underscored Pakistan's commitment to

peace and stability in the region. Highlighting the repeated overtures by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to de-escalate tensions across the Line of Control, he emphasized that Pakistan would encourage international community's support for dialogue and negotiations between India and Pakistan for peaceful resolution of all disputes including the Kashmir issue.

Pak Envoy called on Sri Lankan Prime Minister



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat called on the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, H.E. Ranil Wickramasinghe on March 12, 2019 and briefed him on regional security situation following the Pulwama incident. The High Commissioner

apprised the Prime Minister about Pakistan's desire for peace and stability in the region and resolution of all issues through meaningful negotiations and dialogue. He also underlined Pakistan's resolve to protect its territory against any external aggression. Prime Minister H.E. Ranil Wickramasinghe, while acknowledging Pakistan's perspective, emphasized that the security tensions between the countries should not be escalated. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that both countries will resolve all issues through meaningful deliberations, which will promote peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan donated IT equipment for new Training Center of Sri Lanka Army



The Government of Pakistan through its High Commission presented 15 computers and printers to newly established Peace Keeping Training Centre of Sri Lankan Army. High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat handed over the computers and

printers to the Sri Lankan Army Commander Lt. Gen. Mahesh Senanayake at a ceremony held at Army Headquarters on April 05, 2019.

Pakistan donated goods to Ragama Adolescent & Adult Thalassemia Care Centre



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, in a ceremony held at the High Commission of Pakistan on April 16, 2019, handed over donations, including basic amenities worth of SL Rs. 0.7 million to Ragama Adolescent & Adult Thalassemia Care Centre, North Colombo Teaching Hospital. The High

Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Centre for its dedication to serve people afflicted with various forms of thalassemia.

Delegation of Pakistan Navy War College visited Pak HC



A 21-member delegation of Pakistan Navy War College, led by Rear Admiral Naveed Ahmed Rizvi, Commandant of the College, visited the High Commission of Pakistan on April 08, 2019. The delegation was in Sri Lanka on 5-day foreign study tour from April 07 to 11, 2019 on the invitation of Sri

Lankan Navy. During the interactive session, the Defence Advisor of Pakistan, Col. Sajjad Ali gave a comprehensive presentation on Sri Lanka-Pakistan relations. The delegates, during their stay in Sri Lanka, called on Chief of Defense Staff, Commanders of Sri Lankan Army, Air Force and Navy.

Pakistan's National Defence University delegation visited Sri Lanka



A 17-member delegation of National Defence University of Pakistan, led by Air Commodore Mustafa Anwer, called on High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat at the High Commission premises on April 16, 2019. The delegation comprised of senior officers from Pakistan's Armed Forces and allied officers from Iran, Bangladesh and Nepal, who are undergoing National Security and War Course at the NDU. During their visit, the delegates met with a number of prominent personalities from Sri Lankan Armed Forces and civil Institutions including Secretary Defence, Chief of Defense Staff, Commanders of Sri Lankan Army, Air Force and Navy. The delegation also visited the Lakshman Kadirgamer Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI) and Institute of National Security Studies of Sri Lanka (INSSSL) for interactive session.

Pak HC visited injured Pakistanis in Sri Lanka blasts



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, accompanied by his wife, visited the Pakistani nationals (three) at a local hospital in Colombo, who were injured during the dreadful attacks in Sri Lanka on 21st April 2019. The High Commissioner inquired about the health of Pakistani nationals and prayed for

their speedy recovery. He also assured to provide all necessary assistance.

Pak HC condoled with Opposition Leader



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat called on Opposition Leader of Sri Lanka Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa on 24th April 2019 to express deep grief and sorrow over the huge loss of innocent lives in the recently occurred despicable attacks in

Sri Lanka. During the meeting, the High Commissioner reiterated Pakistan's fullest support and assistance to Sri Lanka in this moment of tragedy and distress.

Pak HC offered condolences to Archbishop of Colombo



High Commissioner of Pakistan, Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, met with Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, along with other Sri Lanka based Muslims envoys, and offered the condolences on the loss of precious lives in recent terrorist attacks. The High Commissioner condemned the barbaric attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka. He also appreciated the role of the Cardinal for maintaining harmony and peace among various

communities in this turbulent time.

Sri Lankan educationists visited Pakistan



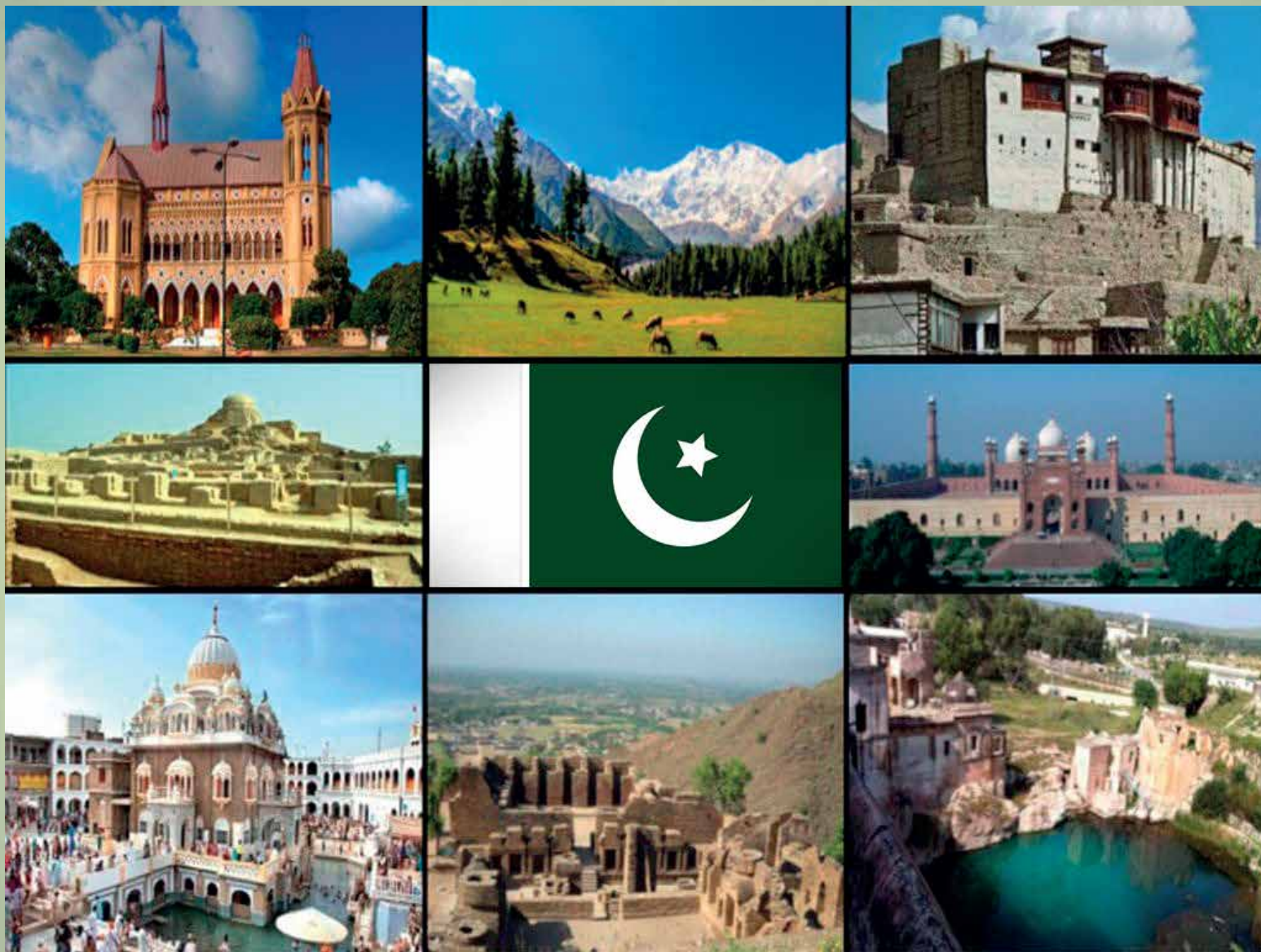
A 14-member delegation, comprising of Vice Chancellors and senior educationists from Sri Lankan universities, visited Pakistan on an orientation tour from May 02 to 09, 2019, on the invitation of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The delegation members paid a courtesy call

on High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat at High Commission's premises on April 30, 2019. The delegation members, apart from visiting the educational institutions in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, also visited the historical Gandhara sites at Taxila and met high ranking government dignitaries during their stay in Pakistan.

Pakistan donated sewing machines to Chaplain St. Vincent De Paul Society



The Government of Pakistan through its High Commission in Sri Lanka, donated sewing machines to Chaplain St. Vincent De Paul Society, Wennapuwa, Sri Lanka on 25th June 2019. High Commissioner of Pakistan Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat handed over the sewing machines to Father Quintus Fernando at the High Commission of Pakistan premises with the aim to improve the status of needy women to generate income by creating self-employment opportunities.



Press Wing

High Commission of Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Tel: 011-2055681-2 Fax: 011-2055683

E-mail: pressattache2@gmail.com Website: www.pakistanhc.lk



**Pakistan High Commission Colombo
EP Wing Pakistan Colombo**



Pakistan High Commission Colombo



Pakistan High Commission Colombo