



News Letter High Commission of Pakistan

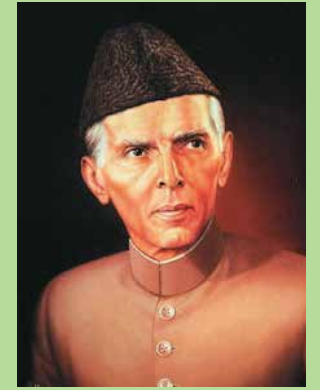
Sri Lanka



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“Pakistan not only means freedom and independence but the Muslim Ideology which has to be preserved, which has come to us as a precious gift and treasure and which, we hope others will share with us.”



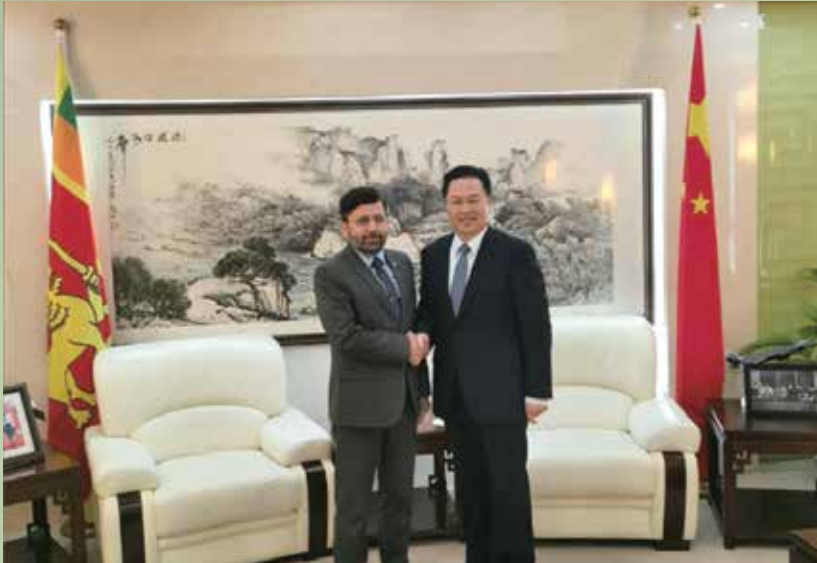
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Pakistan's New High Commissioner Presents Credentials to Sri Lankan President



Pakistan's new High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak presented his credentials to President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the President Office on January 20, 2020. He conveyed best wishes of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Sri Lankan President and people of Sri Lanka and also affirmed the desire to further strengthen fraternal ties between the two countries. The Sri Lankan President warmly welcomed the High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and extended his best wishes for a successful term.

High Commissioner meets with Chinese Ambassador



The High Commissioner, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Cheng Xueyuan at Chinese Embassy on January 22, 2020. During this meeting, they discussed matters of mutual understanding and cooperation.

The Government of Pakistan donates fully equipped IT Lab to Badi-ud-din Mahmud Girls College, Kandy



Pakistan High Commission, Sri Lanka donated a fully equipped IT Lab to Badi-ud-din Mahmud Girls College, Kandy, Sri Lanka on January 6, 2020. The Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad inaugurated the IT Lab along with principal of Badi-ud-din Mahmud Girls College, Kandy. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two brotherly countries for the uplift of the people.

Pakistan's Naval Chief visited Sri Lanka



Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi NI (M) visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of SL Navy commander, Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva from January 25-29, 2020. During his five-day visit, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi paid courtesy calls on Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, 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.

Pakistan Lifestyle Exhibition-2020 in Colombo



Sri Lankan Minister of Small and Medium Business and Enterprise Development and Minister of Industries and Supply Chain Management, Hon. Wimal Weerawansa along with the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak inaugurated Pakistan Lifestyle Exhibition at BMICH on 31st January 2020. The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Guest of honour in exhibition said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka have a very deeprooted friendship that not only covers defence but also trade, culture and people to people contacts. He further said that both countries have a great potential to explore in the areas of bilateral trade and Pakistan can offer tremendous opportunities for Sri Lankan businessmen. Chief Guest, Hon. Wimal Weerawansa said that he greatly appreciates everyone for organizing this beautiful event and as the Minister of Industry and Supply chain management in Sri Lanka, we are very much interested to support small and medium scale industries. We trust that geographical borders are not an issue to do business since technology and transport are rapidly

developing in the world. We are living in south Asian region, mainly in SAARC region where economy is rapidly booming. He requested Pakistan to support his Ministry to organize a similar trade event in Pakistan for Sri Lankan products. The Pakistan High Commission in collaboration with the Pakistan Calligraph Artists' Guild also exhibited calligraphy works of the great exponents of Pakistan like Ustad Ikramulhaq, Ustad Irfan, and Ustad Imran Sultan. High Commissioner alongwith Minister visited the stalls displaying Pakistani products and appreciated the wide variety and quality of Pakistani products. This Exhibition featured leading Pakistani companies and manufacturers of Textile and Clothing, Designer wear, Handicraft and Traditional Textiles, Cutlery, Furniture, Carpets, Marble and Services.

High Commissioner Called on Sri Lankan Speaker



High Commissioner Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak, called on Hon. Speaker of Sri Lanka, Karu Jayasuriya on February 03, 2020. During the meeting, bilateral relations and areas of mutual interest were discussed.

Pakistan's Air Chief visited Sri Lanka



Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan, Mujahid Anwar Khan NI (M) visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of SL Air Force Commander, Air Marshal Sumangala Dias from February 05-10, 2020. During his six-day visit, Mujahid Anwar Khan paid courtesy calls on Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, State Minister of Defence, 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.

Seminar on “Peace and Stability – An Imperative to Prosperity in South Asia”



The High Commission of Pakistan organized a seminar titled “Peace and Stability – An Imperative to Prosperity in South Asia” at BMICH Colombo on 5th February 2020. Eminent Panelist, Mr. Graham Jones, Ex-member of the parliament of United Kingdom, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, Ex-Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ms. Medha de Alwis, Sri Lankan Journalist and High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak. In this seminar various impediments towards regional peace and prosperity were highlighted. Mr. Graham Jones said that West is not playing its due role for resolution of Kashmir issue and therefore it is our collective responsibility to highlight and play our part for resolution of this issue as situation in Kashmir threatens international peace and security with acts of state brutality within Indian controlled Jammu & Kashmir. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan also said that Kashmir dispute took birth in 1947 in the most sensitive region of South Asia, the disputed land of Jammu and Kashmir nestled among three nuclear powers of today – Pakistan, China and India. Unfortunately, India, despite making local, regional and international commitments on Kashmir, is not forthcoming to click the peace call. All the past 72 years are a history of arrogance, bigotry, hate, chauvinism, expansionism and troublesome for her neighbors. He further stated that India has caged nine million Kashmiris by one million military and para-military troops besieging whole valley of Kashmir since August 5, 2019. Flouting all promises and pledges, Indian Leadership has made to the world standing in the witness box of the United Nations Security Council, it militarily bifurcated Kashmir into parts and usurped them what they call Union Territories. As per the UN charter no physical change can be made in any disputed region or territory. Ms. Medha de Alwis highlighted that all regional countries should play their part to resolve all regional issues for strengthening SAARC. The High Commissioner, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak emphasized that despite tremendous potential, 16.1% of South Asian population is below poverty line mainly due to the chronic dispute between two major powers; India and Pakistan. In the same context SAARC could not take off as per its goals and potential. He further said that with the revocation of articles 370 and abolition of 35A, India has blatantly violated UNSC resolutions its own constitution and Geneva convention's. Subsequently, it followed with draconian and repressive measures by imprisoning the entire nine million peoples denying all rights, duly noticed and highlighted by international bodies and human rights organizations. The seminar was largely attended by the people from different walks of life including Diplomats, Journalists, participants from think tanks, members of Civil Society and Pakistani community. The well-attended seminar held a very interesting and fruitful discussion that followed with many questions being directed at the panelists.

High Commissioner addressed graduates at Zam Zam Foundation



High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak while speaking to graduates at Convocation of Zam Zam Foundation, Colombo emphasized on the importance of interfaith harmony for national solidarity and prosperity on February 12, 2020.

Hon. MP Rishad Bathiudeen called on High Commissioner



Hon. MP Rishad Bathiudeen called on High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak at High Commission on February 12, 2020. Matters related to minorities' viewpoint on the current and evolving political climate in the country were discussed.

High Commissioner called on Hon. MP Rauff Hakeem



High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak called on Hon. MP Rauff Hakeem on February 12, 2020. Matters related to the evolving political scenarios in the run up to the coming parliamentary elections were discussed in the meeting.

High Commissioner held a meeting with Chairman Export Development Board of Sri Lanka



High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak held a meeting with Chairman Export Development Board of Sri Lanka, Mr. Prabhash Subasinghe at his office on February 13, 2020 and discussed matters related to improving trade between two countries.

Pakistani Students called on High Commissioner



Pakistani final year CA students from various Pakistani universities who were on a week long tour to Sri Lanka for attending a workshop called on High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak at the High Commission on February 13, 2020.

Mr. Imthiaz Bakeer Marikar called on High Commissioner



Mr. Imthiaz Bakeer Marikar called on High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak on February 13, 2020. Matters related to evolving political environment in the country were discussed in the meeting.

Mr. Afzal Marikar called on High Commissioner



Honorary Consul of Pakistan in Kandy, Mr. Afzal Marikar called on High Commissioner, H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak at High Commission on February 14, 2020 and briefed H.C on various issues.

High Commissioner Interacts with Pakistani Community



The High Commissioner of Pakistan, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak hosted members of Pakistani Community at Pakistan House in Sri Lanka on February 19, 2020. During Interaction with Community, High Commissioner emphasized on the important role of the Pakistani Community in promoting the interests of Pakistan abroad and contribution towards economic development of the two Countries. While commenting on Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations he said that both countries have a very deep-rooted friendship that not only covers defence but also trade, culture, sports and people to people contacts. He further stated that both countries have a great potential to explore in the areas of bilateral trade and assured full support of the High Commission to Pakistani Business Community.

High Commissioner Paid a Courtesy Call on the President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak paid a courtesy call on the President, H.E. Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Hon. Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa at their offices on February 24, 2020. During the meetings, High Commissioner underscored that relations between the two nations are time tested, deep rooted and all-encompassing. They have gained strength in all spheres and domains and also apprised them about 1000 scholarships announced by Pakistan Higher Education Commission for Sri Lankan Students. High Commissioner also reiterated that Pakistan stands with Sri Lanka and is ready to extend whatever support it needs in different fields of life including defence, intelligence sharing, eradication of drug trafficking and combating extremism of all forms. President Gotabaya and Prime Minister Mahinda also gratefully acknowledged Pakistan's assistance to Sri Lanka whenever required and underlined the importance of further strengthening bilateral co-operation between the two brotherly nations.

High Commissioner met with Sri Lankan Army Commander



HE Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak, High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva at the Army Headquarters. The High Commissioner during discussions that ensued recalled friendly and cordial relations that exist between both nations and the bilateral cooperation that covers training opportunities and exchange programmes for tri service personnel. Lieutenant General Silva extended warm greetings on his new appointment as the High Commissioner of Pakistan and assured best relations between Sri Lankan Armed Forces and Pakistan's counterparts. The talks culminated with exchange of mementos.

High Commissioner met with Sri Lankan Air Force Commander



The High Commissioner for Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak called on the Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal Sumangala Dias at Air Force Headquarters on 12th March 2020. After a discussion on matters of mutual interest, the Commander of the Air Force and the visiting dignitary exchanged mementos to mark the occasion.

High Commissioner met with Sri Lankan Naval Commander



The High Commissioner of Pakistan Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak visited Naval Headquarters in Colombo on 12th March 2020. The Pakistan High Commissioner was warmly received to the Naval Headquarters and he met with the Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva. They held a cordial discussion focusing on several matters of bilateral importance and mementoes were also exchanged to signify the event.

Repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Sri Lanka



Government of Pakistan and Sri Lankan Authorities coordinated for the successful return of 50 stranded Pakistanis via Sri Lankan Airline. Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad was present on behalf of the High Commissioner to see off the departing Pakistanis at the Bandaranaike International Airport, Colombo. The returning Pakistanis thanked Government of Pakistan and Pakistan High Commission for arranging their repatriation to Pakistan and they also expressed satisfaction and acknowledged efforts by the High Commission for the welfare and well-being of community members faced with difficulties in the wake of the outbreak of Pandemic Covid-19.

Repatriation of another group of 40 stranded Pakistanis from Sri Lanka



Government of Pakistan, 2nd group of 40 stranded Pakistani's repatriated to Pakistan via Sri Lankan Airline. Second Secretary (Political), Ms. Ayesha Abubakar Fahad was present on behalf of the High Commissioner to see off the departed Pakistanis at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), Colombo. The returning Pakistanis acknowledged efforts of High Commission for providing all possible support and assistance during their stay in Sri Lanka in this difficult time.

Message by the High Commissioner on the Occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr



High Commissioner of Pakistan said in his Eid message "I wish a joyous Eid-ul-Fitr to Pakistani Community in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Muslims who are celebrating. Eid-ul-Fitr is a unique occasion as it provides Muslims an opportunity for the promotion of their religious and cultural values in this multicultural and diverse society. On this auspicious occasion, let us share a message of love, unity and brotherhood. While celebrating the festivities of Eid, we must not forget our brothers and sisters who are disadvantaged, deprived, grieved and suffering after outbreak of Covid-19 and all those who have lost their loved ones in unfortunate Plane Crash at Karachi. We can bring smiles to their faces through our sentiments of love and solidarity". 'Eid Mubarak.'

High Commissioner Visited St. Patrick's College Jaffna



High Commissioner Of Pakistan, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak Visited St. Patrick's College Jaffna on 26th May, 2020 and gifted Sports items & School bags for students. College Principal, Rev. Fr. A.P. Thirumahan thanked Govt. and people of Pakistan for this kind gesture.

High Commissioner met with Governor of Eastern Province



High Commissioner of Pakistan, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met the Governor of Eastern Province, Mrs. Anuradha Yahampath, at her office in Trincomalee on May 28, 2020. During the meeting, the High Commissioner held detailed discussion on all areas of mutual interest between the two countries, including assistance which can be provided by Pakistan to the Eastern Province and further discussion to explore opportunities to enhance economic, educational, cultural, tourism and people to people links with the Eastern part of Sri Lanka also took place. Mrs. Yahampath warmly welcomed the High Commissioner on his first visit to the Eastern Province after assuming charge and thanked the government and people of Pakistan for their consistent support and assistance for the Province and Country.

Pakistan Offers 1000 Fully-Funded Higher Education Scholarships to Sri Lankan Students



The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has offered 1000 Allama Iqbal Scholarships to Sri Lankan students over a period of 5 years under the Pak-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Program. The scholarships provide an opportunity for Sri Lankan students to visit Pakistan and pursue undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral degree programs in Engineering Sciences, Medical Sciences, Basic & Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. The scholarships offered full tuition fee, accommodation allowances, study allowances and one-time return air ticket. The program is open to candidates from any background, and female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. High Commissioner of Pakistan updated the Prime Minister on the status of the program. High Commissioner Khattak also informed the Prime Minister of a proposal to have “street libraries” in Colombo. Prime Minister welcomed the idea and also requested the Pakistani High Commission to consider mobile libraries for the other provinces around the country where students find greater difficulty in accessing educational resources. The discussion also focused on how Sri Lanka and Pakistan can further strengthen and intensify collaborations on counterterrorism by sharing information and experiences.

BEAUTY OF PAKISTAN



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