

NEWSLETTER

High Commission Islamic Republic of Pakistan Colombo



JULY - DECEMBER 2020



Our Team

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Islam stands for justice, equality, fair play, tolerance and even generosity to Non-Muslims who may be under our protection. They are like brothers to us and would be the citizens of the state (Address at the Muslim University Union, Aligarh, 02-11-1941) "To emerge as a strong and prosperous state, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people and especially of the masses and the poor" (Presidential Address to the Constitution Assembly of Pakistan 11-08-1941) (Muhammad Ali Jinnah)

The Founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



High Commissioner of Pakistan
Major General (R) Muhammad
Saad Khattak

As another year passes and we begin to move into 2021, it is with great pleasure that I convey greetings to each of you on behalf of the people of Pakistan and Pakistan High Commission in Sri Lanka.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year full of peace, harmony and prosperity. A year of blessing and joy, which will witness genuine international efforts for peace and stability throughout the world. It is an occasion to reiterate our commitment to the fundamental principles which are based on tolerance, forgiveness, respect, cohesion

and mercy between our two friendly countries. I hope that in 2021 bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be even more productive and the contacts between our nations will increase manifold.

The year 2020 has been quite a difficult one for most of us, the coronavirus pandemic not only wrecked our health but also left quite a lasting impact on most of our lives. Yet, humanity is not to be taken lightly either. We will continue to hold on to hope and persevere for a brighter and better tomorrow. This upcoming year will give us the opportunity to start afresh and work towards rebuilding our two nations after the pandemic and even bettering ourselves in order to avoid such global suffering again.

"May Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoy great progress in the New Year"

Happy New Year 2021!

The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak visited Central and North Central Provinces from 29th June to 2nd July, 2020. Discussed areas of mutual interest between the two countries, including assistance which can be provided by Pakistan to the Central Province and to explore opportunities to further enhance economic, trade, educational, cultural,



tourism and people to people contacts and met with office bearer of Kandy Muslim Traders Association and also distributed school kits and sports items to children from three schools.

Meeting with the President of Sri Lanka Football Federation Mr. Anura De Silva



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Mr. Lasitha Gunaratne, President of Sri Lanka Rugby, at Old Sports Ministry Complex Colombo, on 14th July, 2020. The High Commissioner on behalf of the Government of Pakistan gifted Pakistan made rugby balls and sports kits to President of Sri Lanka Rugby. The President appreciated and thanked Government and people of Pakistan for this kind gesture and said that Pakistan is committed to provide continued support to Sri Lanka in enhancing younger generation's nation building capacities with better sports opportunities.



High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Mr. Anura De Silva, President of Sri Lanka Football Federation, at Independence Avenue Colombo, on 15th July 2020. During the meeting, the High Commissioner emphasized that Pakistan and Sri Lanka share strong bonds of friendship, love for sports is what joins the hearts of Sri Lankans and Pakistanis. He also emphasized on the need of enhancing sporting interactions between the two countries especially football to strengthen the already strong relations.

Centenary Medal Award Ceremony



Under the auspices of Pakistan High Commission, a ceremony was held to award the Centenary Medal to 37 Sri Lankan military officers who had graduated from Command and Staff College, Quetta, at Maroon Hall, Defence Services Command and Staff College, Batalanda (Colombo) on 22nd July, 2020. On the occasion, which commemorated the completion of 100 glorious academic years of the Command and Staff College, Quetta, the High Commissioner hailed the everlasting friendly ties between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and renewed the commitment to continue working closely in all fields to boost mutual cooperation.

"Youm-e-Istehsal" Event held to mark one year of military siege in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK)



The Pakistan High Commission organized an event under the theme of "Youm-e-Istehsal", to mark one year of Indian military siege of the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), at the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo

on 3rd August, 2020, in order to raise awareness about the Indian atrocities in IIOJK prominent speakers were invited to share their thoughts on the situation, and its impact on original dynamics.

Message by the High Commissioner on the Occasion of 74th Independence Day of Pakistan



It gives me great pleasure to convey greetings and best wishes of the government and people of Pakistan to the

government and friendly people of Sri Lanka. 14th August is the most significant day in the history of Pakistan. On this day, seventy four years ago, Pakistan emerged as a sovereign state on the map of the world. Under the dynamic and inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the birth of Pakistan epitomized the successful culmination of a long and arduous struggle against seemingly insurmountable odds by Muslims of the Sub-continent. The Quaid envisioned Pakistan as a modern and progressive state. The government and people of Pakistan are committed to achieving the goal of making Pakistan a moderate, progressive, self-reliant and Islamic Welfare State. Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoy exceptionally cordial and

friendly ties. The historical and cultural links between our two peoples date back to the time when the Indus Valley and Gandhara Civilizations prospered in what is now Pakistan. This exemplary relationship having depth, breadth and diversity serves as a beacon for other countries of South Asia. We continue to nurture our mutually beneficial relations in diverse fields. Exploring ways to broaden as well as deepen the economic ties, through enhancement of trade and bilateral investments, within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement, remains our top most priority. Both our countries face significant challenges, at the same time we have tremendous opportunities. This mutuality provides a wide canvas for both countries to help

and support each other, in order to jointly overcome challenges and maximize opportunities. Pakistan has always extended unconditional support to Sri Lanka with regards to her national security. I would like to assure the Government and people of Sri Lanka that Pakistan would always stand with them whenever Sri Lanka needs Pakistan's support. In the end, I wish to extend to my heartiest felicitations on a resounding election victory to the government of H.E. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, H.E. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and to the people of Sri Lanka and wish for their continued progress, prosperity and peace, in the years ahead. Long live Pakistan-Sri Lanka friendship Pakistan-Zindabad

High Commission of Pakistan Celebrated, 74th Independence Day of Pakistan in Sri Lanka



The auspicious 74th Independence Day of Pakistan in Sri Lanka was celebrated with traditional fervor and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, dynamic progressive, tolerant and democratic Islamic welfare state, at the High Commission's premises in Colombo, on 14th August 2020.

Virtual Business Forum on Pakistan - Sri Lanka Trade and Investment Opportunities

:: VIRTUAL BUSINESS FORUM ::

SRI LANKA – PAKISTAN

TRADE & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DATE : FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2020
 TIME : 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. (SRI LANKA TIME)
 ZOOM ID : 936 0812 0301

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Opening Remarks Mr. Prabhase Subasinghe Chairman Sri Lanka Export Development Board</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Guest Speech H.E. Maj. Gen. (Retd.), Muhammad Saad Khattak High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Export Opportunities to Pakistan under Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement Mr. Somasena Mahadiulwewa Director of Commerce Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Pakistan's Import/ Export Procedures and Role of TDAP in Trade Facilitation Mr. Riaz Ahmed Shaikh Director General Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)</p> </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Investment Opportunities in Sri Lanka Mr. Prasanjith Wijayatilake Executive Director/Investment Promotion Board of Investment, Sri Lanka</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Pakistan Economy, Business and Investment Opportunities in Pakistan Ms. Asmma Kamal Trade and Investment Attaché High Commission of Pakistan, Colombo</p> </div> </div>	<p>Q & A Session</p> <p>Discussion Panel will be consisted of the officials from High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Department of Commerce and Sri Lanka Export Development Board</p>

Organized by

Sri Lanka Export Development Board
 No. 42, Newern Mawatha, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 300 705/11
 Email: edb@edb.gov.lk
 Web: www.srilankabusiness.com

High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka
 No. 42 & 44, Bullers Lane, Colombo 07
 Tel: +94-11-2055601-2
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The High Commission of Pakistan held their first virtual business forum in collaboration with Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) to enhance awareness regarding trade and investment opportunities between the two friendly countries on 18th September, 2020. The High Commissioner presented inaugural remarks, followed by a detailed presentation on export potential and Pakistan's investment climate by Ms. Asmma Kamal, Trade and Investment Attaché.

Called on Minister of Justice, Mr. Ali Sabri



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad

Khattak alongwith his team Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, Deputy High Commissioner and Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser, Press Attaché met with the Honorable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ali Sabri at his office on 21st September, 2020. The High Commissioner congratulated the newly appointed Minister of Justice of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and wished him and his party a strong and peaceful tenure ahead. Mr. Ali Sabri appreciated the strong ties that the two countries have always enjoyed.



Meeting with Leader of the Opposition Mr. Sajith Premadasa



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak, held a cordial meeting with the Honorable Leader of the Opposition, Democratic

Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Sajith Premadasa alongwith MPs Mr. Harsha De Silva and Mr. Eran Wikramaratne in his office on 24th September 2020. Both the honorable Leader of the Opposition and the High Commissioner agreed that bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest must be vigorously pursued.

Meeting with Sports Minister, Mr. Namal Rajapaksa



H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak held a fruitful meeting with the Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports affairs, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Namal Rajapaksa, in his office on 23rd September 2020. The High Commissioner congratulated the honorable Minister on his appointment. During the meeting several topics of mutual interest came under discussion including mutual cooperation through regular sports and youth related activities. Both the honorable Minister and the High Commissioner agreed that interaction of youth of both the countries is vital to bring the future generation closer.

Meeting with the State Minister for Regional Cooperation Mr. Tharaka Balasuriya



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with State Minister Tharaka Balasuriya in his office on 25th September, 2020, and congratulates him for assuming new charge and his party's victory. Both reiterated sig scope of trade and commerce.

Called on Minister of Education Prof. G. L. Peiris



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak held a comprehensive and interactive meeting with the Honorable Minister of Education, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Prof. G. L. Peiris in his office on 28th September 2020. During the meeting several topics of common interest came under discussion regarding mutual cooperation in the field of education. Both the honorable Minister and the High Commissioner agreed that bilateral cooperation in various fields of higher and technical education must be vigorously pursued.

Chaired SACEP meeting



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak chaired a meeting of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme on 25th September, 2020.

Pakistan High Commission Awards Prestigious Jinnah Scholarships to O & A-Level Students of Sri Lanka.



A ceremony was organized by the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo to award 304 bright A-Level students of Sri Lanka. These scholarships have been awarded by the Government of Pakistan to brilliant Sri Lankan students of O and A Levels since 2006. So far, 2000 Sri Lankan students have benefitted from this program which is named after Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the revered founding father of Pakistan on 02 October, 2020

Called on Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka, Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage



Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in his office on 5th October, 2020. Both sides exchanged views on important regional affairs and considered the way forward to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of education, trade and

The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak held a comprehensive meeting with Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, Foreign Secretary of the Democratic

investment and culture. The High Commissioner emphasized the need to revitalize SAARC platform to strengthen regional cooperation for the betterment of the people in the region.

Meeting with Executive Director, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak held meeting with Prof. Gamini B. Keerawella, ED RCSS Wire in his office on 13th October, 2020. Detailed discussion encompassed topics of mutual interest incl. traditional and nontraditional strategic studies and their impact within the region.

Called on the Honourable Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Hon. Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena at his office on 14th October, 2020. A detailed discussion took place on range of affairs including exploring trade and investment opportunities, tourism, culture and education affairs etc.



Meeting with Regional Manager of Sri Lankan and Indian Ocean

The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Mr. Jayantha Abeysinghe, Regional Manager Sri Lanka and Indian Ocean of Sri Lankan Airlines on 14th October, 2020

High Commissioner of Pakistan met with Minister of Industries Mr. Wimal Weerawansa



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Hon. Minister of Industries of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. Wimal Weerawansa at his office, today 15th October, 2020. In a detailed discussion, the importance of exploring the full potential of Pakistan Sri

Lanka Free Trade Agreement and the removal of impeding issues on both sides was underscored and High Commissioner of Pakistan assured the Honourable Minister and his team of Pakistan's full support in strengthening bilateral economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Meeting with Chairman of Pathfinder



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with Mr. Bernard

Goonetilleke, Chairman of Pathfinder SL on 12th October, 2020. A detailed discussion was held on developing stronger ties between Sri Lanka in the fields of education, trade, tourism and culture.

Meeting with the Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak held a cordial meeting with the Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal

Ranjith at the Archbishop House on 16th October, 2020. During the discussion, the importance of inter-faith harmony and peaceful coexistence of all ethnicities in Sri Lanka was underscored and full support in strengthening bilateral cooperation through religious delegations and student exchanges between the two friendly countries.

Meeting with Ambassador of Iran, Mr. Hashem Ashjazadeh



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak called on H. E. Mr. Hashem Ashjazadeh, Ambassador of Iran in Sri Lanka on 20th October, 2020.

Called on Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Dominik Furgler



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak called on Swiss Ambassador in Sri Lanka H. E. Dr. Dominik Furgler on 21st October, 2020.

Ambassador of Palestine paid a Courtesy called on High Commissioner



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with H.E. Mr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, Ambassador of Palestine in his office on 22nd October 2020.

Called on Ambassador of France, Mr. Lavertu Eric



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with H.E. Mr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, Ambassador of Palestine in his office on 22nd October 2020.

Called on Venerable Warakagoda Gnanarathana Thero



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak paid a courtesy call to Mahanayaka of the Asgiriya Chapter of Siyam Nikaya Most Venerable Warakagoda Gnanarathana Thero in Kandy on 28th October, 2020. Topics of mutual interest and religious tourism were discussed during the cordial meeting.

Pradeep Nilanga Dela paid a courtesy called on High Commissioner



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak paid a courtesy call to Mahanayaka of the Asgiriya Chapter of Siyam Nikaya Most Venerable Warakagoda Gnanarathana Thero in Kandy on 28th October, 2020. Topics of mutual interest and religious tourism were discussed during the cordial meeting.

World Bank Country Manager called on High Commissioner



Ms. Chiyo Kanda, World Bank Country Manager Sri Lanka and Maldives met H.E. Major General

(Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak on 16-11-2020. Areas of mutual interest like World Bank support in Covid-19 pandemic in the region and sharing of experiences in Sri Lanka were discussed. H.E. congratulated Ms. Kanda wishing her luck in her assignment in Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan permanent representative designate to UN NY, called on High Commissioner



H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak on 16-11-2020. Longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and support to each other during difficult times was discussed. H.E. wished Mr. Peiris luck for his future appointment and hoped Mr. Peiris will be an asset for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan permanent representative designate to UN NY, Mr. Mohan Peiris met

High Commissioner bade farewell to the prisoners at the Airport



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak bade farewell to the prisoners at the airport. 41 prisoners were repatriated back to Pakistan. He addressed them at the departure lounge of Bandaranayake International Airport, Colombo. His Excellency advised them to refrain from such crimes in future so as to lead a better life with their loved ones once they reach Pakistan. The life at the prison is not a very encouraging way of living, especially when they had to suffer for their crimes away from their motherland and families for such a long time. The prisoners thanked the High Commissioner for all the help extended in their long and technical repatriation process including the assistance provided to them by the High Commission of Pakistan while they were waiting for the process to complete.

High Commissioner visited Aviation College



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak visited Aviation College and met Mr. Ashok Pathirage, Chairman and Sr. management of Sri Lankan Airways on 18-11-2020. Aviation training opportunities and potential for tourism development between Pakistan and Sri Lanka were discussed, followed by a visit of institutional facilities.

High Commissioner visited Zahira College, Hambantota



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met worthy Principal Mr. M. M. Rizan and his team at Zahira College, Hambantota on 9th December, 2020. The Principal was grateful to High Commissioner for the donations to college students and reflected that such gestures go a long way between dearly friendly countries like Pakistan-Sri Lanka.

Called on Hambantota Mayor Mr. Eraj Ravindra Fernando



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak paid a courtesy call on the Mayor Hambantota, Hon Mr. Eraj Ravindra Fernando in his office on 10th December, 2020. Matters of mutual interest were discussed. Both the Senior representatives from Sri Lanka and Pakistan reiterated the importance of the long term commitment and friendship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Meeting with LPL Players



The High Commissioner, H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met with the Pakistan cricket players at Shangrila Hotel, Hambantota on 10th December, 2020 and encouraged them to play a good game while representing Pakistan in Sri Lanka at LPL. The players were extremely happy to meet the Pakistan High Commission delegation and thanked them for their support.

BUDDHIST HERITAGE OF PAKISTAN

