



High Commission of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Colombo

NEWSLETTER

JULY - DECEMBER 2021



Press Wing

High Commission of Pakistan Colombo – Sri Lanka

DIPLOMATIC INTERACTIONS



Honorable Rauff Hakeem, Member in Sri Lankan Parliament called on H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak, High Commissioner of Pakistan.



The Vice Chairman SJB Youth Mr. Rehaan Jayawickreme called on H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak. National Organiser of the SJB Youth Mr. Chamith Wijesundara was also present during the meeting.



H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met Ven. Dr. Bellanwila Dhammaratana Nayaka Thera, current chief incumbent of Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharal.



H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak paid a courtesy call on Hon. Minister of Irrigation & State Minister of National Security & Disaster Management & State Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Chamal Rajapaksa.



Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmed and Trade & Investment Attaché, Ms. Asmma Kamal called on the newly appointed Hon. Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa at his office.



Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad held a productive meeting with Advisors & Media Secretary of Hon. Minister of Justice Sri Lanka to discuss ways & means to further strengthen our existing bilateral relations, especially cultural.



Pakistan High Commissioner H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak called on the new Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris at the Foreign Ministry.



A delegation from the Young Men's Buddhist Association paid a visit to the Pakistan Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tanvir Ahmad.



Dr. Masumur Rahman, Director General of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), along with his team paid a courtesy call on the Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad





Pakistan's Acting High Commissioner, Tanvir Ahmad, accompanied by Trade and Investment Attaché, Asmma Kamal called on **Hon. Bandula Gunawardena**, Minister of Trade, Sri Lanka



Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad & Commercial Secy. called on **Hon. Dr. Bandula Gunawardena**, M/o Trade & briefed about various initiatives undertaken to enhance Pakistan – Sri Lanka bilateral trade, investment & economic cooperation, while encouraging joint ventures in high potential sectors.



Written test in three cities including Colombo, Kandy and Batticaloa. Selected students will pursue their BS, MS or PhD studies in public sector universities of Pakistan.



H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka along with Deputy High Commissioner Tanvir Ahmad called on the Honourable Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka at Temple Trees and handed over lifesaving COVID-19 medical equipment from the Government of Pakistan to Sri Lanka which include 75 ventilators and 150 C-PAP breathing aid machines manufactured in Pakistan.



The Divisional Secretariat Trincomalee in connection with the World Children's Day National Celebrations-2021, **Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan** handed over Sixty (60) desktop computers, sports goods and school bags, to **Hon. Piyal Nishantha de Silva, State Minister for Women and Child Development, Pre School and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and School Services** on behalf of the Government of Pakistan.



Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad attended Milad-un-Nabi celebrations at Temple Trees on the invitation of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksha.



Acting **High Commissioner, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad** attended opening ceremony of a computer lab established with donated desktop computers by the Government of Pakistan at Sri Pada Maha Viharaya, G/ Vidya Samadhi Maha Pirivena, Hipankanda, Nawadagala.



Keeping up the legacy of strong relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan donated a fully furnished library to the National Defence College. Pakistan also provided its fullest support in setting up the curriculum of the inaugural course at NDC.

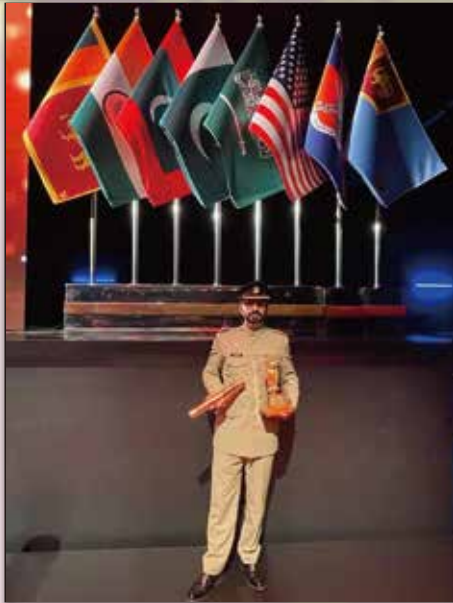
Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, Acting High Commissioner and Col. Muhammad Safdar Khan Defence, Advisor of the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo attended the inaugural ceremony which was also attended by senior political and military leadership of the country, Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Diplomatic missions and Defence Advisors/ Attachés based in Sri Lanka.



The High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo, organized **33rd RCCI International Achievement Awards and Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Opportunities Conference**, in collaboration with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI), the third largest chamber of Pakistan.



Pakistan Flying Officer Hafiz Muhammad Usman Hayat and Flying Officer Sohaib Tahir of Pakistan Air Force were awarded for securing **1st and 2nd position in Bachelors in Logistics Management and Bachelors in Management and Technical Sciences** respectively at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU).



Major Abubakar Buttar of Pakistan Army for being declared as **Best Foreign Officer in Defence Services Command and Staff College, Sri Lanka** and was awarded with prestigious "Golden Owl Award".



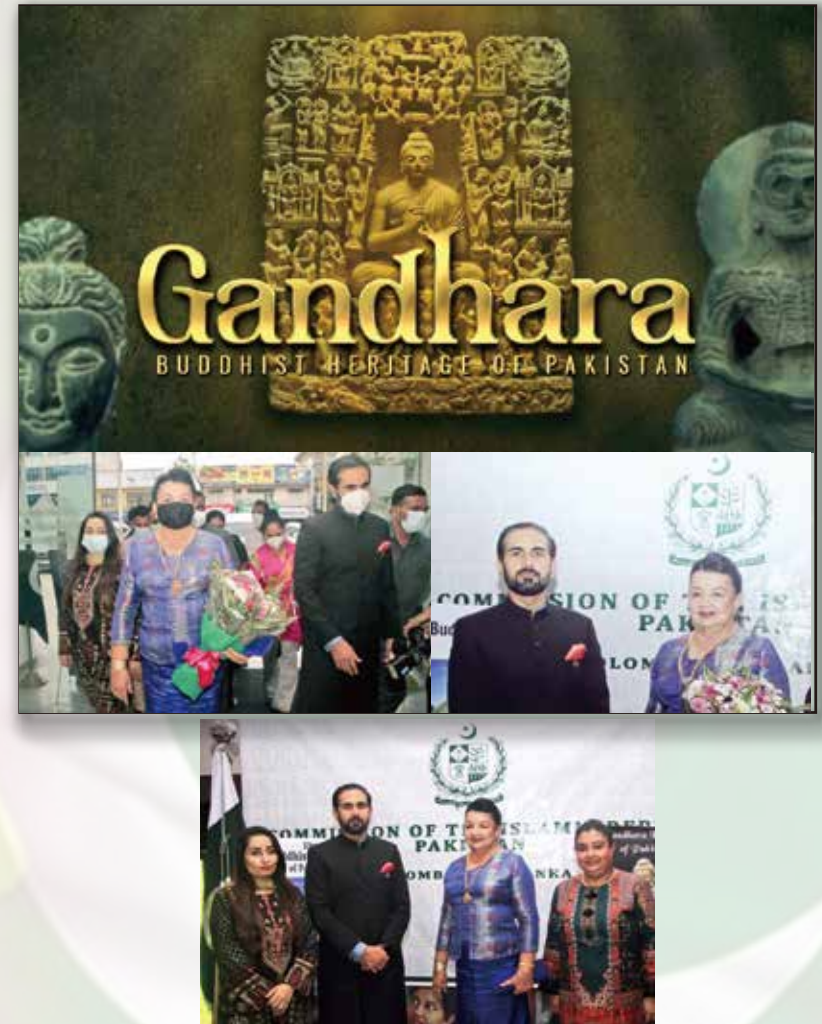
Pakistan High Commission Colombo attended the reception ceremony of Pakistan Navy ship "**Tughril**" on its way from China to Pakistan. This was its last call at Port of Colombo while going to Pakistan for being commissioned into the Pakistan Navy.

LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM “GANDHARA: THE BUDDHIST HERITAGE OF PAKISTAN”

At Temple Trees:



“Gandhara” is a documentary jointly produced by the High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sri Lanka and Siddhivinayak Cine Arts (Private) Limited with the support of and in coordination with the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs. It takes the viewers on a visual journey along the Gandhara Buddhist heritage sites of Pakistan.



The Acting High Commissioner welcomed Madame Shiranthi Rajapaksa as Chief Guest at the premier of the documentary film “Gandhara: The Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan” at Savoy Cinema. The documentary is conceptualized with the aim to bring Pakistan-Sri Lanka peoples together through their shared history & heritage.

DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Second Secretary from High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mrs. Ayesha Abu Bakr Fahad, visited South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and met a group of lecturers, including the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Culture (FAC), who is now the Vice-Chancellor appointed to the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Dr. Anver M. Musthafa and Eng. NT. Mohamed Sirajudeen, the University Council members, accompanied her to the University.



Trade & Investment Attaché, Ms. Asmma Kamal visited Galle District Chamber of Commerce & Industries and met with the Chairman, CEO and Board of Directors.



Trade and Investment Attaché Ms. Asmma Kamal visited Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce and met with the management and members. She was briefed on the working and initiatives of the oldest regional chamber of Sri Lanka.



Press Attaché Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser called on Dr. Jayashankar, Professor of Theatre Arts & Literature Eastern University. Detailed discussion was held centered on proposals to enhance & exchange mutual cultural ties between Pakistan – Sri Lanka.



Press Attache Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser met Mr. Harshana, Director Eastern Tourism Beauru & Members of Local Authority, Lahugala & Panama & Mr. Mahesh, Secretary, Panama Tourism Association at ArugamBay.



Press Attaché Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser had a comprehensive meeting with the General Managers of Prominent Hotels, including of Ananthaya, UgaBay & other prominent hotels of Passikudah regarding promoting joint ventures in rejoined tourism



Press Attaché Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser attended a meeting with Ceylon Media Forum Kalmonay. President - Ceylon Media Forum Dr. Riyadh A. Majeed, General Secretary M. Mujahith, Treasurer Noorul Hudha, National Organizer Sahfy H. Ismail & other executive members were present at the meeting.



Press Attaché Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser called on a group of **representatives of journalists** from Trincomalee as part of media outreach program. Topics related to publicity of bilateral tourism & areas of media collaboration between Pakistan-Sri Lanka were discussed.



Press Attaché Ms. Kalsoom Qaiser called on Member of Sri Lankan Parliament **Hon Mr. Thowfeek Mohamed Shariff**. Topics of enhancing regional tourism & bilateral cultural promotion activities were discussed in detail.

Pakistan And Sri Lankan Armies Conclude Joint Exercise



H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak met Maj. Gen. Milinda Peiris, V.C General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University & attended virtual MoU signing ceremony between General Sir John Kotelawala University & International Center for Chemical & Biological Sciences, University of Karachi



Pakistan High Commission collaboration with the M/O Youth & Sports Sri Lanka is organised the **live screening of semifinal match between Pakistan vs Australia at Temple Trees, Prime Minister Office of Sri Lanka.**

Sialkot Incident Activities



Sri Lankan Parliamentarians met Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tanvir Ahmad to express concerns & grief on behalf of Sri Lankan Parliament regarding Sialkot tragedy. They reiterated longstanding Sri Lanka-Pakistan friendship.



Group of all Sri Lankan religious representatives called on Pakistan Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tanvir Ahmad to show their support to Priyantha Kumara family & express their grief & concerns regarding the incident across the religions. They thanked Government of Pakistan for quick action & requested for speedy justice.



Pakistan Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, Community Welfare Attaché & Press Secretary received the mortal remains of Priyantha Diyawadana at BIA Sri Lanka. Sympathies of Pakistani people & Government remain with the grieving family of the deceased.



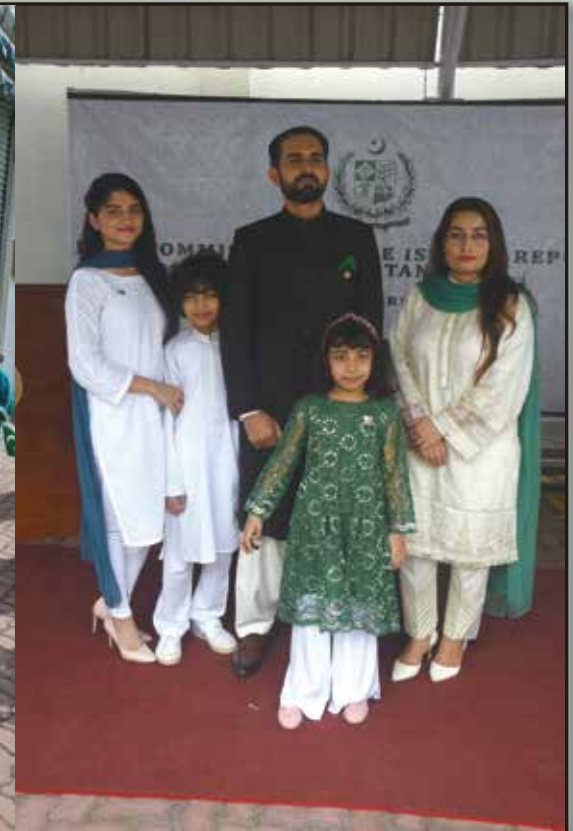
Pakistan Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tanvir Ahmad visited **Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Mahanayake Thero Asgiriya Chap** & conveyed thanks on behalf of Government of Pakistan for his letter of appreciation to Prime Minister of Pakistan for his quick action against culprits of the Sialkot incident



Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan Mr. Tanvir Ahmad paid courtesy call on **Mr. Pradeep Nilanga Dela, Chief Custodian of Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy** & discussed ways to promote bilateral cultural & religious ties between Pakistan - Sri Lanka.



NATIONAL ACTIVITIES



The High Commission of Pakistan and the Pakistani community in Sri Lanka celebrated **75th Independence Day "The Diamond Jubilee"** with traditional fervor and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, dynamic, progressive, tolerant and democratic Islamic welfare state. The High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Maj. Gen (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in vibrant and colorful ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo.

YOUM-E-ISTEHSAL:



The Pakistan High Commission observed “**Yum-e-Istehsal**” to mark Indian Illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The event was well-attended by members of the intelligentsia, Pakistani diaspora in Colombo, journalists and friends of the Kashmir cause in the local community.

Kashmir Black Day:



The High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sri Lanka organized a seminar to mark the '**Kashmir Black Day**' on **October 27, 2021** at Colombo. The seminar was attended by people from different walks of life including diplomats, professionals, journalists, writers, local friends of Kashmir as well as the Pakistani community.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi:



Pakistan High Commission, Colombo along with the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association celebrated **Eid Milad-un-Nabi** on (Friday) by organizing a special event at the High Commission. The occasion was celebrated with traditional fervor and reverence.

Webinars



Trade Development Authority of Pakistan	
In collaboration with High Commission of Pakistan, Sri Lanka is organizing a "Webinar and Virtual B2B Session on Export Potential of Agriculture Machinery of Pakistan to Sri Lanka"	
23rd September 2021 Thursday 12:00^{PM} - 12:30^{PM} (PST) - (SLST)	
Keynote Speakers Mrs. Benazir Chachar Director Engineering and Minerals Division Mrs. Asma Kamal Commercial Secretary, Sri Lanka Ms. Kashmala Javald Product Officer Agriculture Machinery Mr. Abdul Ahad Senior Manager Marketing Planning, Al Ghazi Tractors Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers & Importers/ Distributors Association (AGMMA), Sri Lanka Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka & Department of Commerce Sri Lanka	Webinar Objective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To launch Pakistani Agriculture Machinery Manufacturers in Sri Lanka Moderator Kashmala Javald Assistant Director
Welcome Address: H.E. Maj. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak High Commissioner of Pakistan, Sri Lanka Remarks by: Dr. W. L. G Samarasinghe Additional Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84166147349?pwd=N202MEJ6eGp2ZmNVQlR4dVp2VWx4Z2p0 Meeting ID: 841 4414 7349 Passcode: 495095	

H.E. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak addressed the webinar & virtual B2B Session on Pakistan export potential of Agriculture Machinery to Sri Lanka.



Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tanvir Ahmad represented at the Ambassador Forum “South Asia’s Approach to the New Normal in the Post Covid-19 World” co-hosted by Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute & Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sri Lanka and highlighted Pakistan's national health strategies to effectively control spread of Covid-19. Pakistan managed to save precious lives & at the same time livelihoods. Pakistan has been lauded by international organizations including WHO and the Economist's Covid-19 Global Normalcy Index has rated Pakistan 3rd world overall.



The High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), organized a webinar on “**Opportunities & Challenges for Pakistan’s Buddhist Tourism in Sri Lanka**”

MEDIA BRIEFING:




Press Section arranged media briefing for **H.E Major General (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak, High Commissioner of Pakistan**. Briefing covered post Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan Visit follow up progress including areas like trade, investment, education, pharma etc.

MEDIA RECEPTION



Press Wing, Pakistan High Commission Colombo hosted a reception for the members of the Electronic and print media at the Pakistan High Commission premises to celebrate **Quaid Day, Christmas Day and New Year**.

Articles:



August 5, 2021

Kashmir – “Youm E Istehsal”

Lankan navy seizes 517kg of Kerala cannabis worth approx. Rs. 155 million in northern waters

Defence Ministry reacts to reports on foreign vessel anchored off Batticaloa

MAJ. GEN. (RET'D) MUHAMMAD SAAD KHATTAK
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF PAKISTAN

COLOMBO : The Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) celebrates its 73rd days under one of the most brutal, draconian and inhuman military siege modern world has ever witnessed.

The abrogation of IIOJK's Special Status came via presidential orders, which revoked Article 370 and Article 35A of the Indian constitution. Article 370 had accorded special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir and all the provisions of the Indian Constitution, which were applicable to the Indian states did not apply to the territory. Due to this Article, Jammu and Kashmir was a region, which (despite being a part of Indian Union under the so-called Instrument of Accession) enjoyed separate constitution, flag and official language. Though most of the special privileges that Jammu and Kashmir was entitled under the Article 370 had long been eroded with the passage of time yet Article 35A disarmed non-Kashmiris from acquiring property and jobs in government institutions in the territory. The Indian government also divided the occupied territory into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Ladakh without a legislature.

Following the sensitive announcements made on August 5 and the subsequent days, mobile, television, landline and internet services were suspended and curfew was imposed in the main cities and towns of IIOJK. Indian paramilitary personnel were deployed in every nook and corner of the occupied territory while the army and air force were also put on high alert. Fear and anxiety had already gripped occupied Kashmir as 34,000 additional troops were deployed during the past few days. It had also cancelled a major Hindu pilgrimage, Amarnath Yatra, ordered closure of schools and colleges and asked tourists to leave the territory. The authorities also imposed strict restrictions on the media. Local newspapers failed to update even their online editions. Majority of the newspapers also could not be printed for months due to curfew and other restrictions. No reports of the territory could reach to the news outlets in India and the world. The IIOJK virtually remained cut off from the rest of the world.

The abrogation of the special status of Kashmir was accompanied by arrest of around 1,000 innocent Kashmiris including human rights leaders, political activists, lawyers, human rights defenders and leaders of religious, trade and social organisations. All resistance leaders, including Syed Ali Gilani and Mirza Umar Farooq, were placed under house arrest or detained in jails. Even former chief ministers, Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, were placed under house detention.

During this military crackdown, over 8 million Kashmiris were locked down in their homes incommunicado. The continued military siege for months created a humanitarian crisis as people faced acute shortage of essential commodities, life-saving drugs and baby food.

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Lankan navy seizes 517kg of Kerala cannabis worth approx. Rs. 155 million in northern waters

Defence Ministry reacts to reports on foreign vessel anchored off Batticaloa

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GOLDEN AWARD : Lankan actor in Lebanon ...

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Kashmir “Youm-e-Istehsal”



(UTV | COLOMBO) – Prime Minister Imran Khan, shortly after his election in 2018, declared that Pakistan “will take two steps towards peace, if India takes one.” He hoped that Pakistan and India would fight poverty instead of each other.

Unfortunately, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India has no interest in peace. India's ruling party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, is steeped in the racist, hate-filled Hindutva creed of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a paramilitary organization whose founding fathers wrote admiringly of Hitler and Mussolini.

New Delhi continued to spurn Pakistan's offer for dialogue on the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir as well as other issues that bedevil our relationship. Prime Minister Modi, it appears, confused Pakistan's desire for peace with weakness.

Interviews:

Central Asia

Colombo Port City a golden opportunity for business in the same region

The Prime Minister announced 100 special medical seats for Sri Lankan students in addition to the 1,000 scholarships already being offered

The High Commission of Pakistan also donated Rs. 74 million (LKR). On behalf of the Pakistani government

Pakistani High Commissioner Major General (R) Muhammad Saad Khattak, in an interview with Daily Mirror, discussed the current developments of bilateral relations between the two countries following Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit in February this year. The interview:

By Faruq Hameed

During the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, there were agreements for cooperation in various sectors. What tangible action has been taken since then to realize what was agreed upon?

The Pakistani High Commission has constantly engaged with all relevant stakeholders including the Sri Lankan President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet members, the government officials and the business community to enhance the bilateral cooperation and economic collaboration between our two friendly countries. During his visit, the Pakistani Prime Minister stressed upon the importance of religious and cultural tourism and people-to-people contacts between the two countries. An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) on tourism was also signed.

Following the visit, a high-level 14-member Rashid Marki's delegation visit was organized by the High Commission during April 2021 to promote religious tourism in Pakistan and to enhance people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The visit was a success and created goodwill between the peoples of the two countries.

Education assistance to Sri Lanka was another area that the Prime Minister was very keen on. Upon popular request of the Sri Lankan government, the Prime Minister announced 100 special medical seats for Sri Lankan students in addition to the 1,000 scholarships already being offered. Some other MoUs that were signed were between different Pakistani and Sri Lankan departments. They are in various stages of progress at the moment. Recently, the High Commission of Pakistan also donated Rs. 74 million (LKR). On behalf of the Pakistani government, two cheques were handed over to Sri Lankan President Dissanayake Rajapaksa. The amount of Rs. 40 million (equal to Pak Rs. 52 million) was announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to Sri Lanka in February this year for promotion of sports through training and equipment. Besides, Rs. 8,025 million was donated to the State Pharmaceutical Corporation of Sri Lanka for relief assistance of Covid-19 pandemic.

The High Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), organized a promotional event for Pakistan's dates (Feroz) experts in Sri Lanka, at the High Commission in Colombo on April 9, 2021.

Trade Diplomacy initiatives have been actively pursued by the High Commission through initiating dialogue under various existing bilateral engagement mechanisms, which had been pending for many years. In this regard, the 12th session of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was held on February 3, 2021, followed by the seventh Session of Commerce Secretary Level Talks. In pursuance of the agenda discussed in these two sessions, the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade Investment and Auto Sector was issued through holding its second meeting on May 27. It had been pending since the first meeting held in 2014.

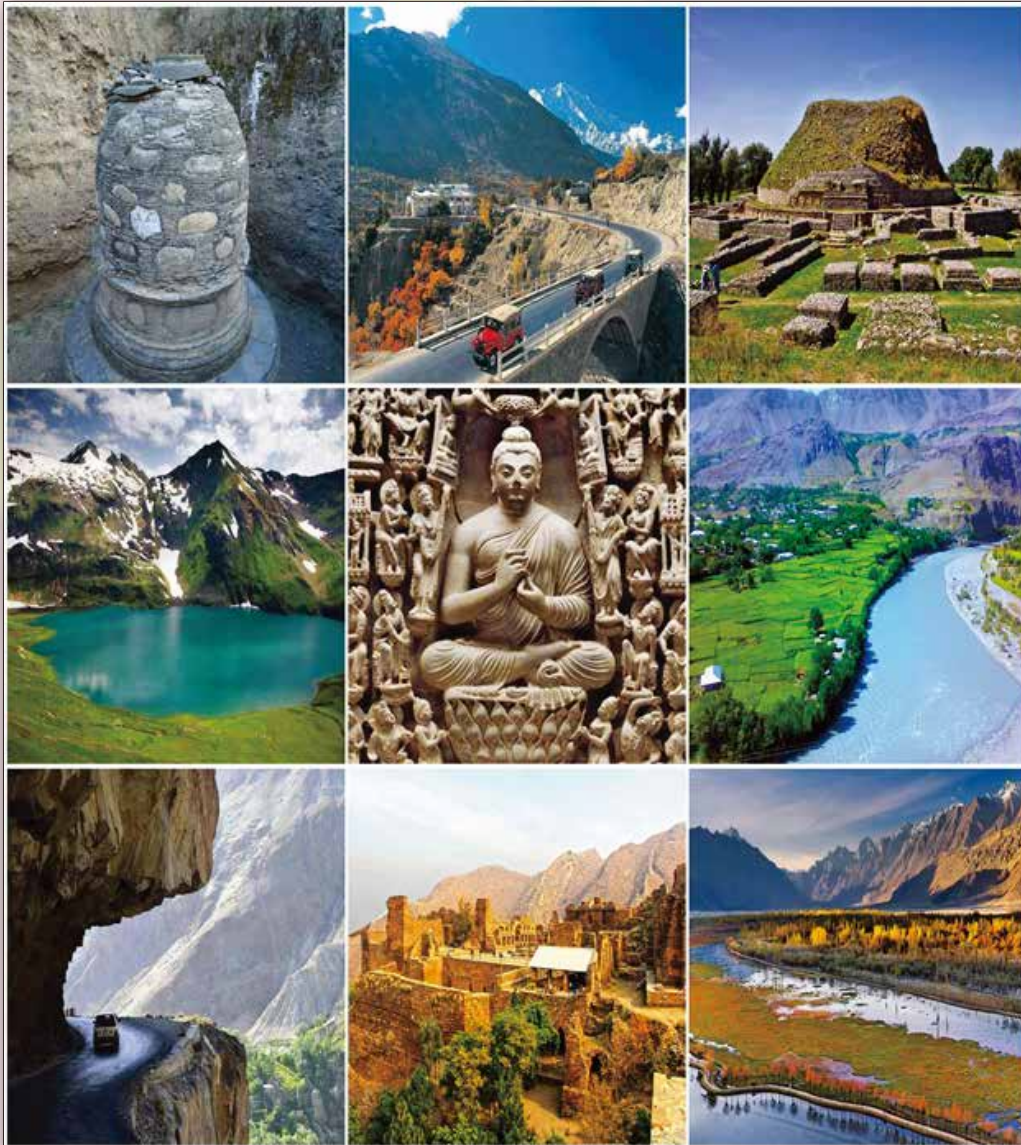
14th August, 2021 Supplements:



High Commissioner Farewell



High Commissioner Remarks: On behalf of myself and my team I would like to extend my gratitude & thanks to the Government and people of this great country for their support and good will during my stint as Pakistan High Commissioner.



PAKISTAN ZINDABAD

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