



Volume - 07

News Letter High Commission of Pakistan Sri Lanka



Issue : 02

Political and Economic Relations

Sri Lankans express solidarity with Peshawar School Victims



The Government of Sri Lanka has strongly condemned the attack on Army Public School Peshawar on the 16th December 2014 which resulted in the loss of precious lives. In this connection, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka, visited the High Commission of Pakistan to express his sorrow and grief over the tragic incidence. Minister for Justice Mr. Rauf Hakeem,

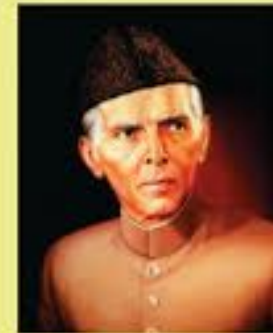
Senior Minister for Urban Development AHM Fowzie, Opposition Leader Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe, Presidential candidate Maithripala Sirisena & Commanders of Sri Lanka Army, Navy & Air Force visited the High Commission of Pakistan, to endorse their feelings in the condolence book. A candlelight vigil was also organized by the Sri Lankans and Expat Pakistanis based in Sri Lanka to express solidarity with the victims of Peshawar school carnage. A large number of people representing cross section of society including children participated in this memorial ceremony. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka HE Qasim Qureshi, Officers of Pakistan High Commission and their families also attended the vigil.



Pak's latest GSP with EU, opportunity for Sri Lankan exporters: Qureshi



Sri Lanka's second largest trade partner in SAARC is looking for more Lankan exports in the coming year, while also exploring Sri Lanka's sugar sector entry, "Pakistan's new GSP with EU is an opportunity for Sri Lankan exporters, and they can do more things. In fact, we should jointly explore whatever is possible within the rules and regulations of these new developments, said Pakistan High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Major General Qasim Qureshi, during his new-year courtesy call on the Minister of Industry and Commerce.



Our foreign policy is one of the friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair-play in national and international dealings, and are prepared to make our contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. February 1948

Quaid-e-Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Issued by the Information Section, High Commission of Pakistan Colombo – Sri Lanka

2014

Pakistani students in Sri Lanka on a Goodwill visit



A 22-member student delegation of Pakistan National College of Arts which was on a goodwill visit to Sri Lanka from 23 January to 1 February 2014, visited the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka. While, welcoming the delegation, the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Major

Gen® Qasim Qureshi highlighted that Pakistan has a dynamic and vibrant society with more than 3,000 years old civilization. The country has produced a number of renowned artists, painters, musicians and poets which speaks volumes of its cultural diversity.

Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association holds Fund Raising Master Quiz



The Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association (SLPAFA) in collaboration with the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka organized a fun-filled Fund Raising Friendship Evening at the Grand Oriental Hotel, Fort, Colombo on February 14, 2014. The Chief Guest on the occasion was the High Commissioner of

Pakistan in Sri Lanka Qasim Qureshi. The event was also attended by a large number of distinguished personalities including Former Mayor of Colombo Omar Kamil, Former Sri Lankan Army Chief and Ambassador General Sri Laal Weerasooria and the President SLPAFA Iftikhar Aziz. The event featured an exciting and interesting Master Quiz Competition in which participants contested as teams. The questions in the Master Quiz Competition were related to Sri Lanka, Pakistan, World Affairs, General Knowledge, Science & Technology and Sports among other topics.

Weaving the fabric of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Friendship



The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Qasim Qureshi along with the Minister for Economic Development Basil Rajapaksa inaugurated the Pakistan sponsored handloom textile training project and the textile village at Kottala-Meerigama. The event was also attended by the Chairperson Liya Abhiman, Attorney Pushpa

Rajapaksa, Mrs. Qasim Qureshi and Textile Department Director Vijitha Hemapriya. The project envisages training of 75 individuals along with donation of handlooms, hand winders, accessories and raw material to the selected handloom operators. In addition to the direct beneficiaries, hundreds of people will gain indirect employment from the revival of this cottage industry. Speaking on the occasion, Qureshi underlined the focus of Pakistan's new Government and said that deepening of economic and commercial cooperation, especially with regional countries, is the top foreign policy priority of the Pakistani Government.



Pakistani manufactured Toyota Altis Cars handed over to Sri Lankan Police and Armed Forces



100 Toyota Corolla (Altis) cars manufactured by Indus Motors Pakistan were handed over to the Sri Lankan Police and the Armed Forces in a ceremony held on February 19, 2014 at the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development Sri Lanka. The Secretary Defence and Urban Development

Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the Chief Guest at the ceremony which was also graced by the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Colombo H.E. Maj Gen (R) Qasim Qureshi, Sri Lankan Army Commander Lt. Gen Daya Ratnayake and Inspector General of Police Sri Lanka, Mr. N.K. Illangakoon. The event was also witnessed by Mr. Ali Asghar Jamali and Mr. Ismail Ahmed Sethi of Indus Motors as well as Defence Advisor Col. Shaheryar Parvez Butt and Press Attaché Mr. Daud Ehtisham.

Resolution of Kashmir Dispute will transform SAARC into engine of growth: Pakistan's High Commissioner



The Pakistani expatriate community in Sri Lanka organised an event in Colombo to express support for the Kashmiri people on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day falling on 5 February 2014. The event was attended by a large number of local people and members of the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner

of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj Gen Qasim Qureshi also attended the event. In his remarks he appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani community for organising the event, and thanked the local people for taking interest in the Kashmir issue and expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan Pavilion at the 8th Deyata Kirula Exhibition



High Commission of Pakistan participated at the 8th Deyata Kirula National Development Exhibition organized by the Govt of Sri Lanka at Kulyapitya, Kurunegala District, from 21 February 2014. The Pakistan stall displayed various items depicting the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan.

Pakistan sponsors Clean Drinking Water Supply Projects in remote Villages of Polonnaruwa

The government of Pakistan through its High Commission in Colombo has funded the construction of two clean drinking water supply projects for the vulnerable communities in Kodapokuna Village of Polonnaruwa District in the Northern Central Province of Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka H.E Major General @ Qasim Qureshi visited the beneficiary communities and handed over these projects to them on 31st January 2014 in the presence of the community leaders. Mrs Rashida Qureshi, spouse of the High Commissioner and Mr Faizer Khan, Country Director Muslim Aid also accompanied the High Commissioner.



Pakistan's support for Sri Lanka at UNHRC

Statement by Pakistan on OHCHR Report about Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a country with excellent democratic credentials. It has successfully overcome 30 years of brutal terrorism by the LTTE with external support. Now is the time for the international community to help the people of Sri Lanka to heal their wounds and not penalize them for defeating the LTTE at the behest of people who still continue to align themselves with these terrorist forces, said Ambassador Zamir Akram, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. The Ambassador, speaking at the 25th Session of the Human Rights Council on March 26, 2014 on the UNHRC report on Sri Lanka, said his delegation believes in a culture of engagement for ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights.



National Day of Pakistan (23rd March)

Pakistan's brotherly and time tested relationship with Sri Lanka is of Choice not Compulsion: Pak Envoy



The High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Maj Gen (R) Qasim Qureshi said that the brotherly and time tested relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is one of choice not compulsion, as it is based on trust and mutual respect, and its strength lies in multifaceted engagement in many fields such as trade, defense, science, culture and education. The High Commission and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka celebrated the National Day of Pakistan with traditional fervor and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, vibrant, progressive and democratic Islamic welfare state.

First-ever Pakistan National Day Golf Tournament 2014



The first-ever Pakistan National Day Golf Tournament was held at Royal Colombo Golf Club on March 22 in which prominent Sri Lankan golfers and members of the diplomatic community took part. It was an 18-hole tournament in which players competed for exciting prizes, both in Gentlemen and Ladies categories.

Parliamentary Delegation of Baluchistan visits Sri Lanka



The Parliamentary delegation of Balochistan Provincial Assembly of Pakistan, headed by Speaker Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali visited Sri Lanka from April 24-28, 2014. The visit aimed at further strengthening Pakistan – ties between the two friendly countries in regional and global context. During his visit, Speaker Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali met the President of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka H.E. Mahinda Rajapasha. He also met the Speaker Parliament of Sri Lanka H.E. Chamal Rajapaksa and observed the proceedings of the Sri Lankan Parliament.

High-powered NDU delegation from Pakistan visited Sri Lanka



A 21 member's delegation of the National Defence University (NDU) Pakistan, headed by Major General Noel Israel Khokhar, HI(M) arrived in Sri Lanka on 21, April, 2014 on a weeklong visit. The National Defence University (NDU) is a premier institution of Pakistan, catering for the needs of senior leadership from various segments of society, both domestic and international, in comprehending security issues and policy/strategy formulation. The NDU is a centre of excellence in academic and research pursuits in diversified disciplines providing well thought out inputs on national security at strategic level. The University imparts higher education in policy and strategy formulation at various tiers with emphasis on national security and defence. It also acts as a national think tank.

Pakistani Delegation visits Sri Lanka to Study Gems and Jewellery Sector



A high powered delegation of Pakistan's Gilgit – Baltistan Legislative Assembly members and officials led by Speaker Mr Wazir Baig, visited Sri Lanka on an exposure visit to study the Gems and Jewellery sector policy framework on 9th April, 2014. The visit was aimed to help Gilgit – Baltistan to devise policies to support efforts to improve the livelihoods of small-scale gemstone miners in the area. It further improves the capacities to replicate the success stories of best practices adopted by Sri Lanka in gemstone mining, cutting and polishing. The visit was arranged by Government of Gilgit-Baltistan in collaboration with the Agha Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan to study the Gems and Jewellery related policy framework as a "best practice" under the European Commission funded Gems and Jewellery value chain development initiative.

Gen. (Retd) Srilal Weerasooriya decorated for promoting Pakistan-Lanka relations



The Pakistan High Commission felicitated former Army Commander and Sri Lanka's former High Commissioner to Pakistan, General (Retd) Srilal Weerasooriya on 25th May 2014, who was conferred the Sitara-i-Pakistan award on the National Day of Pakistan by Pakistani's President Mamnoon Hussain. The Sitara-i-Pakistan was awarded to General Weerasooriya by the government of Pakistan in recognition of his commendable contributions to promote Pakistan-Sri Lanka bilateral relations. Pakistani High Commissioner Major General (Retd) Qasim Qureshi and other distinguished guests were present at the reception.

Pakistan's Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee meets Sri Lankan President



The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) Pakistan, General Rashad Mahmood, visited Sri Lanka on his first overseas visit after taking over as CJCSC on April 6, 2014. During the visit, General Rashad Mahmood called on Hon President of Sri Lanka H.E Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees. During the meeting, General Rashad Mahmood conveyed best wishes and

warm regards from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, as well as Government and people of Sri Lanka.

Pakistan Naval Ship PNS SHAMSHEER in Sri Lanka on a Goodwill Visit



Pakistan Naval Ships PNS SHAMSHEER visited Colombo Port from 13-15 May 2014. As part of goodwill, Pakistan Navy ships frequently pay port calls to Sri Lanka. These visits are aimed at further strengthening the existing strong relationship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. PNS SHAMSHEER's visit is a

manifestation of the strong, diplomatic, economic, cultural and defence ties between the two friendly countries. PNS SHAMSHEER is the second ship of SWORD Class Frigates. It is a potent platform and forms mainstay of PN surface fleet. Pakistan and Sri Lanka have strong defence ties and both Navies engage in multifaceted cooperation. Pakistan Navy provides a number of conventional training courses to Sri Lankan Navy personnel, while Sri Lankan Navy shares its experience and expertise with regard to anti-terrorism operations at sea.

For the Love of Music

Mr. Naik Muhammad Kakar and Ms. Rozina Karak (of the remote Loralai District of Pakistan) who had been following Ceylon Radio, Music Programme for past 30 years are visiting Sri Lanka to convey their appreciation to the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka H.E. Qasim Qureshi hosted them alongwith with Chairman SLBC Hudson Samarasinghe and his Music Programme team. Here the High Commissioner and Pakistani Officers are seen with the delegates and the SLBC Team.



Pakistan awards Scholarship to 83 brilliant Sri Lankan Students including 12 promising Journalists



The Government of Pakistan through its High Commission in Sri Lanka has awarded SL Rs 2 Million worth of educational scholarships on 14th June 2014 to 71 students of O/L and A/L and 12 promising working journalists under the second Phase of Jinnah Scholarship Programme 2014. The ceremony to award Jinnah Educational Scholarship 2014 was held at Ananda College, Colombo under the auspices

of the High Commission of Pakistan. The Senior Minister of Urban Affairs, Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie was the Chief Guest on the occasion, which was also graced by the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka HE Maj Gen @ Qasim Qureshi. The event was also attended by a large number of students and their families along with Pakistan High Commission officials, dignitaries and a large section of media.



Award of Prestigious Annual Jinnah Scholarship to 69 Sri Lankan Students in Kandy

The Government of Pakistan through its High Commission in Sri Lanka has awarded SL Rs 1.7 Million worth of educational scholarships on 5th June 2014 to 69 bright Sri Lankan students of O/L and A/L under the first Phase of Jinnah Scholarship Programme 2014. Under the auspices of High Commission of Pakistan, award ceremony of Jinnah Educational Scholarship 2014 was held at Jinnah Hall, Kandy. Hon. Tikiri Banda Kobbekaduwa, Governor Central Province, graced the award ceremony as chief guest. The event was also attended by a large number of students and their families along with Pakistan High Commission officials, dignitaries and a large section of media.



Sri Lanka based Pakistani Community Celebrated Eid Festival in Colombo



The Pakistani Community based in Sri Lanka celebrated the Eid Festival, at an event organized by the High Commission of Pakistan, last evening at a local hotel. The High Commission of Pakistan annually organizes Chaand Raat Mela on the eve of Eid ul Fitar for the Pakistani Community based in Sri Lanka. The event was attended by a large number of participants representing the cross section of Pakistani community

based in the Island. The participants exchanges greetings & wished Chaand Raat and Eid Mubarak to each others on the sighting of the Shawwal moon. The Women and girls attending the event decorated their hands with mehndi (henna), and selected colourful bangals for the eid festival.

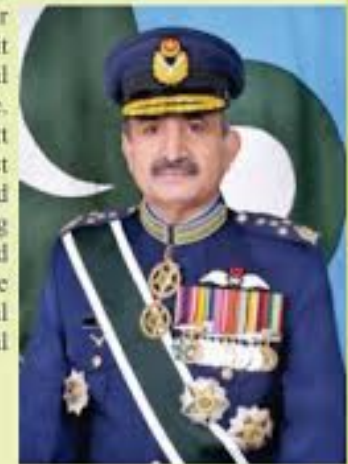
Pakistan, Sri Lanka have significant potential for trade: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said on Wednesday that there was significant potential for trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka particularly after the Free Trade Agreement became operational. The Prime Minister was talking to Sri Lankan Secretary for External Affairs Mrs Kshenuka D. Senewiratune, who called on him at the Prime Ministers House on 6th August 2014. He emphasized the importance of relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, particularly in the fields of trade and economy. "We need to address impediments and deepen bilateral economic relations between the two countries." Mrs Senewiratune said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka had always supported each other on various international fora. She also expressed the resolve that this cooperation in the realms of trade and investment would continue between the two countries in the future as well.

Air Chief of Pakistan visits Sri Lanka

The Air Chief of Pakistan Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt visited Sri Lanka on a three day visit from 27th August 2014 on the invitation of Air Marshal KA Gunatilleke Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force. During his stay, Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt called on President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka H.E Mahinda Rajapaksa and met top military leadership of the country including Secretary Defence, Hon Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and the Services Chiefs. Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt held discussions on matters of professional interests with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Air Marshal KA Gunatilleke.



Pakistan's Independence Day celebrated in Sri Lanka



The High Commission of Pakistan and the Pakistani community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 68th Independence Day of Pakistan on 14th August 2014 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 Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj Gen (R) Qasim Qureshi hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in an impressive ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo. Subsequently, the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out.

Pakistan Naval Ships in Sri Lanka on a Goodwill visit



Pakistan Naval Ships PNS NASR and SAIF visited Colombo Port for a four-day goodwill visit from October 02- 06 2014. This port call is part of the strong multifaceted relationship and engagement between the defence establishments of both countries.

Commodore Zahid Ilyas, is the Mission Commander of the visiting Pakistan Naval Ships. Pakistan Navy Ship SAIF is a SWORD class F22P Frigates. It is equipped with state of the art weapons, sensors and machinery, making it capable of undertaking a variety of maritime operations. The PNS SAIF, commanded by Captain Jawad Ahmed has the honor of participating

participating in a large number of multinational exercises. The PNS NASR is a leading unit of Pakistani Navy Fleet's 9th Auxiliary and Mine Warfare Squadron. Its name, an Arabic



word meaning "HELP", denotes its combat support role vital for sustained naval operations at sea. PNS NASR, commanded by Captain Rizwan Ali Munawar has also participated in a large number of the multinational exercises. PNS NASR also participated extensively in tsunami relief operations in 2004 at Maldives.

Pakistan to Build 230 Houses for Homeless Sri Lankans in Mannar and Nanattan



Pakistan has initiated a housing project to assist Sri Lanka in the rehabilitation of war affected homeless people of the Northern Province. In this regard, the High Commissioner of Pakistan Maj. Gen. (R) Qasim Qureshi, handed over a cheque of US \$ One Million to the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Basil Rajapaksa at the Temple Trees in the presence of Minister of Industries and Commerce, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen. Both honourable Ministers greatly appreciated the friendly gesture by the Government of Pakistan. This donation will be utilized by the Sri Lankan Government to

construct 220 houses for the homeless people in the villages of Puthukkudiyiruppu, Narikkadu and Moddaikadai in Mannar District.

Pakistan Housing Project for War Affected Families of Northern Province inaugurated



The ground-breaking ceremony of Pakistan housing project for the rehabilitation of war affected homeless people of the Northern Province was held in Puthukkudiyiruppu village of Mannar Town. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Qasim Qureshi, Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister for Industry and Commerce Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen laid the foundation stone for the Housing Project. The Governor Northern Province Maj. Gen. (R) G.A. Chandrasiri, and other notables were also present on the occasion along with a large number of beneficiary families. The Pakistan Housing Project will help 230 homeless families from Puthukkudiyiruppu, Narikaddu and Moddaikadai villages. The cost of houses will be borne by the Government of Pakistan while roads, electricity and other external facilities will be contributed by the Government of Sri Lanka. On this occasion, Mr. Basil Rajapaksa announced a matching grant by Sri Lankan Government for construction of additional 230 houses for the homeless families.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka Discuss Bilateral and Regional Cricketing Ties



Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board, Shahryar Khan, visited Sri Lanka on the last leg of his tour of South Asian Cricketing nations. The purpose of the trip was to improve coordination and forge friendly ties between the Cricket Boards of the four South Asian cricketing nations. In Colombo, Shahryar Khan met President Sri Lanka Cricket Board Jayantha Dharmadasa and discussed matters related to regional and bilateral cricket. Shahryar Khan also briefed the Sri Lankan side about the improved security situation in Pakistan as a result of ongoing military operation against terrorist organizations.

Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association endeavors to bridge digital divide for Sri Lankan Students



The Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association organized a special ceremony at the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka to present state of the art Computer Tablets to several bright Sri Lankan University Students. The selected students hailed from Medical, Law, Business and Finance faculties of different universities of Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka HE Maj. Gen(R) Qasim Qureshi graced the event as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by the Deputy Head of Mission Pakistan Sarfaraz Sipra, officers of the High Commission as well as the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association. The scheme is aimed at boosting the scope of research, quality education and improved access to information and communication technology among the University level students.

Pakistani Cadets in Sri Lanka



A group of 18 cadets of Pakistan's Cadet Corps, visiting Sri Lanka on the invitation of Sri Lankan Cadet Corps to participate in Herman Loos & De Zoysa Annual Championship, called on the High Commissioner of Pakistan Maj. Gen. (R) Qasim Qureshi at the High Commission of Pakistan. Commander Aftab Ahmed, Group Leader of the visiting cadets, presented a souvenir to Maj. Gen. (R) Qasim Qureshi to mark the occasion.(KH)

Pakistan Express Solidarity and Offer Assistance to the Lankan Landslide Victims



The High Commissioner of Pakistan, HE Maj Gen ® Qasim Qureshi along with the entire staff of the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka expressed their deep sympathy and grief on the tragic loss of life and property caused by the recent landslide in Badulla District. "The Government of Pakistan is abreast with the situation and is actively considering the assistance requirements put forward by the Sri Lankan Government", HE Maj Gen ® Qasim Qureshi said in his message. In this regard, Gen Raheel Sharif, Chief of Pakistan Army Staff had a telephonic conversation with his counterpart Lt Gen Daya Ratnayake to express his sympathy and to assess the assistance required by Sri Lanka.

Pakistan Sends Relief Assistance for Sri Lankan Landslide Victims



The First Cargo flight of relief goods from Pakistan for the land slide victims of Haldummula arrived at Katunayake airport on 03 November 2014. The relief goods containing generators, shelters, tents, medicines, etc. were handed over by the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka HE Maj Gen @ Qasim Qureshi to the Sri Lankan Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Gen EMM Ambanpola, USP. The estimated value of the relief assistance by the Government

of Pakistan for the land sliding victims is over LKR 100 Million. While speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's High Commissioner reiterated Pakistan's continued commitment to assist Sri Lanka during its relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Second Cargo Flight of Pakistani Relief Goods for Lankan Landslide Victims Arrives

The second special cargo flight of relief goods from Pakistan arrived on at the Sri Lankan Air Force Base at Katunayake on 07 November 2014. The Second consignment of tents, generators and emergency medicines were handed over by the Defence Advisor of Pakistan, Col. Muhammad Rajil Irshad Khan to the Sri Lankan Army at the airport. The Pakistani team with technicians and other tradesmen would assist the Sri Lanka Army by providing technical Knowhow for the installation of the relief materials.



Pakistan Awards Fully Funded Scholarships in Medicine and Dentistry



The Government of Pakistan has awarded fully funded higher education scholarships to six Sri Lankan students, five in the field of Medicine and one in Dentistry. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj Gen @ Qasim Qureshi met the selected students at the High Commission of Pakistan and congratulated them

on their selection for higher education in Pakistan. In addition to the higher education scholarships, every year Government of Pakistan awards Jinnah Educational Scholarships to hundreds of Sri Lankan students of O/L and A/L.

General Rashad Mahmood visits Sri Lanka to attend SASEAN Defence Chiefs Dialogue 2014

Sri Lanka organized the inaugural South and Southeast Asian Nations (SASEAN) Defence Chiefs' Dialogue- 2014 in November 2014 in Colombo. Pakistan's Chairman Joint Chiefs General Rashad Mahmood represented Pakistan in the dialogue. During the dialogue, General Rashad Mahmood, projected that it is in Asia that the fate of global peace and security will be determined. Thus the relevance of the topics to the Asian region is



apparent. On the occasion, the insightful presentations were delivered by representatives from Bangladesh, China and Vietnam with the session being chaired by the representative from Pakistan. The presentations were followed by keen responses and rich deliberations. This was immediately followed by expressions of support from representatives of Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Brunei, Afghanistan, Philippines, China and Maldives toward the SASEAN regional security structure to combat the malaise and scourge of extremism, sectarianism and insurgency. Sri Lanka's SASEAN Defence Chiefs' Dialogue initiative is with the objective of promoting regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation in the spheres of defence and security, promoting mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges, and contributing to the establishment of a SASEAN Security Community (SSC). This regular common forum for the Defence Chiefs of Asia is expected to reinforce the vision of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

"Galle Dialogue 2014" International Maritime Conference in Galle

Vice Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, Commander Pakistan Fleet (COMPAK), Pakistan Navy attended the dialogue on behalf of Pakistan. The international maritime conference, "Galle Dialogue 2014", organized by the Sri Lanka Navy under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, concluded on 02nd December 2014



pledging support for cooperation and collaboration to achieve maritime prosperity. One hundred and seven foreign delegates from 36 countries and 160 local counterparts participated in the two days of discussions which paved the way for exchange of ideas, better understanding and fostering of friendship. The "Galle Dialogue" has made its own unique contribution to the international discourse and gathered momentum as a venture with the potential to deliver substantial outcomes and strengthen co-operation among participating nations in the area of maritime security.

Pakistan Pavilion at the International Charity Bazaar Colombo



Pakistan Women Association in Sri Lanka participated in the International Charity Bazaar Colombo and set up Pakistan Pavilion to display its Pakistan products and handicrafts. The Bazaar was a prestigious annual event where over thirty countries comes together to sell various products as an effort to raise funds to assist humanitarian organizers.

"Pakistan & Sri Lanka keen to deepen relations in Trade Commerce & Defence Manufacturing"



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Nepal from November 25-27, 2014. During the Summit, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, held separate bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Sri Lanka and Maldives, Prime Ministers of Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan on the sidelines of the Summit.

The Prime Minister also held a warm and cordial exchange with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan at the Retreat. In the meeting with President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, the two leaders noted with satisfaction the cordiality and warmth that existed in the bilateral relations and coordination at the international forums. While thanking the Prime Minister for Pakistan's steadfast support to Sri Lanka in various areas of cooperation, President Rajapaksa expressed keenness to deepen trade and commerce relations and joint ventures in defence manufacturing. Joint research on Buddhist heritage in Pakistan and tourism were also identified as potentially rich for cooperation. The Prime Minister welcomed the Sri Lankan private airline's flights to Pakistan, which started this month. President Rajapaksa expressed desire to undertake a visit to Pakistan, which was earlier postponed. The Prime Minister warmly welcomed the visit. They undertook to expeditiously finalize agreements in the pipeline to enable their signing during the Sri Lankan President's visit.

News from Pakistan

47 As in O, A levels: Pakistani student beats world record



A Pakistani student, Haroon Tariq, has broken the current world record by securing a total of 47 As in his International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) O Level and A Level exams from the University of Cambridge International Examinations. His subjects spanned both the humanities and sciences including Human and Social Biology, Islamic Religion and Culture, Physics, Chemistry and Global Development. A student of Froebel's International School (FIS), Haroon Tariq's achievement had put Pakistan in the global spotlight. In the O Levels, the previous world record was 28 As which was also held by a Pakistani student Zohaib Asad. However, Haroon Tariq obtained 38 As in O levels and a total of 47As in his O and A level exams.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb



On the directions of the Government, Armed Forces of Pakistan launched a comprehensive operation on 15 June 2014 against foreign and local terrorists who are hiding in sanctuaries in North Waziristan Agency. The operation has been named 'Zarb-e-Azb'. Using North Waziristan as a base, these terrorists had waged a war against Pakistan and had been disrupting national life in all its dimensions, stunning our economic growth and causing enormous loss of life and property. They had also paralyzed life within the agency and had perpetually terrorized the entire peace loving and patriotic local population. Pakistan's valiant armed forces have been tasked to eliminate these terrorists regardless of hue and colour, along with their sanctuaries. With the support of the entire nation and in coordination with other state institutions and Law Enforcement Agencies, these enemies of the state will be denied space anywhere across the country. The operation has received widespread support from the Pakistani political, defence and civilian sectors. The two largest Islamic clerical groups (the Pakistan Ulema Council and the Council of Islamic Ideology) declared a fatwa endorsing the offensive, calling it a jihad against terrorism. The operation has so far cleared 90% area, eliminated over 2600 terrorists, destroyed 112 centres and more than 260 terrorists arrested.

Pakistan in International Fora



China to invest \$42 billion in Pakistan

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping during his visit to China. The meetings were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere displaying strong mutual trust, cooperation and convergence of views of the two countries. On this occasion the two countries also signed 19 agreements/ MoUs mainly on projects relating to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and electricity generation, which were witnessed by the two Prime Ministers.



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurates Pakistan-UK Energy and Investment Conference in UK

The Prime Minister said that his government used its political capital to take tough economic decisions which were paying dividends now. Prime Minister Sharif also advocated a public-private partnership approach to address issues of energy sector. The Prime Minister informed the potential investors that Pakistan had great promise for an attractive rate of return on all investments. Speaking on the importance of regional connectivity, the Prime Minister said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would usher in an era of regional development.



PM Nawaz woo German investors to invest in Pakistan

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is one of the most investor friendly countries in the world. We allow 100% foreign ownership with no limit on repatriation of profits, dividends or other funds in the currency of the country of origin," the Prime Minister said while addressing the Investment Forum in Berlin. He said Pakistan would like to expand FDI (foreign direct investment) in energy, infrastructure, development, food, pharmaceutical, chemicals, engineering, agriculture and agro based industry mining and oil and gas exploration.

Drone strikes must stop: President of Pakistan



President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain on January 14, 2014 voiced his concern over drone strikes in Pakistan, which he said, must stop being counter-productive and against the counter-terrorism drive. Addressing a book launching ceremony attended by members of the defence and policy community, the President said "Let me also stress that counter-terrorism measures that violate the sovereignty of Pakistan, only serve to compound the problem." "Therefore, it is important that the drone strikes must not take place in Pakistan. These must stop as they are also counter-productive to the existing counter-terrorism drive in Pakistan.

No place for extremism, terrorism in Islam: PM



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance and there is no space for extremism, sectarianism and terrorism. In his message on 12th Rabiul Awwal, 1435 Hijrah in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the Prime Minister congratulated the countrymen on the auspicious event, saying that it was indeed a great blessing of Almighty Allah Who had sent Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) for the guidance of whole humanity. That we have sent not thee (O Muhammad) but as a mercy to the whole of humankind, as a mercy to all the world, "the Holy Quran defined the purpose of sending the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The Prime Minister said that this day reminded us to lead our lives according to the teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) and the Islamic injunctions.

Malala Yousafzai 'pride of Pakistan': PM Nawaz Sharif

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has congratulated teenage education campaigner Malala Yousafzai on winning the Nobel Peace Prize, calling her the "pride" of his country. "She is (the) pride of Pakistan. She has made her countrymen proud. Her achievement is unparalleled and unequalled. Girls and boys of the world should take the lead from her struggle and commitment," he said in a statement.



Pakistan becomes the First Associate CERN Member from Asia

The General Council of European Centre of Nuclear (CERN) in its meeting held on 19 June 2014 accepted Pakistan's application for Associate Membership of CERN. The Centre is one of the world's leading scientific organizations conducting research on high energy particle physics since 1954. Pakistan is the first Asian country to become an Associate Member of the Organization. Pakistan has a two decade long history of collaboration with CERN that began with the signing of a Cooperation Agreement in 1994. Since then, Pakistan has carried out a number of successful projects of CERN involving a variety of technical disciplines with sophisticated technologies and precision engineering science including the manufacture of various equipment and components of CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and associated experiments. Pakistan's Associate Membership of CERN is recognition of our scientists working in various sectors related to civilian uses of nuclear technology. It is an acknowledgment that Pakistan is a responsible nuclear State with strong credentials in using civil nuclear technology for peaceful purposes including in the areas of power generation, agriculture and medicine. CERN DG Rolf Heuer and the Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Ansar Parvez signed in Islamabad, in the presence of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a document admitting Pakistan to CERN Associate Membership, subject to ratification by the Government of Pakistan. The Associate Membership of Pakistan will open a new era of cooperation that will strengthen the long-term partnership between CERN and the Pakistani scientific community. Associate Membership will allow Pakistan to participate in the governance of CERN, through attending the meetings of the CERN Council. Moreover, it will allow Pakistani scientists to become members of the CERN staff, and to participate in CERN's training and career-development programmes. Finally it will allow Pakistani industry to bid for CERN contracts, thus opening up opportunities for industrial collaboration in areas of advanced technology.



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Interesting Destinations of Pakistan

Mohenjo-daro



Mohenjo-daro or "mound of the dead" in Sindh, was a huge settlement of the Indus Valley Civilization at around 2600 BC. One of the earliest well-organized habitations known to mankind, the excavations at the site reveal it to have been one of the most advanced townships in South Asia. The city was an engineering marvel and its planned layout talks of sophisticated town planning. Mohenjo-daro is also a World Heritage Site.

A bronze statuette of a "dancing girl", said to be about 4500 years old, is the most famous face relating to Mohenjo-daro, which was excavated in 1926.

Neelum Valley



Neelum is a valley of fountains, springs, waterfalls, flowering trees and plants. Geographically too, it is a hospitable valley in the northern part of the country. The Neelum Valley, 90 miles long bow-shaped with majestic pine, fir and deodar trees, lies north-south of Muzaffarabad. This ninety-mile long kingdom of vegetation is ripped apart by the indigoblue Neelum river which flows serpentine down hills

to merge itself into the river Jhelum at Domail. Domail, the confluence of two mighty rivers, presents highly fascinating scene of youthful embrace. This heart-warming spectacle is most soothing to the eye. The valley, starting from Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, is about 150 miles long. It lies on both sides of the river Neelum. The geographical features enhance the natural beauty of the Valley. Its elevation, a mere 2,000 feet at the start, gradually rises till it attains a respectable height of 8,000 feet. On both sides there are high mountains and peaks. Nearly all the forest wealth of Azad Kashmir is to be found in this part of the State.