

Newsletter

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
The Hague Netherlands

May — August 2020



Derawar Fort was built in Cholistan in the 9th Century AD.

Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore

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Stranded Pakistanis Seen-off from Schiphol International Airport Amsterdam.

On 6th May 2020, a special relief flight of PIA, took off from Schiphol International Airport Amsterdam, carrying 35 stranded Pakistanis in Netherlands as well as 16 from Belgium, 1 from Switzerland, 2 each from Hungary and Germany. Pakistan's Ambassador to the



Netherlands H.E. Mr. Shujjat Ali Rathore, along with his team was also present to see off the stranded Pakistanis from Schiphol airport. He advised the passengers to be patient during the repatriation process and cooperate with the authorities in Islamabad, with regards to the Quarantine requirements. Furthermore, he stated that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan



attached great importance to the repatriation of all stranded Pakistanis in different parts of the world and that he continued to personally supervise efforts to bring all such Pakistanis back home. The stranded Pakistanis appreciated the role of the Government of Pakistan in facilitating their repatriation process to Pakistan.

Interaction with Pakistan origin businessman of the Netherlands via zoom.

On 20th May 2020, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore interacted with the Pakistan origin businessman of the Netherlands via zoom. He took their suggestions to regain lost ground with regards to Pakistan's exports to Netherlands. He also



listened to their experiences during the COVID-19 phase and advised them to take extreme caution while dealing with the pandemic. He promised to make such virtual meetings a regular affair. The Ambassador was accompanied by DHM Mr. Aizaz Khan and Commercial Counsellor Mr. Rizwan Rao.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony on 14th August 2020.

To celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan House, The Hague, on 14 August 2020. The event was attended by over 150 people across the Netherlands adhering to strict COVID-19 measures. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore, apprised the audience on the latest situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and commented on Pakistan's success in curtailing the number of (COVID-19) case. The ceremony concluded with the Urdu Church Choir's rendition of the 'Mili Naghmas' medley and a prayer for the prosperity of Pakistan.



Ambassador Meets DG OPCW.

On 19 June 2020, the Ambassador met with DG OPCW Ambassador Fernando Arias. Ambassador Arias handed over an OPCW report regarding 3rd and 4th workshops of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) lessons learned project, organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). He also discussed with the Ambassador various modalities, regarding the conduct of the 94th Session of the Executive Council, which was held on 8 -11 July 2020.



Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir Observed in The Hague.

On 19 July 2020, Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir was observed with full vigour and zeal in The Hague. Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora living in the Netherlands organized a protest rally in front of the ICJ, to commemorate 13 July as Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir. The participants recalled the sacrifice of the 22 Kashmiris, who were martyred by the Dogra forces in 1931. The participants raised awareness



against the draconian measures taken by the Indian government in Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir over the years. Participants demanded respect for Kashmiris' Human Rights and their right to self-determination.

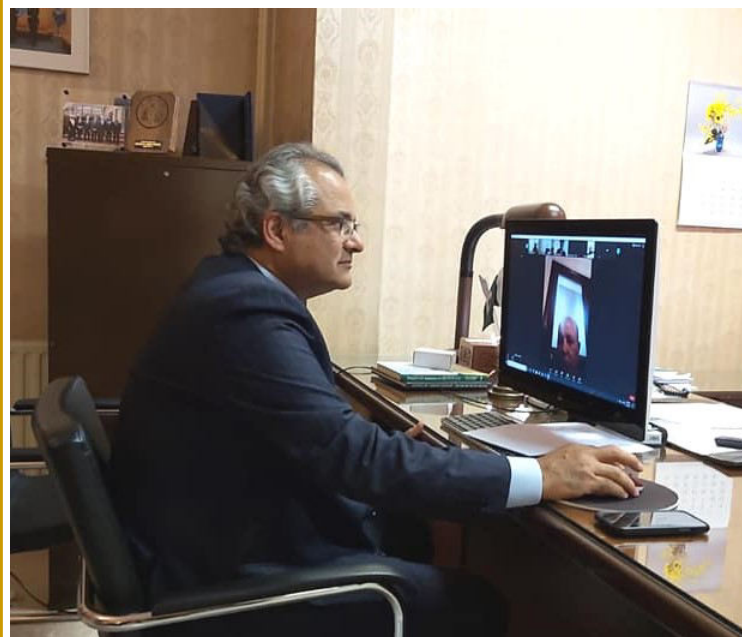
Mili Naghma launched.

On 4th August 2020, a 'Mili Naghma' was launched under the auspices of the Embassy of Pakistan, the Hague. The Mili Naghma titled 'Mera Des' was written by Pastor Pervaiz Iqbal and composed by renowned musician Younas Mehdi. The song has been sung by young artists in Pakistan. The



picturization has also taken place in the scenic surroundings of rural Punjab. The event was attended by prominent members of the Christian community living in the Netherlands. The number was limited due to local Covid-19 restrictions. Mr. Aizaz Khan Deputy Head of Mission, praised the services of the Christian community, for their country at the time of need may it be a natural calamity like earthquakes, floods, or the ongoing pandemic.





Webinar on Youm-e-Istehsal.

On 5th August 2020, on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal, a webinar was held in which Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore briefed the participants, which included students from various local universities and journalists, on the atrocities committed in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by the security forces. The Ambassador highlighted the various challenges faced by the Kashmiri population for the last one year, including

limited access to crucial health and education services. He called on the international community to wake-up and recognize the atrocities committed by the Indian security forces in IIOJK. He also urged participants to draw the attention of the Dutch leadership to demand of the Indian government to end the human rights violations and the military siege in IIOJK and give the people their right to self-determination.

Report on Pakistan's Exports & Remittances.

Exports worth US\$ 110.97 Million were recorded in July 2020 with a growth rate of 24% (compared against US\$ 89.49 Million of July 2019). Netherlands continues holding 2nd position as Pakistan's export destination in EU. On the Remittances account, a record



contribution has been recorded from the Netherlands. In July 2020, remittances worth US\$ 4.5 Million have been sent to Pakistan, the highest ever recorded in a single month.

Remittances Increase by 164% in the Month of August.

Pakistan's exports to the Netherlands in the period July-August 2020, totalled US\$ 197.47 Million. The growth rate was 3.2% more as compared to July 2019-2020. On the other hand, imports amounted to US\$ 98.65 showing a growth of 2.55 %. Meanwhile, in year on year comparison, remittances to the tune of US\$ 3.43 Million were transacted, which are 164% more than the remittances sent in August 2019.

94th Session of the Executive Council (EC) of the OPCW Held on 07-10 July 2020.

The 94th session of the Executive Council concluded on 9th July, a day earlier than planned.



A major item of the agenda-General Debate did not take place. Covid-19 restrictions forced changes to the conduct of the meeting and the States Parties agreed to a curtailed program of the EC session. Pakistan delegation was led by Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore.

Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore Meeting with Ambassador Ms. Bahia Tehzib.

On 16 July, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore met with the Dutch Human Rights Ambassador, Ms. Bahia Tehzib at the Dutch Foreign Ministry. She had visited Pakistan last year to attend the Asma Jehangir Conference in Lahore. Ambassador briefed her on the latest Human Rights situation in Kashmir and how incessantly and brutally India was persecuting Kashmiris.

