

Independence Day Celebrations at Pakistan Club

The Pakistan Community in Bahrain is a large and vibrant community and is well connected with the local people sharing similar beliefs, culture, traditions and social norms. Pakistani community members have been living in the Kingdom of Bahrain since past many decades. The country is a homeland to over 120,000 active Pakistani community members. 'Pakistan Club' in Bahrain was founded in February 1948 soon after Pakistan got independence in August 1947 and is a focal point for the community serving as a hub for recreation, sports, cultural and community gatherings.

The Pakistan Club and the Pakistani community are celebrating the Pakistan Independence Day with great fervour and enthusiasm. Unlike the previous years, the community will be celebrating the great national event at home due to Covid-19 while keeping safe and observing social distancing as per the advise of the national health authorities. The flag hoisting ceremony at Pakistan Club which was scheduled to be held on 14th August every year will not be held.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoy cordial ties with similar views on bilateral, regional and international issues and have entered into a new era of progress and development. The historic landmark visit



Eng. Rehan Ahmed, Chairman, Pakistan Club Bahrain

of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Pakistan which was reciprocated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in December 2019 and has paved the way for further strengthening the already existing cordial ties between the two brotherly countries.

The Pakistani community is greatly indebted to the support and guidance from the Government and leadership led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister & Deputy Supreme Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for their continuous support to the Pakistan community. We are proud of our fraternal ties with the people of Kingdom of Bahrain and these ties will continue to strengthen and grow with the passage of time.

Pakistan Club has organized many events this year before the

closure of the clubs and restrictions on social activities. The program held this year include New Year's celebrations, family get together, musical programs, Mega medical camp and health check-up etc. The most coveted program was the continuation of Ramadan Cricket Tournament, which was planned to be held in the month of Ramadan and could not be organized like past years in which around fifty three teams participated in 2019.

To help Pakistani community in difficult times, the Club organized delivery of free food packages, iftar boxes and free face mask distribution. We are fortunate to have with us HE Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan who visited Bahrain in February 2020 on the invitation by the Kingdom authorities. HE Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani along with his team of Senators visited Pakistan Club and met the community and appreciated the efforts being made by the Pakistan Club Board members and Management.

On behalf of the Pakistan Club and its Executive Board members, I urge the Pakistani community to continue to play a pivotal role in the development of the Kingdom of Bahrain. I pray to Allah Almighty for the well-being and prosperity of the leadership and people of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Towards a prosperous future



A cyclist waits to cross a road next to a Happy Independence Day billboard with the pictures of founder leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah and national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Islamabad, Pakistan. Image Credit: AP



Mr. Bhatti

As the Pakistani nation is celebrating their Independence Day, Bahrain-based Pakistani community is eager to express their unity and support with their compatriots to mark the occasion. Pakistanis are a part of both the public and private sector in Bahrain, and are actively contributing to Bahrain's national economy through their hard work, diligence and devotion. This time will be different as Bahrain and every other country in the world is combating the crises of the COVID-19. Pakistani Club and the community in general always mark this occasion and celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan by hosting cultural, sports and other events which is not possible now as per the guidelines of the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

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BHATTI

The name of Mr. Mohammad Afzal Bhatti is talk of the town in the local community of Pakistanis due to his distinguished services rendered for the service of the community spanning over a period of three decades. He is the Vice Chairman of Pakistan Club Bahrain and recently got appointed as the President of Pakistan Overseas Community (POC) for Bahrain. The objective of the organization is to raise the profile of Pakistanis and safeguard their legitimate rights effectively. Their aim is to dignify the lives of overseas Pakistanis residing in Pakistan and worldwide.

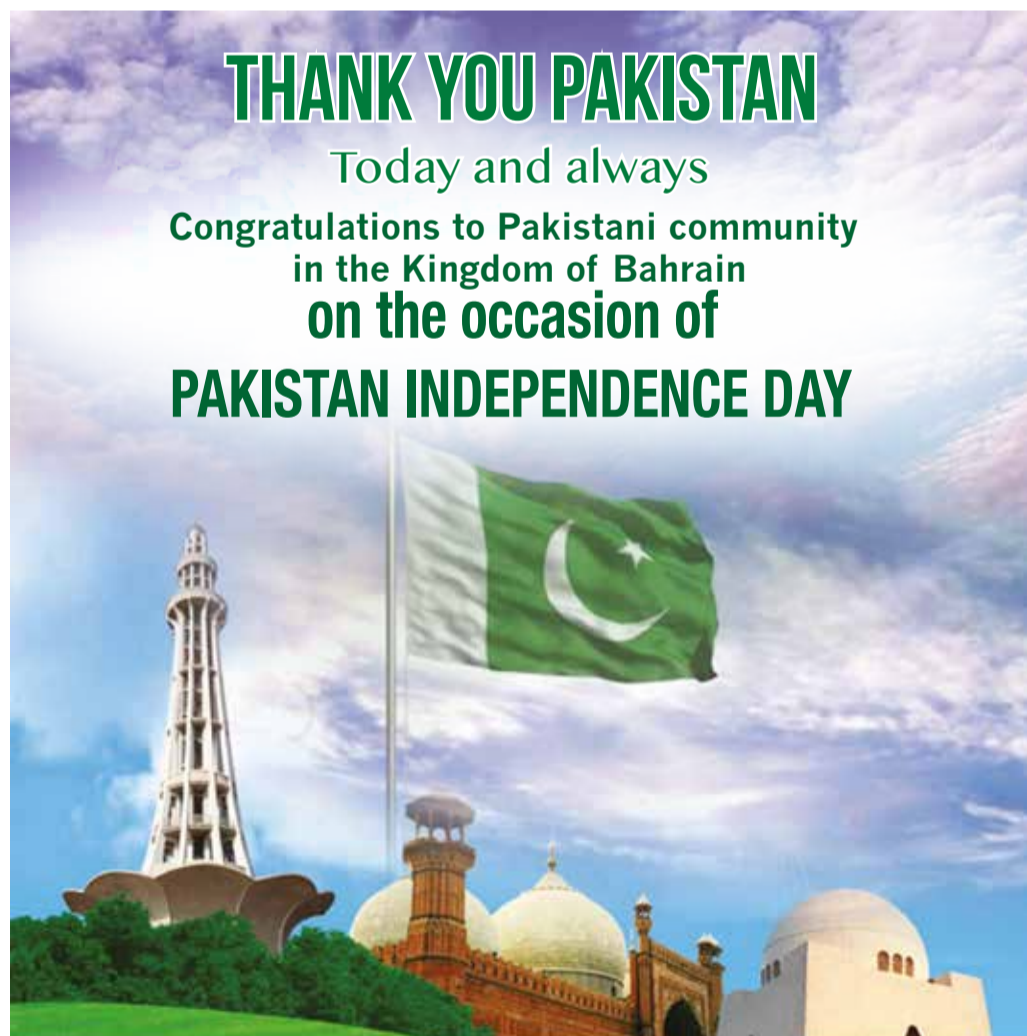
Speaking on the Independence Day of Pakistan Mr. Bhatti says that Pakistan gained Independence after remarkable efforts made by the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who was a man of great caliber and had the belief that Muslims could only live happily when they would own a country led by their own people; a country

that would be according to the ideology of Islam.

He paid a glowing tribute to Quaid-e-Azam for his selfless long struggle for freedom. "Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Mohammad Ali Jinnah did all three," said Mr. Bhatti while quoting the renowned American writer and biographer Stanley Wolpert, the author of a book titled Jinnah of Pakistan.

"Although the people of Pakistan celebrate the Independence Day with patriotism and great passion, they should remember what Jinnah's dream was and they should always questions themselves whether they have made this country according to his dreams or they have forgotten the reason for the formation of Pakistan", he remarked.

Stressing about the current situation Mr Bhatti advised all members of the community in Bahrain to stay at home and celebrate on social media platforms and express their love for the country and at all costs maintain social distancing. He said every Pakistani in Bahrain fully understands their responsibility in the current situation and believes the community will always be in the forefront to help combat the virus in the Kingdom of Bahrain by volunteering and following the precautions set by the authorities. On the independence day message Mr. Bhatti said "I would like to wish all the citizens of Pakistan on this occasion and believe there will be better times to come when the whole world succeeds in combating this virus and completely eradicating it bringing the life to normal."



The Pakistan Club

(Since 1948)

Engr. Rehan Ahmed (Chairman)

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Citizens are getting ready to celebrate Independence Day with zeal and zest. The most enthusiastic are children who are busy collecting stickers, badges and also beautifying their bicycles with unique stickers inscribed with messages of Independence Day. Above, a woman shop national flags, badges and masks and other stuff at a market ahead of Pakistan Independence Day celebration, in Islamabad. Image Credit: AP