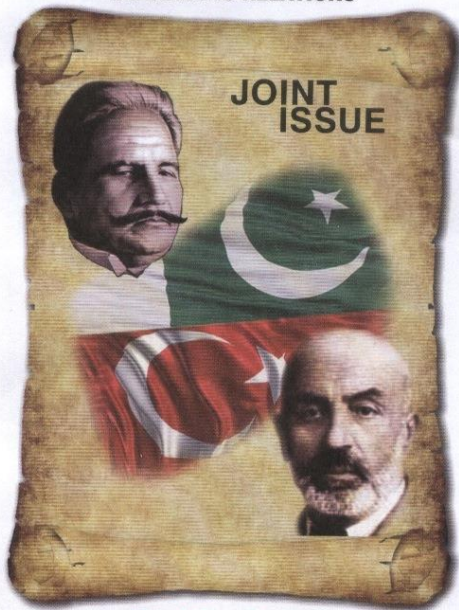


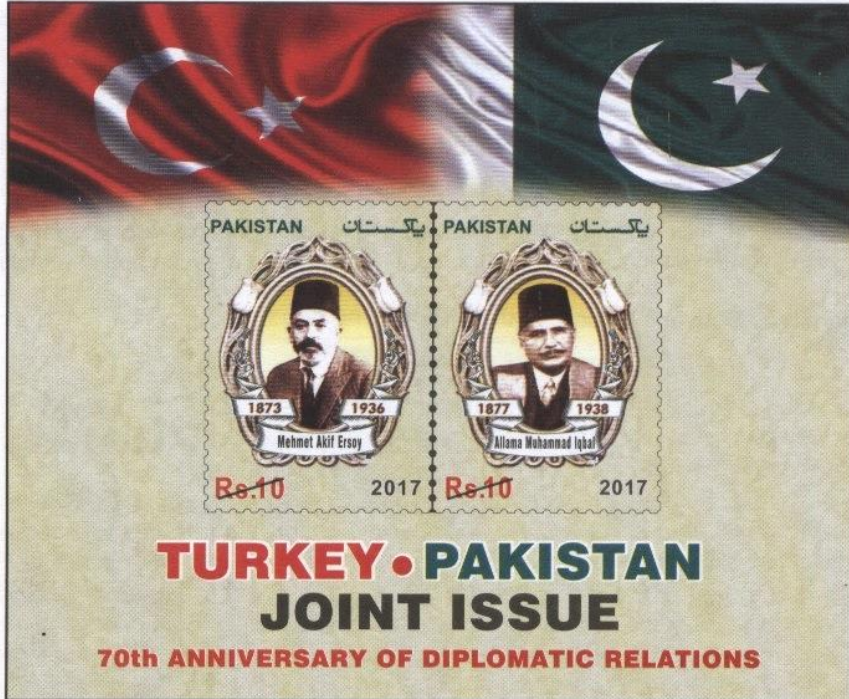
TURKEY • PAKISTAN

70th ANNIVERSARY OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



First Day Cover

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND TURKEY
SOUVENIR SHEET
November 09, 2017



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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND TURKEY
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SALIENT FEATURES

- Size of Souvenir Sheet : 120 x 100 mm
Size of Stamp : 32.3 x 44.5 mm (Printed in Souvenir Sheet)
Number of Stamps
in a Souvenir sheet : 2 stamps
Denomination : Rs. 20/- each
Colours : Multi Colour
Printing Technology : Litho Offset
Paper : 100 GSM Crescent and Star Water Mark Paper
Gum : PVA
Quantity of Souvenir Sheet : 0.1 Million (One lac)
Designer : Adil Salahuddin
Sitara-e-Imtiaz / Pride of Performance
Printer : National Security Printing Company, Karachi.

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF
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Historical Background:

Pakistan and Turkey enjoy exemplary ties based on commonalities of faith, culture, history and traditions. The relationship between both the countries is characterized by exceptional warmth, cordiality, mutual trust and understanding. Today these bonds have transformed into a mutually beneficial strategic partnership.

Pakistan-Turkey relations date back to the Khilafat movement, which was launched by the Muslims of the sub-continent even before our independence in 1947. This Movement aimed at preventing division of the Ottoman Empire is still cherished as the epitome of the historical nature of the relationship between the two sides where Muslim volunteers from Subcontinent joined hands in support of the Turkish troops. The anecdotes of Muslim women from sub-continent selling their possessions and gold and silver items to support the Khilafat Movement is still remembered with warmth in the Turkish academia and general public discourse.

Both the sides established diplomatic relations immediately after creation of Pakistan in August 1947. Yahya Kemal Beyatli, first Turkish Ambassador, presented credentials to Quaid-e-Azam on 4 March 1948, whereas, Mian Bashir Ahmed, first Pakistani Ambassador to Turkey, presented credentials to President Ismet Inonu in June 1949, which ushered in a new era of brotherhood between the two nations.

Both the countries signed an Agreement for Friendly Cooperation, in April 1954. Later after one year, Pakistan and Turkey joined CENTO in 1955. Moreover, they formed an organization Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), along with Iran in 1964, which was later transformed into Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in 1985 as successor to RCD. ECO expanded to become 10-member Organization in 1992. Turkey also became a member of OIC Contact Group on Kashmir and always held a stance on Jammu Kashmir that is in line with Pakistan's interests. Pakistan supports Turkish position on the rights of the Turkish Cypriots.

In the recent times both the sides have recognized the strategic significance of the relationship. The relationship is steadily growing in the political, economic, security, defence, education and cultural spheres. Both the sides are now committed to transform traditionally cordial ties into a robust economic partnership. The strength of this relationship is manifested by the fact that we have convergent views on major regional and global issues. There is close level of cooperation in multilateral fora between the two sides.

Public and Cultural Diplomacy

Culturally Pakistan and Turkey have been very close due to the historical relevance of the ties. Bilateral Cultural Agreement between the two states was signed in June

1953. Since then there has been no turning back and both the sides have had exchanges in cultural, educational and scientific and public areas that will hardly find parallel in modern history. From student exchanges to scholarships to exchange of writers and academia, the two countries have been heavily engaged in such interactions on regular basis. A Coffee table book has also been published recently titled 'Journey of Friendship' a pictorial history of Pakistan-Turkey relations since inception to date.

In recognition of the services for the promotion of Urdu language and literature and Pakistan-Turkey Cultural cooperation, the Government of Pakistan awarded Istanbul University's Chairman of Urdu Department, Prof. Dr. Halil Toker, with "Sitara-e-Imtiaz". President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain conferred this award upon Prof. Dr. Halil Toker during the investiture ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad on 23rd March 2017. In the 7th International Buhara Medya Awards, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, Sohail Mahmood, was presented "Diplomat of the Year" award by Buhara Medya at a ceremony in Ankara on 25th January 2017.

Pakistan hosted 13th ECO Summit on 1st March 2017 in Islamabad. Turkish President Erdogan also participated in the Summit ushering in a new era of regional connectivity. More colors were added to the brotherly ties with celebrations of 70th Year of Diplomatic ties, when the famous Turkish Mehtar Band of Ottoman era took a spectacular part in Pakistan Defense day on 23rd March 2017. In 2017, as a part of these celebrations, the Turkish Whirling Dervishes (Maulana Rumi's disciples) paid a country tour to Pakistan.

On the Turkish side , Pakistan's mission in Akara is also actively engaged in holding literary and cultural events . In order to increase collaboration between the film music industry of both the countries renowned director, producer and actor Mr. Javed Sheikh is shooting an upcoming Pakistani film "Wajood" in Turkey.

A number of MoUs/Agreements in multiple areas of cooperation are also in place between the two countries. At Higher Education Level (HEC) both sides have close collaboration that oversees the exchange of academia and students for higher studies on both sides.

All these interactions and warmth in bilateral ties prove that Pakistan and Turkey are two countries with a shared destiny. Our hearts beat together and all these colors of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations embolden the beauty of our bonds. .

Allama Iqbal and Turkey

Allama Iqbal was born at Sialkot on November 9, 1877 and had his early education at Government College, Lahore. Later he also studied at Cambridge, and the University of Munich. After his education he taught philosophy at Government College Lahore and practiced law. He was elected (1927) to the Punjab provincial legislature and served (1930) as president of the Muslim League. He became a staunch supporter of an independent homeland for India's Muslims and he is regared

as the spiritual founder of Pakistan. Iqbal was the foremost Muslim thinker of his period, and in his many volumes of poetry (written in Urdu and Persian) and essays, he urged a regeneration of Islam through the love of God and the active development of the self. He was a firm believer in freedom and the creative force that freedom can exert on men. He was knighted in 1922. His works include *The Secrets of the Self* (1915), and *Javid-nama* (1934), Iqbal is the national poet of Pakistan.

He has in fact been called "the most serious Muslim philosophical thinker of modern times." Iqbal is the best articulated Muslim response to Modernity that the Islamic world has produced in the 20th century.

Rumi is M.Iqbal's great master whom he calls "Pir-i- Rumi (The master from Anatolia); and he names himself as "Murid-i-Hindi (The Indian disciple)." In his *Asrar-o-Rumuz* Iqbal claims, "The saint Rumi has changed my earth into an elixir and out of my dust has produced much splendour." It means that there is a great impact of Rumi on Iqbal's spiritual teachings. When we study Rumi and Iqbal side by side, we find two bodies in one shirt. There are more than 250 poets in Turkey that follow the great master Rumi but Iqbal's interpretations are the most up-to-date. It is Rumi's *Masnevi* that seems to influence Iqbal the most. Great Persian poet Mulla Jami says this about Rumi's *Masnevi*. "The *Masnevi* of the spiritual master (Rumi) is the Koran in Persian." This statement is very true. Thus many teachings of Iqbal depend on the Holy Quran, directly or indirectly.

Turkey has also established an honorary grave of Allama Muhammad Iqbal at Mevlana Rumi's Shrine. The epitaph on the grave translates as 'this Honorary resting place has been granted to Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan's national poet, by his spiritual master, Mevlana Rumi'

Mehmet Akif ERSOY

Mehmet Akif Ersoy was born in December 1873, in his father's home in a neighborhood by the name of Sariguzel, in the Fatih district of Istanbul. He commences his schooling life at the community school 'Emir Buhari' in Fatih, when he was 4. After 2 years of education at the Emir Buhari, he continued his schooling, respectively, at primary (iptidai), secondary (rustiye) and high school (idadi). Muallim Naci was the literature teacher at this school, where he accomplished the first three-year term and lost his father as he was at the first grade of the senior section (1888). To complete the conditions for his education as well as to get a shortcut job he entered the Veterinary Faculty in 1889. He pursued his education at this school at the Ahirkapi campus for two years (day school) and another two years as a boarding student at the Halkali campus. As mentioned, he was the first graduate of the school and top of the class.

Akif's close affinity with music dates back to reed-flute (ney) classes he took from Neyzen Tevfik. Akif's knowledge of music as the fruit of his invested efforts allowed him to achieve a level of skill in playing the musical instrument. His interest with music gave him the opportunity to know and savor many oeuvres of classical western music.

His innate penchant for languages allowed him to easily learn Arabic, Persian and French, which he learned so well as to follow the literature of these languages and translate them.

At the age of 20, he learnt the Holy Koran by heart.

Mehmet Akif is widely known as a poet. However, less known than his verse he also penned down other critical prose and translated. Although overshadowed by his verse, his other writings are no less reflective of his personality as a great man of ideas and endeavors.

Akif published his nationalistic poems, which were unprecedentedly fluid, simple and speaking of the life and sentiments of his people. Nearly 50 poems of Akif were composed-including the National Anthem, the Independence March'- and important ones were translated into Arabic.

Akif was renown and loved by the people as a grand Islamic figure.

National poet of Turkey, who wrote unique National Anthem by putting into words his great love of country, was at the same time a great thinker and activist. He acted as a spiritual leader during National Struggle as an Islamic elder known and loved by the people for his strong faith and commonsense. In addition to these virtues, he has worked successfully in many fields as veterinarian, educator, preacher, hafiz, Koran interpreter, and athlete.

Akif died on December 27, 1936. His grave, today, is located at the Martyr's Memorial at Edirnekapi, which is called the Mehmet Akif Square.

To Commemorate 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Pakistan, souvenir sheet and first day cover themed **Turkey - Pakistan Joint Stamp**, containing Pakistan's National Poet Allama Muhammad IQBAL and Turkey's National Poet Mehmet Akif ERSOY, will be issued on 09-11-2017.

On 70th Anniversary Pakistan and Turkey Diplomatic Relation Joint Issue , the Souvenir Sheet containing 2 stamps in souvenir sheet of Rs/- 20 denomination is being issued by Pakistan Post on November 09, 2017.

TERMS OF SALE

The Souvenir Sheet will be available for sale from November 09, 2017 at all important Post Offices in the country.

Overseas orders for Stamps, First Day of Issue Covers and Leaflets should be addressed to the Manager, Philatelic Bureau, Karachi GPO or Manager, National Philatelic Bureau, Islamabad GPO, accompanied by a Bank Draft or Crossed Cheque encashable in Pakistan.

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