

# JINNAH



By Amna Khaishgi

*After two years of controversies, Jinnah has at last been released in Pakistan. The movie, shows its worth and the devotion of the people behind the camera!*

At last, the curtain was raised on *Jinnah* in Pakistan on May 29, 1999 at the Governor's House, Karachi. Thousand of people from every field of life attended the prestigious premiere. It formally began with impressive speeches from the cre-

democratic religion, which not only respect other religions but also makes others respect Islam."

The above reflects the whole theme of the film. *Jinnah* is a wonderful production of Akbar S. Ahmed and Ajmal Dehlavi. It is not a biography of Quaid-e-Azam. It is

Above all, he justified that why millions of people love him so much.

The role of Shashi Kapoor is always referred to as most controversial. But after watching the entire film, one could not find even a single controversial sentence. He plays a phantasmal role, which car-



ators of the film. I could still recall the words of Professor Akbar S. Ahmed, the Executive producer of the film.

"By making *Jinnah*, we have put two choices in front of the Muslim world. Either they want a leader like Osama Bin Laden who only talks about violence in the name of Jihad and represents Islam as an extremist violent religion before the world. Or they want Jinnah who was not only respected by his own people but also by opponents. He designated Islam not as a weak point but as strength. He had also shown that it is the most liberal and

actually a collection of events that deeply influenced Jinnah's life confirming. One can call it a movie with fiction, drama and a touch of tender romance, laced with pain.

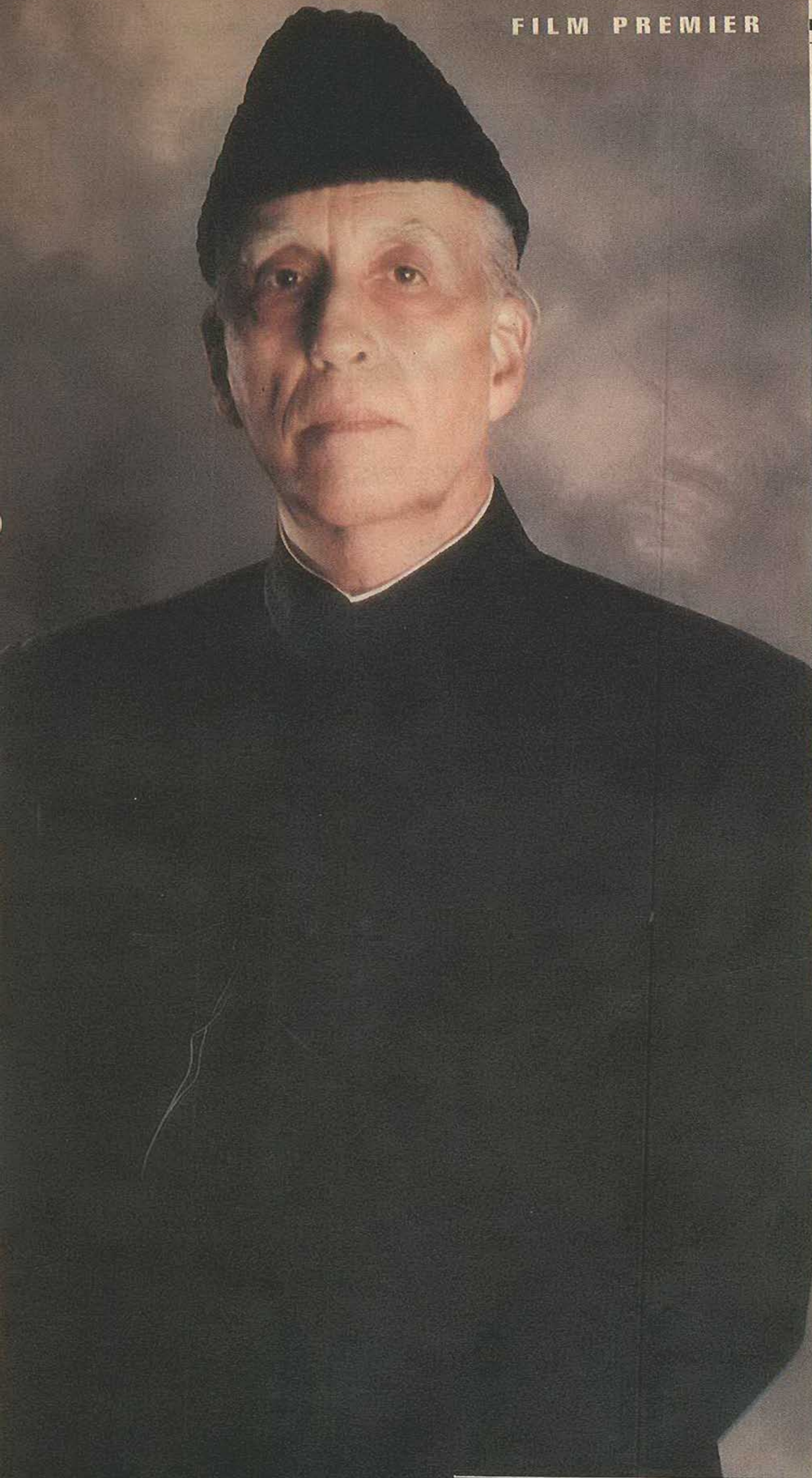
Christopher Lee showed his best performance. In fact, *Jinnah* could easily win him an Oscar. In the first scene when he enters in the library and the camera takes a long shot, he leaves every body stunned. Nobody could ever resemble Jinnah so much. His every move is so original that it seems if Jinnah himself is on the screen. He successfully portrays Jinnah as a person with a soft heart and strong will.

ries the film scene by scene. His presence makes the movie appear more like a drama than a documentary. Due to his mature performance the film does not lose its grip.

Sheirin Pasha has performed outstanding as "Fatima Jinnah". The relationship between the brother and sister is very touching. They were not only best friends but also best partners in their struggle. The director has sensitively portrayed the relationship between Fatima and Rati Jinnah (wife of Jinnah).

The political relationship

## FILM PREMIER



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between Jinnah and Gandhi is equally well defined, and the differences that ultimately divorced Quaid from the Congress have also been sempulously demonstrated.

Apart from above, the roles of Gandhi, Nehru, Rati Jinnah, Dina Jinnah, Lord and lady Mounttaten, Iqbal, Liaqat Ali Khan and others have been performed very perfectly. No character has been degraded or exaggerated. Even the roles of the British and Congress leaders have been well treated. There is not the slightest touch of super - ficiality any where. The music of the film based on national anthem of Pakistan, especially in the last scene, it has been exquisitely rendered to touch the emotions of the viewers.

In the movie, the Quaid is not only reflected as a great leader but also as a loving husband and an affectionate brother and father. He was a man who loved his family but could not find time to give expression to his sentiments. The director carefully dealt with the grief stricken love story of Quaid, with special care.

*Jinnah* is a classic. It makes you cry, it makes you smile and at heart, it gives you the pride that Pakistan had a leader like Quaid. It gives you the opportunity to understand him and his sacrifices. As the director earlier said "*Jinnah* is not meant to demote any other national leader. It is the movie about Jinnah and for Jinnah". In fact it places Jinnah in a most appropriate perspective as neverbefore and should help his critics to correct their perception about him. To sum up, by producing the film *Jinnah*, Akbar S. Ahmed and Jamil Dehalvi have won the hearts of Pakistanis at generated new hopes amidst an atmosphere of despondency. ■

*Southasia*